ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT
30 April 1985 – 21 April 1986

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1986

SUPPLEMENT No. 12

UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1986
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<td>African Association of Cartography</td>
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<td>African Association for Public Administration and Management</td>
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<td>AATA</td>
<td>Association of African Tax Administrators</td>
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<td>ACARTSOD</td>
<td>African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development</td>
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<td>ACMAD</td>
<td>African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development</td>
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<td>ACMS</td>
<td>African Centre for Monetary Studies</td>
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<td>ACP</td>
<td>African, Caribbean and Pacific group</td>
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<td>ADB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<td>ADOS</td>
<td>African Doppler Observation Surveys</td>
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<td>AFCAC</td>
<td>African Civil Aviation Commission</td>
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<td>AFRAA</td>
<td>African Airlines Association</td>
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<td>AHSCP</td>
<td>African Household Survey Capability Programme</td>
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<td>AIDF</td>
<td>African Industrial Development Fund</td>
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<td>AIHTTR</td>
<td>African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research</td>
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<td>ALDOC</td>
<td>Arab League Documentation Centre</td>
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<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress of South Africa</td>
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<td>ARCEDEM</td>
<td>African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing</td>
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<td>ARCT</td>
<td>African Regional Centre for Technology</td>
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<td>ARSC</td>
<td>African Remote Sensing Council</td>
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<td>ARCSSM</td>
<td>African Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping</td>
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<td>African Regional Organization for Standardization</td>
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<td>Africa Trade Centre</td>
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<td>African Timber Organization</td>
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<td>ATRCW</td>
<td>African Training and Research Centre for Women</td>
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<td>BOAD</td>
<td>West African Development Bank</td>
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<td>CACH</td>
<td>Central African Clearing House</td>
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<td>CEPGL</td>
<td>Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries</td>
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<td>CIRDAFRICA</td>
<td>Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa</td>
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<td>CODESRIA</td>
<td>Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa</td>
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<td>CREP</td>
<td>Centre régional d'études de population</td>
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<td>CRTO</td>
<td>Regional Remote Sensing Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSDHA</td>
<td>Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>DIESA</td>
<td>Department of International Economic and Social Affairs</td>
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<td>DTCD</td>
<td>Department of Technical Co-operation for Development</td>
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<td>ECA</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<td>ECCAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of Central African States</td>
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<td>ECDC</td>
<td>Economic co-operation among developing countries</td>
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<td>ECLAC</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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<td>ESCAP</td>
<td>Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>ESADIS</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System</td>
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<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Community</td>
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<td>EPO</td>
<td>European Patent Office</td>
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<td>ESAMI</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern African Management Institute</td>
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<td>ESAMRDC</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa Mineral Resources Development Centre</td>
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<td>ESARIPO</td>
<td>Industrial Property Organization for English-speaking African Countries</td>
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<td>ESCWA</td>
<td>Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
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<td>FLAG</td>
<td>Forest Industries Advisory Group</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>GATT</td>
<td>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade</td>
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<td>GSTP</td>
<td>Global System of Trade Preferences</td>
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<td>HABITAT</td>
<td>United Nations Centre for Human Settlements</td>
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<td>IACC</td>
<td>Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee</td>
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<td>International Civil Aviation Organization</td>
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<td>ICM</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Committee for Migration</td>
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<td>IDDA</td>
<td>Industrial Development Decade for Africa</td>
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<td>IDEP</td>
<td>African Institute for Economic Development and Planning</td>
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<td>IDRC</td>
<td>International Development Research Centre of Canada</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>Full Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPORD</td>
<td>Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques</td>
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<td>IGO</td>
<td>Intergovernmental organization</td>
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<td>International Labour Organisation</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>International Maritime Organization</td>
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<td>IPC</td>
<td>Integrated Programme for Commodities</td>
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<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation</td>
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<td>ITC</td>
<td>International Trade Centre</td>
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<td>ITU</td>
<td>International Telecommunication Union</td>
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<td>LDC</td>
<td>Least developed country</td>
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<td>MULPOC</td>
<td>Multinational Programming and Operational Centre</td>
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<td>MRU</td>
<td>Mano River Union</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<td>NACP</td>
<td>National Accounts Capability Programme</td>
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<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organization of African Unity</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official development assistance</td>
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<td>PAC</td>
<td>Pan-African Documentation and Information System</td>
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<tr>
<td>PANAFTEL</td>
<td>Pan-African Telecommunications Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAWO</td>
<td>Pan-African Women's Organization</td>
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<td>POPIN-Africa</td>
<td>Population Information Network for Africa</td>
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<td>PMAWCA</td>
<td>Port Management Association of West and Central Africa</td>
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<td>PTA</td>
<td>Preferential Trade Area</td>
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<td>RASDS</td>
<td>Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCSSMRS</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECTAS</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys</td>
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<td>RIPS</td>
<td>Regional Institute for Population Studies</td>
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<td>SADCC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference</td>
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<td>SALC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Labour Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNPA</td>
<td>Substantial New Programme of Action</td>
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<td>STPA</td>
<td>Statistical Training Programme for Africa</td>
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<td>SWAPO</td>
<td>South West Africa People's Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAHA</td>
<td>Trans-African Highway Authority</td>
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<td>TCAH</td>
<td>Trans-Central African Highway</td>
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TCDC  Technical co-operation among developing countries
TEAHA  Trans-East African Highway Authority
TNC   Transnational corporations
UDEAC  Central African Customs and Economic Union
UNCTAD  United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNEP  United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA  United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNFSSSTD  United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology Development
UNHCR  Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF  United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO  United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNTACDA  United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
UNU  United Nations University
UNTFAD  United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
WFC  World Food Council
WFP World Food Programme
WFS  World Fertility Survey
WHO  World Health Organization
WIPO  World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO  World Meteorological Organization
INTRODUCTION

1. The present report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period 30 April 1985 to 21 April 1986. It has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference, and was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission on 19 April 1986.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

Issues calling for action by the Council

2. At its two hundred and forty-seventh meeting held on 19 April 1986, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa decided to hold its thirteenth meeting/twenty-second session of the Commission at its headquarters in Addis Ababa in April 1987. At the same meeting, the Conference of Ministers unanimously approved the following draft resolutions for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action:

A

United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa 1/

The Economic and Social Council,


Recalling also Commission resolution 544 (XX) of 29 April 1985 by which it requested the Secretary-General to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with resources to enable it to organize the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as meetings on co-financing arrangements, and its resolution 487 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 by which it endorsed the programme of the second phase of the Decade,


Referring also to the report 2/ of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and to the General Assembly at its fortieth session,

1/ See Chapter IV, resolution 563 (XXI).

Having taken note of the annual reports on the implementation of the Decade programme for 1984 and 1985, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations on the Decade programme, and the report of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee on the Regional African Satellite Communications system, 3/

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to mobilize resources and to secure international assistance for implementing the second phase of the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that financial resources have been allocated by the General Assembly for the activities envisaged in its resolutions 38/150 and 39/230, including studies on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes and manpower and training needs in transport and communications,

1. Adopts the report and endorses the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its fifth meeting on 11 March 1986 at Harare, Zimbabwe; 4/

2. Welcomes the role played by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the Decade under the Economic Commission for Africa as the "lead agency", in co-ordinating activities towards the attainment of the Decade objectives;

3. Appreciates the continued financial support of the General Assembly for the activities of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his continuing support of the Decade through the financing of the Decade Co-ordination Unit and other Decade activities, and requests him to continue to provide funds to the Commission during the Programme's fourth programming cycle (1987-1991) for the realization of the development process which was accepted during the Decade;

5. Thanks donor countries and financing institutions for the financial assistance provided for the implementation of the Decade programme, and urges them to continue and intensify their support for the Decade programme and for the strengthening of the Co-ordination Unit for the Decade;

6. Requests the General Assembly to allocate, within the limits of available resources, the necessary means to enable the Commission to:

(a) Carry out an in-depth evaluation of the Decade programme in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on that programme;

(b). Organize and service meetings of the Technical Committee on Air Transport.

3/ The delegation of Morocco expressed reservations regarding this paragraph.

4/ Morocco expressed reservations regarding this paragraph.
The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers resolution 532 (XX) of 29 April 1985 in which it called, inter alia, for the allocation of resources to enable the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,


Conscious of the fact that the implementation of the programme for the Decade and of the Priority Programme depends upon the availability of adequate resources and the full commitment of governments at the national, subregional and regional levels as well as of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that in resolution 1985/61 of 26 July 1985, the Economic and Social Council called upon the General Assembly to consider the annual allocation, on a permanent basis, of $US 700,000 to the Economic Commission for Africa to be absorbed from the $US 5 million allocated to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, under General Assembly resolution 39/233 of 18 December 1984, for the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Mindful of the fundamentally important linkage between industry and agriculture in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and of the vital contribution which the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa would make to food production and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa,

1. Reiterates the importance and priority which African countries accord to the industrial sector in view of its fundamental role in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 and the full attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

2. Commends the efforts made by African countries and organizations as well as by the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization towards the implementation of the Decade programme;

3. Requests the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to increase their assistance to African countries and subregional organizations with a view to promoting subregional industrial co-operation within the framework of the Decade;

5/ See Chapter IV, resolution 564 (XXI).

5. **Urges** the Programme and Budget Committee and the Industrial Development Board to increase the allocation for the Decade in the 1988-1989 programme budget in accordance with the high priority accorded to the programme by the Organization;

6. **Appeals** to the General Assembly to allocate to the Economic Commission for Africa, on an annual basis, as recommended in Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/61 of 26 July 1985 the sum of $US 700,000, being the difference between the annual allocations of $US 5 million approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/233 for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the annual amount of $US 4.3 million allocated to the Decade in the 1986-1987 programme budget of the Organization;

7. **Requests** that the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency should not lead to a reduction of the resources made available for assistance to African countries and organizations within the framework of the programme of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

8. **Appeals further** to the international community, multilateral funding agencies especially the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank and bilateral and investment institutions, to increase the flow of investment and technical assistance resources to the industrial sector in Africa to enable the implementation of national and subregional investment and support projects.

C

**Proposals for updating the 1986-1987 proposed programme budget in the light of General Assembly approved appropriations and availability of extrabudgetary resources 6/**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers resolution 554 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the work programme and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa, 1986-1987,

Having examined the proposals for updating the 1986-1987 proposed programme budget,

Convinced about the declining resources available to the Commission for the effective implementation of its work programme and activities,

Convinced that the programme of activities should reflect available resources,

6/ See Chapter IV resolution 582 (XXI).
1. **Decides** to update the work programme and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 1986-1987 in accordance with the proposals;

2. **Expresses** its gratitude to the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for their support to the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987;

3. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to revise the relevant programmes of the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987 in accordance with the updated 1986-1987 work programme and priorities;

4. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take into account these proposals when preparing the programme performance report on the biennium 1986-1987.
II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD
30 APRIL 1985 TO 21 APRIL 1986

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The list of meetings of subsidiary bodies held during the period under review is contained in annex I to this report.

B. Other activities

4. The activities carried out under the Commission's approved programme of work and priorities or pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers are described below.

Development issues and policies


6. The work programme on planning and projections during the period under review centred round the preparation and organization of the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. Besides, technical assistance and advisory services in development planning were provided to some member States in plan preparation and evaluation, perspective studies and economic projections. In addition, the secretariat established short-term forecasting systems in some African countries. The secretariat prepared the necessary documentation and inputs for the workshop on multi-sectoral planning models for African planning experts scheduled for the second half of 1986.

7. As part of its activities in favour of the African least developed countries (LDCs) during the review period, the secretariat was represented at the meeting of the Governmental Group on the Least Developed Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, convened at Geneva from 1 to 10 May 1985 to discuss possible improvement of aid practices and management with respect to least developed countries. The meeting also reviewed the economic situation of the LDCs and national measures taken with the support of the international community for the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA), ways of better adopting the implementation of development assistance programmes to specific needs of the LDCs and the measures to improve co-ordination of assistance programmes and also organization issues related to the mid-term global review of the SNPA.
8. The secretariat was also represented at the sixth session of the UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group on the LDCs for the Mid-term Global Review of the SNPA, held at Geneva from 30 September to 11 October 1985. Through the courtesy of the UNCTAD secretariat, the ECA secretariat was able to put forward four important documents for use at the Review Meeting by the representatives of African LDCs, the African Group and other interested parties. These documents were: (i) The Memorandum by the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs [TC/B/AC.17/26 Add.1 (Part I)]; (ii) Resolution 538 (XX) on measures to ensure the effective and accelerated implementation of the SNPA in African LDCs during the second half of the 1980s [TD/B/AC.17/26 Add.1 (Part II)]; (iii) Regional evaluation and assessment of the implementation of the SNPA in African LDCs, 1981-1984 [TD/B/AC.17/26 Add.1 (Part III)]; and (iv) Review of economic and social conditions in the African LDCs, 1981-1984 (E/ECA/LDCs.5/2; ECA/CM.11/35).

9. The secretariat was also represented at three round tables, on Togo, held at Lome from 26 to 28 June 1985, on Mali, held at Bamako, Mali, from 2 to 5 December 1985, and on Chad, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 4 to 6 December 1985.

10. The secretariat serviced two meetings during the second quarter of 1986. These were: the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries held at Yaounde, Cameroon, from 2 to 4 April 1986; and the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries, held at Yaounde on 15 and 16 April 1986. The background documents for the two meetings included: (a) Review of economic and social conditions in African LDCs, 1984-1985 (E/ECA/LDCs.6/Exp.5/2); (b) Progress towards the implementation of the SNPA in African LDCs: Issues for consideration (E/ECA/LDCs.6/Exp.5/3); (c) Food strategies in African LDCs: An assessment (E/ECA/LDCs.6/Exp.5/4); and (d) Review of ECA activities in 1984-1985 and work programme for 1986-1987 in favour of African LDCs (E/ECA/LDCs.6/Exp.5/5).

**Industrial development**

11. The secretariat has continued in collaboration with OAU and UNIDO, its activities related to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA). These have included the preparation of documentation presented to the North African MULPOC Follow-up Meeting on the Initial Integrated Industrial Promotion Programme within the Framework of IDDA (Algiers, 10-15 March 1986). Progress reports on the implementation of the work programme of ECA in the field of industry for each MULPOC were prepared to the respective meetings of officials and Ministers during the first part of 1986.

12. With a view to promoting fuller participation in the accelerated implementation of IDDA by the private business and parastatals, an African Regional Workshop of Experts on the role of private businesses and parastatals in the implementation of IDDA was held at Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 December 1985. The workshop provided an opportunity for the actors to review and assess the provisions of the implementation phase of IDDA, exchange views, and make recommendations on the role they in particular can play.
13. The secretariat has continued to provide consultancy services, particularly to the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), in a variety of areas, including training and backstopping services.

14. With regard to development of small-scale industries, services have been provided to selected countries in West and Central Africa, including the Niger and the Central African Republic. Furthermore, a revised and expanded Project Profiles Directory on Small-scale Industries was prepared.

15. In the field of agro- and forest industries, a number of activities were undertaken. The Compendium on Composite Flours was published in English and French. Advisory services were provided to Zaire and the Congo on how best to transfer and adapt cassava processing technology from Côte d'Ivoire. The secretariat participated in, and presented two studies to, the Seminar on Composite Flours held in Lagos, Nigeria, during June 1985; and consultations were held in Lagos with the Nigeria Federal Institute for Industrial Research DSHODO (FIIRO) on the standardization of the Tinkonko cassava grater. Discussions were also held in Ibadan, Nigeria, with ARCEDEM on the rehabilitation of the Guinea cassava plant. Consultancy assistance was provided to Cameroon in the selection of a small-scale oil processing plant for which ARCEDEM has been invited to redesign and produce relevant engineering drawings with a view to promoting commercial production by local workshops in the palm belt.

16. Advisory services were provided to MULPOCs' member States in the forest industries subsector. A comprehensive programme of assistance, implemented in collaboration with the African Timber Organization (ATO), involving project identification, policy formulation and prefeasibility studies, continued. Country-specific and project-oriented assistance was provided to a number of countries. Thus assistance was provided to Togo in its efforts to strengthen training and operational capabilities of Notse sawmill. Ghana was assisted in assessing the state of its forest industry. The Worka furniture factory in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was assisted in a variety of aspects of its operations while studies on establishment of forest-based industry complex in CEPGL countries were undertaken.

17. In the chemical subsector, and as follow-up to the "Conceptual Framework for the Implementation of the Protocol on Industrial Co-operation" of the Preferential Trade Area, advisory services were given from 14 April to 5 May 1985 to Djibouti, Madagascar, and the Comoros in support of the PTA work programme on chemicals and fertilizers.

18. In order to assist member States and intergovernmental organizations in West Africa in the preparation of an in-depth study of the agreed first-generation multinational projects in the chemical subsector, field work was carried out in Guinea involving data collection, discussions and consultations regarding the assistance the secretariat should provide.

19. The Eastern and Southern African MULPOC project on traditional medicines is under way; its objectives include the production of essential drugs using local materials and plants. Research papers are being prepared for presentation at a workshop on the subject of commercialization of research findings and development of pharmaceutical industries on the basis of indigenous raw materials.
20. In the area of engineering industries, the secretariat undertook field evaluation work in Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia during November and December 1985 to determine the capacities and potentials of existing industries. Assistance was also provided to Rwanda and Burundi to determine ways of upgrading existing foundry, forging, heat treatment and metal forming machine shops, tool rooms, metal coating shops, etc., and also to identify local capacity to manufacture agricultural machinery at small-scale industrial levels. Appropriate recommendations were made to the respective authorities.

21. Assistance was provided to Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and Zambia to determine needs for and recommend manufacture of spare parts for mining, ore refining, iron and steel, engineering, and agricultural and transport equipment in those countries. A report was submitted to the PTA meeting in September 1985.

22. With regard to metal industries in the West African subregion, technical assistance was provided in collaboration with the MULPOC to the Mano River Union (MRU) and ECOWAS secretariats in the identification of metallurgical projects within the framework of IDDA to be presented to the appropriate organs for decision and follow-up. A report was submitted to the MRU and ECOWAS secretariats.

23. A study on alternative technologies for sponge iron production was prepared, and an evaluation of potential iron and steel projects in PTA countries was conducted for the purpose of narrowing down the range of choices in steel production requirements for the subregion.

Statistics

24. As in the past, the work programme carried out by the secretariat in the field of statistics during the period under review focused on assistance in the development and strengthening of African statistical infrastructures and the provision of a regional statistical information service.

25. The major programmes of the secretariat that attempt to respond to the needs of national statistical services include the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP), the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), the National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP) and the Regional Advisory Services in Demographic Statistics (RASDS), along with work on statistical data base development. The secretariat has also initiated a new programme on environmental statistics.

26. In addition to the above activities, the secretariat produced the following publications: the 1983 African Statistical Yearbook, the 1983 African Economic Indicators, Statistical Information Bulletin No. 17, Statistical Newsletter Nos. 63 and 64, the 1985 Directory of the Statistical Training Centres and Associate Centres Participating in STPA, and STPA News Nos. 9 and 10. Print-outs of the 1984 volume of Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A and C, the 1984 African Statistical Yearbook and the 1984 African Socio-Economic Indicators were also produced, but due to printing problems their publication has been delayed.
27. During the period under review, six meetings were held. These were:

(a) A Seminar on the Development of Statistical Data Base (Addis Ababa, 30 September - 4 October 1985);

(b) Fourth meeting of Directors of STFA Centres (Addis Ababa, 4-8 November 1985);

(c) Training Workshops on National Accounts for English- and French-speaking countries;

(d) Working Group on the Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa (Addis Ababa, 21-26 October 1985);

(e) Fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers to be held at ECA headquarters (Addis Ababa, 3-12 March 1986).

Food and agriculture

28. During the period under review, as in the previous one, the secretariat's activities continued to focus on the following major areas:

(a) Agricultural development policy, planning and programming;

(b) Promotion of integrated rural development and improvement of agricultural institutions and services and expansion of food production; and

(c) Agricultural marketing institutions, services and facilities.

29. In agricultural development policy, planning and programming, the main thrust of the secretariat's activities was towards the enhancement of planning capabilities of member States, the identification of feasible investment projects including food and agricultural information and analysis programmes and the conservation and development of forestry resources. A feasibility study on the preservation, drying, packing and marketing of tubers in CEPGL countries (Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire) has been finalized. The objective of the study is to promote food security in the three countries through improved processing and marketing practices. In addition, a study has been carried out on food and agricultural policies and farming systems in selected Eastern and Southern African countries. This aims at improving farming practices and systems in the context of a favourable policy environment with a focus on small farmers. Another important study which has already been initiated and is about to be completed is that on import substitution, covering several countries. The study is intended to probe the possibility of identifying indigenous food commodities which may replace those imported from abroad so as to enable the countries to save foreign exchange earnings.
30. In its efforts to make member countries aware of the need for reorienting planning approaches to the requirements of the small farmer, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Planning issues for the development of subsistence farming". The report, presented at the seventh roundtable of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) held in Accra, Ghana, from 2 to 7 December 1985, draws attention to deficiencies in existing planning machineries and highlights the most effective measures which should be taken by African countries to remedy the situation. A study on a regional assessment of the role of forests in combating desertification in arid and semi-arid areas has also been completed. This seeks to enable member countries to conserve, develop and rationally exploit their forestry resources.

31. The secretariat has also carried out significant activities in the areas of integrated rural development, agricultural institutions and services, as well as expansion of food production. A study on rural fish culture development and technology transfer for Eastern and Southern African countries has just been concluded. The study is designed to improve the facilities and techniques of producing fish in the rural areas so as to mitigate the present food crisis in the region. A study on the assessment of the organization and functions of agricultural support services in Swaziland has also been completed. The study appraises the adequacy of these services in terms of the needs of small farmers.

32. With a view to facilitating inter-country co-operation in food and agricultural production, the secretariat has finalized a study on the problems and co-operation in agricultural research and plant protection in North Africa. The study portrays the principal factors constraining subregional co-operation and advances proposals for their removal. The secretariat has also taken the initiative to prepare a report entitled the "African food crisis" which was presented at the AAPAM meeting referred to above.

33. A report entitled "The international mobilization of financial and technological resources for food and agricultural production: Analysis and action proposal for the International Year for Africa 1991" has been produced for submission to the United Nations General Assembly. This discusses the role played by the international community in providing resources for the alleviation of the region's food crisis and outlines the principal actions to be taken by the countries of the region and the international community as a basis for declaring the International Year for Africa by 1991.

34. In the field of agricultural marketing, institutions and services, some activities have also been undertaken. A study on agricultural pricing policies and the marketing of food products in the Yaounde-based MULPOC countries has been carried out. The study identifies specific obstacles impeding the marketing of food products, with particular attention to staple food commodities, and suggests appropriate strategies.

35. Moreover, a mission was sent to the North African subregion to identify basic constraints on the reduction of food losses, with particular emphasis on storage improvement. The findings of the mission indicate that losses for certain food commodities are high enough to merit special attention at both national and subregional levels.
Population

36. During the period under review the secretariat continued to implement those elements of the 1984/1985 programme not yet completed, and started implementing the 1986/1987 approved programme of work under three subprogrammes: (a) population policies and development planning; (b) demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development planning; and (c) regional training and research.

37. Emphasis was on provision of advisory services on various population-related activities to ECA member States on request. These activities included analysis of population census or survey data, on-the-job training, preparation of project documents, formulation and implementation of population programmes and policies, assistance in servicing national seminars on population and development, etc. Countries which benefited from the advisory services of the secretariat were: Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, the Sudan and Zaire.

38. The secretariat conducted a number of studies. These included: Assessment of population policies in socio-economic development planning in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania; "Niveau, tendances, facteurs de la fécondité au Cameroun, au Kenya, et au Sénégal"; The methodology and data for national and subnational projections; Integration of population variables and policies in development plans in Africa; "Croissance démographique et impact démographique des programmes de planification de la famille en Afrique"; Interrelationships between infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in Africa; Evaluation of population redistribution policies and programmes in selected African countries; and Population projections and policies for the ECA member States.

39. The secretariat organized and conducted, at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra, a regional training workshop on demographic estimates and projections which was attended by representatives from 15 member States of ECA. Another important meeting organized by the secretariat was the first Advisory Meeting of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa) which was held in Addis Ababa in December 1985. The secretariat also convened the fourth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, as well as a review meeting on World Fertility Survey (WFS) data for African countries, which was held in Addis Ababa in March 1986.

40. The population information activities under POPIN-Africa continued to expand. POPINDEX-Africa volumes I and II, POPIN-Africa Briefs, two issues of African Population Newsletter (Nos. 48 and 49), and African Population Studies Series 8 were prepared during the period under review. The mailing list for the distribution of various publications was updated. Through the duplicate programme under POPIN-Africa a number of requests are being received for duplicate copies of documents on population available at the secretariat. UNFPA continued to support the secretariat activities of POPIN-Africa.
Regarding regional demographic training and research, the secretariat continued to manage the two institutes RIPS in Accra, Ghana, and the Institut de Formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) in Yaoundé, Cameroon; and the Demographic Unit at the Sahel Institute in Bamako, Mali. The secretariat provided some lectures at IFORD.

Natural resources

Mineral resources

During the period under review the secretariat, in pursuance of its work programme and the recommendations of the second Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, held in Lusaka in March 1985, continued to provide technical and administrative assistance to member States, the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre in Dodoma, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre in Brazzaville, the Congo, in the managerial and economic aspects of mineral exploration and exploitation.

In the field of mineral inventories in Africa, surveys of copper, bauxite, alumina, aluminium, gold, cassiterite and associated minerals as well as building and fertilizer raw materials were conducted in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania and the Niger.

With respect to ECA-sponsored institutions for mineral resources development, Angola became a member of the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre in May 1985, bringing the membership to six States.

Cartography

Activities in cartography were geared towards the development of national and regional cartographic institutions through advisory services and the provision of technical backstopping. The secretariat also continued to provide administrative guidance to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) at Nairobi, Kenya, which enabled the Centre to complete the construction of three blocks of buildings on its permanent site and move both staff and equipment in June 1985.

The secretariat also gave high-level administrative support to the management of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys at Ile-Ife, Nigeria, resulting in increased membership and staff strength.

In October 1985 a meeting of experts which prepared and drew up a set of standardized specifications for topographical maps to be adopted for use in Africa.

Remote sensing

The secretariat sent a mission to the headquarters of the African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC) in Bamako, Mali, in September 1985 to carry out an on-the-spot assessment of the problems of the Council's secretariat. The mission's findings showed that the Council's activities were nearly paralysed...
due mainly to lack of resources; accordingly, ECA assisted the Council by hosting the sixth meeting of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of ARSC in November 1985.

49. At the request of the Regional Remote Sensing Centre (CRTO) at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the secretariat prepared a joint technical report on the development of phase II of the CRTO project which concerned the construction of the ground receiving and processing station at Ouagadougou. The report was presented at a special ministerial-level meeting of the Regional Management Committee of CRTO in Cotonou in September 1985.

50. During December 1985, at the request of the Council of Ministers of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, the secretariat led a sensitization mission to countries of the Gisenyi- and Yaounde-based MULPOCs, namely Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Zaire, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo and Gabon. The primary objective of the mission was to accelerate the regionalization of the Regional Remote Sensing Centre at Kinshasa, Zaire (CRTK).

Water resources

51. The Water Resources Unit of the secretariat continued to assist member States in the assessment, development and management of their water resources by means of advisory missions to the Niger, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Ghana and Burkina Faso.

Energy resources

52. The activities of the Energy Resources Unit were concentrated on promoting multinational co-operation in Africa in three major spheres: (i) exploration, evaluation and development of energy resources and integration of energy planning into overall socio-economic policy planning; (ii) research, training and information; and (iii) institution-building.

53. A number of missions have been undertaken to study the existing conditions for optimum exploration, exploitation, development and use of hydrocarbons and coal (missions to Nigeria, Chad, the Congo, Botswana, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

54. Advisory services have been rendered to member States, on request, on the formulation of integrated energy policies and their integration into overall development and economic growth policies. The recipient countries include Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Niger. Energy programmes of action for the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States have been elaborated at the request of the PTA secretariat.

55. The possibility of developing ocean energy in East African coastal member States has been studied and a report was submitted to the twentieth session of the Commission and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers.
56. Where institution-building is concerned, the advisory services to member States on the establishment of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy resulted in two more member States joining the Centre (Togo and Cameroon).

Resources of the sea

57. In 1984-1985, the subprogramme — Resources of the sea — although approved by the General Assembly, was not provided with any post to undertake the related activities. However, under a bilateral agreement, the French Government has provided a Regional Adviser who came on board in October 1985.


59. The secretariat organized and serviced the African Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on Aspects of Exploration and Exploitation of Sea-bed Resources in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which took place at Addis Ababa from 11 to 14 November 1985. The meeting examined several important issues, including the Preparatory Committee for setting up the International Sea-bed Authority, right of pursuit, parallel activities carried out by non-signatory countries, surveillance, the legal regime, etc. Several recommendations were made, addressed both to member States and to international organizations.

60. In response to requests from several North African States, the secretariat undertook an advisory mission to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco from 26 November 1985 to 9 January 1986 to study and advise on co-operation among the North African countries in the exploration, exploitation and management of the resources of the sea.

61. During the period December 1985 — January 1986 the secretariat prepared an in-depth study entitled "African technical capabilities for exploration, exploitation, development and management of the resources of the sea" which will be distributed to all member States. The secretariat also prepared 13 country papers on the same theme for Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania and Togo. These papers will be distributed to the relevant member States and will also serve as an input to an intergovernmental meeting of experts to be held in 1986.

Science and technology

62. A regional review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation in the African region of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development was presented at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, held in New York from 27 May to 7 June 1985. During this session an informal meeting of the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development was also held, in which the secretariat participated, highlighting the issues concerning the implementation of the joint activities undertaken by the Task Force.
63. The secretariat hosted the fifth ECA/UNESCO Joint Concertation Meeting held in Addis Ababa on 8 and 9 July 1985, at which representatives of the two organizations reviewed programmes in the execution of collaborative activities and recommended measures for improving future collaboration.

64. In response to a request from the Government of Madagascar, the secretariat undertook an advisory mission to the country from 1 to 5 July 1985 to study the national science and technology infrastructure and make recommendations for the setting up of a National Commission for Science and Technology for Development.

65. In collaboration with OAU, the secretariat prepared inputs for the science and technology component of the papers presented to the OAU special summit on economic matters, which met in July 1985. Suggestions were given for the accelerated implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, and on how science and technology could contribute to improving living conditions in African countries.

66. The secretariat organized and serviced the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development which took place in Addis Ababa from 18 to 22 November 1985. On 18 November, special meetings took place of the subregional Working Groups of the Committee, during which issues concerning the establishment of priority areas for research and development were discussed.

Transport, communications and tourism

67. During the period under review, activities of the secretariat covered general and multimodal transport problems, railways, roads, air, inland water and maritime transport and ports, tourism, telecommunications, including satellite communications, broadcasting and postal services.

Transport and tourism

68. The secretariat initiated activities for the preparation of technical publications on harmonization and co-ordination of various transport modes and on surveying manpower and training needs in transport. These publications are expected to be completed during the course of 1986 and published for distribution to all member States and intergovernmental organizations.

69. As part of project promotion and mobilization of funds for the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, technical consultative meetings on air transport, railways and postal services were organized in Brazzaville, the Congo.

70. The secretariat organized the ninth meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) at which a report on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade programme for 1985 was prepared.
71. The secretariat organized the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held in March 1986 to consider the 1985 report on the progress made in implementing the Transport and Communications Decade and the follow-up action on the resolutions adopted during the fourth meeting of the Conference held at Conakry in 1984. The Conference was preceded by the intergovernmental meeting of experts.

72. ECA staff delivered lectures at the following training seminars:

(a) The seminar for French-speaking countries on the development of containerization in Africa, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and attended by 28 participants;

(b) The seminar on modernization and harmonization of sea workers' standards for the West and Central African subregion, organized jointly by ECA and ILO in Brazzaville, the Congo, and attended by 40 participants;

(c) The joint ECA/ADB/World Bank highway maintenance seminar organized in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and attended by 157 participants;

(d) The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) course on improving railways management performance organized in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, and attended by seven participants.

Communications

73. For the period under review, the activities of the secretariat in the field of communications covered studies, organization of seminar, technical consultative meeting on postal services, servicing and/or participation in professional conferences/meetings and assisted in the mobilization of funds for the implementation of a feasibility study on a regional African Satellite Communications system. The secretariat also continued its technical support to the ongoing United Nations Transport and Communication Decade in Africa (UNTACDA) programme.

74. In collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany, the secretariat organized in November 1985 the second part of the Regional Telecommunication Seminar on Planning of Rural Networks for the French-speaking African countries.

75. As part of its normal activities the secretariat has commenced activities to undertake manpower and training requirements survey in communications, i.e., telecommunications, broadcasting (radio and TV) and postal services. The commencement of the study was scheduled for April 1986, and it should be completed by December 1986.

76. In the field of satellite communications, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) for communications, of which the secretariat is a member, has reached an agreement on the terms of reference and organization of the feasibility study. It has secured SUS 600,000 from UNDP, obtained promises of finance from UNESCO as seed money for the project, initiated action with a view to securing further financing from ADB, and is continuing negotiations with EEC to obtain further financing for the project.
77. As part of its assistance in mobilizing additional financial resources, the secretariat organized in November 1985 the last of its technical consultative meetings on postal services.

International trade and finance

Domestic and intra-African trade

78. Three country case studies, on domestic trade structure, mechanisms and distribution channels in the Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone, have been completed. The secretariat summarized the findings and recommendations contained in these case studies in a short paper and submitted them to the ninth meeting of the Niamey-based MULPOC Policy Organs, held in Lome, Togo, in February 1986. Similar case studies are envisaged during 1986 for three countries of Eastern, Southern and Central Africa.

79. Assistance in the creation and strengthening of African economic groupings also continued to be a major part of the secretariat's work. In December 1985, UNDP approved funds enabling the secretariat to assist member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in implementing their Treaty and its protocols covering trade and financial co-operation. Work also continued to be undertaken to assist the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in implementing its protocol on transit trade and transit facilities. In this connection, a study on transit trade and transit facilities was completed and submitted to the meeting of the Niamey MULPOC policy organs.

80. Work is in hand for the servicing of an ad hoc meeting of experts during the first quarter of 1986. The meeting will review a feasibility study on the establishment of an agricultural commodity exchange for the Eastern and Southern African States.

81. With regard to promoting intra-African trade and regional co-operation, the secretariat prepared several studies, including:

(a) Selected policy instruments for expansion of domestic and intra-African trade (E/ECA/CM.11/64/Rev.1);

(b) Situation and prospects of domestic trade in Africa (E/ECA/OAU/TRADE/14A/Rev.1);

(c) Intra-African trade: Current flows and prospects (E/ECA/TRADE/24/Rev.1); and

(d) Intra-African trade in selected mineral raw materials (E/ECA/TRADE/28).

82. These studies were submitted to the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade which reviewed them and made recommendations on needed follow-up action.
83. A symposium on intra-African trade further highlighting the potentials for intra-African trade in various products, including food items and raw materials was also convened during the fourth All-African Trade Fair which took place in Lome, Togo, in 1985 and in the period under review, ECA continued acting as the interim secretariat of the newly established Federation of African Chambers of Commerce.

Trade with non-African countries

84. In the period under review, the secretariat continued to focus more attention on helping African countries diversify their structural and geographical export and import patterns. In the case of exports, the aim was to enable them increase their export earnings and ensure a greater stability of their economies. To this end, the secretariat provided advisory services to member States and undertook related studies with a view to enabling the countries of the African region to derive maximum benefits from international economic relations and negotiations, particularly with the industrialized and other developing countries.

85. The secretariat serviced the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in Brazzaville, in October 1985. Among the papers prepared for the session was one on policy issues (E/ECO/OAU/TRADE/19) together with its supporting background document entitled "Review of recent developments in Africa's international trade relations" (E/ECO/TRADE/26). Both papers considered a range of trade-related issues of major concern to African economic development, highlighting in particular the results and implications of the positions adopted at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The papers also attempted an analysis of the progress made in implementing the Common Fund of the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC). They further reviewed Africa's trade and economic co-operation with socialist countries of Eastern Europe taking into account certain recent trends in assessing areas for future co-operation.

86. The secretariat has further intensified its efforts to assist African member States in promoting South-South collective self-reliance within the context of economic co-operation among developing countries. In response to the conclusions of the meeting in February 1985 of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, the secretariat prepared a joint project with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on promoting Afro-Arab trade. It has also completed a study on products of interest to the African region in the context of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) negotiations (E/ECO/TRADE/27). The study focuses attention on Africa's current needs and is intended to assist ECA member States in adopting appropriate negotiating strategies.

87. The activities of the secretariat in the field of money and finance during the period under review took place against an unfavourable world-wide monetary and financial background characterized by volatility and misalignment of exchange rates, an inadequate system of liquidity creation and distribution, reduced access to capital markets, declining flows of official development assistance and serious difficulties encountered by developing countries in servicing their external debt obligations.
88. Pursuant to ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 541 (XX) on the role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis, calling for concerted action to be undertaken at three levels, the secretariat continued to provide assistance to subregional intergovernmental organizations, including the Association of African Development Finance Institutions, the West African Clearing House, the Central African Clearing House and the West African Subregional Committee of the Association of African Central Banks. Following the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund held in mid-April 1985, two papers were prepared, as supplements to the feasibility study, on (a) Subscriptions to the capital of the African Monetary Fund and financial projections during the first five years (E/EC/A/TRADE/37); and (b) Exchange control policies and practices in African countries (E/EC/A/TRADE/38).

89. The supplementary papers, together with the feasibility study and the report of the second meeting of the Group of Experts, will be considered at a meeting scheduled to take place in June 1986. However, on the basis of the findings of the study and the recommendations of the meeting of experts, the secretariat prepared a draft of the Articles of Agreement establishing an African Monetary Fund which was considered by an Intergovernmental Group of Experts from Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Legal Departments in January 1986 whose report was submitted to the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole in April 1986.

90. With regard to the issue of Africa's external indebtedness, the secretariat, in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the African Centre for Monetary Studies has, since November 1985, been engaged in the preparations for an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness. To this end, a progress report on the preparations was presented to an intergovernmental group of experts which met just before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

91. At the international level, the secretariat serviced, in August and October 1985, two meetings of the Working Party of the African Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These meetings produced a Joint Statement and two Memoranda addressed to the President of the World Bank and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Both documents appealed to the international community to take appropriate action with a view to reducing the adverse effects of the volatility and misalignment of exchange rates on African economies. They also called for an improvement in the system of creating and distributing international liquidity, an increase in official development assistance (ODA), an increased rate of replenishment of the International Development Association's resources and increased access to capital markets. Reference was also made in the documents, to the problem of debt servicing and interest payments and the need for an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness.

92. During the period under review, the Joint EC/UNCTC Unit finalized the following studies:
(a) Transnational Corporations (TNCs) in the production and trade of selected food commodities: An integrated report of case studies involving selected African countries (E/ECA/UNCTC/27), June 1985;

(b) Transnational corporations in the marketing and exports of African commodities: Some policy implications (E/ECA/UNCTC/46), August 1985;

(c) Transnational corporations (banks) in Africa's development process.

The basic aim of these studies is to assist African host countries in increasing their ability to negotiate effectively with transnational corporations with a view to gaining maximum benefits from the presence of these companies in their economies. Work is under way on a study of "Transnational corporations in the transfer of technology to African countries".

93. In addition to collecting and disseminating information to member States of the African region, the Unit also provided advisory services, on request, to selected African countries, for instance, to the Ethiopian Government for the proposed soda ash project. Missions were also undertaken to Cameroon, the Congo and Burundi in connection with the study on African multinational enterprises. The Unit also participated in a round-table meeting held by the Institute of Management and Public Administration in English-speaking African countries in Arusha in December 1985.

Technical assistance co-ordination and co-operation

94. Utilizing funds provided by the United Nations and obtained from multilateral and bilateral sources, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in 1985 continued to engage in diverse technical co-operation activities.

95. United Nations Regular Programme funds amounting to $US 1,472,200 provided support to 10 regional advisers, and also to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres' (MULPOCs') regional and subregional advisory services, in the fields of economic co-operation, statistics, social development, manpower development, development of conventional and non-conventional sources of energy, public administration, public finance, transport and communications, socio-economic research, and administration and common services.

96. UNDP funds amounting to $US 5,933,524 were utilized to finance projects in the fields of statistics, industry, national accounts, transport and communications, and integration of women in development. UNDP funds were also utilized to provide support to the MULPOCs and to the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), the African Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping (ARCSSM), the Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI).
97. The contribution made available by UNFPA during 1985, amounting to $US 3,449,493, was utilized for supporting ECA's population activities, regional advisory services in demographic statistics, the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques, the Regional Institute for Population Studies, UDEAC/CREP, the World Fertility Survey Data Programme of the Sahel Institute, Population information network, regional workshop on demographic estimates and projections and census training workshop.

98. Direct grants from donor Governments and organizations amounting to $US 3,009,359 provided expert services under non-reimbursable loan arrangements and bilateral technical assistance programmes in the fields of agriculture, public administration management and manpower development, natural resources, industry, social development, transport and communications, economic co-operation, socio-economic research and planning, information and statistics.

99. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women provided $US 211,766 to strengthen national machineries for the integration of women in development, training and to support the infrastructure of the African Training and Research Centre for Women. The United Nations Environment Programme also provided $US 158,300 for ECA's Environment Co-ordination Section.

100. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) made available $US 100,585 for execution of projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, natural resources, public administration, trade, economic co-operation and socio-economic research and planning.

Economic co-operation and integration

Subregional, regional and interregional co-operation

(i) Assistance to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs)

101. Efforts to strengthen and support the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) were intensified. As in the past, 10 meetings of the policy organs of the MULPOCs scheduled between January and March 1986 were serviced. The policy organs reviewed the implementation of work programmes for the period 1984-1985, and adopted the work programmes for 1986-1987. This programme is, for the first time, integrated with the ECA work programme for the same period. In compliance with resolution 552 (XX) of the ECA Conference of Ministers, dated 29 April 1985, concerning the appointment of MULPOC Chiefs, a substantive Chief was appointed for the Yaounde MULPOC from amongst the nationals of the subregion. Candidates have been identified for the position of Chiefs of the Tangiers and Niamey MULPOCs. They will be appointed as soon as arrangements can be made for their appointment.

102. Pursuant to the same resolution, MULPOCs were strengthened by redeploying from ECA headquarters to the Lusaka MULPOC one mining expert; to Gisenyi one expert in transport (also serving Yaounde), one in energy and one in trade; to Yaounde one expert in industry, one in development economics, and one in trade; and to the Tangier MULPOC one trade expert.
(ii) Assistance to subregional economic groupings

103. Assistance with regard to legal and economic issues continued to be rendered to ECOWAS, ECCAS, PTA and other subregional organizations such as the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC), the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC) and the Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping and the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa, in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, to enable these groupings to contribute effectively to the establishment of the African Economic Community by the year 2000.

(iii) ECA-sponsored institutions

104. A number of documents were prepared; amongst these were:

(a) The final report (E/ECA/CM.11/17/Add.1), submitted to the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, of the ten member States Ad Hoc Committee established under resolution 477 (XVIII) to evaluate ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions as to their usefulness and to make recommendations as to the harmonization and merger of these activities;

(b) Protocol relating to the gradual relaxation and eventual elimination of visa restrictions within the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States;

(c) Draft Headquarters Agreement between the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce and the Arab Republic of Egypt; and

(d) Amendments to the Agreement concerning the establishment of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS).

(iv) Regional co-operation

105. The eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 550 (XX) approving a number of the recommendations contained in the final report referred to in paragraph 104 (a) above. Resolution 550 (XX) required the Executive Secretary, on his part, to:

(a) Ascertain from the member States of ECA-sponsored institutions whether they were still interested in the institutions and to obtain from them their undertaking to support the institutions financially and to pay as soon as possible, 20 per cent of their outstanding arrears of contributions to the institutions;

(b) Ascertain from the host Governments of the ECA-sponsored institutions the extent to which they will undertake to support the institutions concerned during periods of financial difficulties; and

(c) Establish, within the Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary, an effective Co-ordination Unit to follow more actively and on a continuous basis, the activities of the ECA-sponsored institutions.
106. In pursuance of (a) and (b) above, the Executive Secretary wrote in May 1985 to the Governments concerned, enclosing with the letters copies of the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee and resolution 550 (XX) and statements of the governmental arrears of contributions in respect of all the ECA-sponsored institutions of which they are members. He also submitted to United Nations Headquarters for consideration and approval, the financial implications involved in the establishment of the Co-ordination Unit.

107. In pursuance of paragraph 2(a) of resolution 550 (XX), the Executive Secretary wrote to the chief executives of the institutions concerned asking them to convene meetings of their governing bodies and donor agencies to consider the options of the co-ordination and harmonization of their activities as contained in the final report.

108. In this respect, the governing bodies of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) have decided that the institutions should remain separate but that there should be close co-operation in bilingual publications. The proposed merger of the African Association of Cartography (AAC) and the African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC) has been accepted in principle and the implications of the merger are to be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee. The governing bodies of the Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA) and the Trans-East African Highway Authority (TEAHA) are yet to meet to consider the recommendation that their respective secretariats should be dissolved and their functions performed by an ECA Trans-African Highways Bureau. Similarly, the governing bodies of IFORD and the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) are yet to meet to consider the recommendations that they should be run as a single institution for social and economic development with two different campuses or to be managed and placed in one single campus.

(v) Interregional economic and technical co-operation

109. By way of follow-up to the meetings of executive secretaries held in Addis Ababa in March 1985 and Geneva in July 1985, the secretariat continued to play a role as lead agency in the preparation of joint TCDC/ECDC projects among regional commissions. The five projects covered: low-cost housing; fertilizers and pesticides; Afro-Arab trade; containerization and multimodal transport; and employment opportunities for women and youth in rural areas.

110. These interregional project documents will be considered at the meeting of executive secretaries of regional commissions to be held at Geneva in July 1986.

(vi) Afro-Arab co-operation

111. The secretariat has, in accordance with the co-operation agreement it signed with the League of Arab States in April 1984, and in conjunction with OAU, participated in several meetings on Afro-Arab co-operation held under the auspices of the League and the United Nations Secretariat.
112. In April 1985 the secretariat submitted a report on the activities of the economic, financial and technical bodies of Afro-Arab co-operation for the period 1977-1984 to the second session of the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference held in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The report also covered project proposals for which the secretariat had requested funding from Arab funds during the reporting period in the areas of industry, agriculture, research, training, environment, population, innovative housing finance mechanisms, drought and desertification, migratory labour and brain-drain and their effects on the economic and social structures of the sending States, etc. A similar document was submitted on 31 May 1985 to the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, United Nations, New York, whose duties require him to follow-up the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Afro-Arab co-operation.

113. On 10 June 1985 the secretariat submitted to the League of Arab States a project document on the promotion of Afro-Arab trade, aimed at identifying the factors which impede the flow of Afro-Arab trade and the commodities which could form the basis for improved Afro-Arab trade relations. The secretariat also participated in the eighth session of the Standing Committee on Afro-Arab Co-operation, held in Damascus, Syria, from 15 to 17 January 1986. The meeting discussed, inter alia, and adopted resolutions or decisions on: means of strengthening political co-operation and Afro-Arab solidarity to achieve common objectives; activities of Arab and African specialized institutions in the economic, financial, technical and cultural fields; drought, desertification and famine in Africa; Afro-Arab trade; and the report of the Working Group on the Guarantee and Promotion of Afro-Arab Investment.

114. The development of rural life, institutions and economy is the bootstrap by which Africa can hope to pull itself out of "The paralysis of multiple debilitating crises". In this effort, the co-operative movement can play a vital role. The secretariat prepared a paper, "Role of rural co-operatives in the productive sectors in Africa: Synthesis paper" (ECA/SDEHSD/IRD/85/WP.6).

115. Three country studies on the "Impact of rural technology and national technological policies on food production, productivity, employment and income level and distribution" have also been carried out.

116. The secretariat continued to participate in the activities of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, and presented at its annual meeting, which was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 6 to 8 March 1985, a "Summary of ECA's activities in rural development during 1984". It also made two contributions to the Newsletter of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. A similar summary for 1985 and further contributions to the Newsletter are in the course of preparation.

Social policy, planning and research

117. As a follow-up to the decisions and resolutions of the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, held from 18 to 26 March 1985, the secretariat continued to monitor social trends and social development problems in the region. Research work commenced in the first quarter of 1986, and an updated report will be prepared before the end of the year for submission to the fifth meeting of the Conference, due to be held in early 1987. The secretariat has also begun, in close co-operation with the OAU secretariat, substantive and administrative preparations for that meeting.

118. The secretariat continued its co-operation with and technical support to the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD). It participated in the sixth meeting of the Governing Board, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 27 and 28 January 1986, which approved the 1986 work programme for the Centre.

Youth and social welfare

119. The secretariat focused its attention on activities relating to the objectives of the International Youth Year. In this respect it continued to receive and compile information for the Directory of Youth Organizations in Africa, whose objective is to facilitate communication between the United Nations and youth organizations and among the various youth organizations themselves. Information was collected and disseminated on the establishment and activities of national co-ordinating committees for the year. Almost all African countries have established such committees, many of which will continue to operate on a permanent basis.

120. Three project proposals in the field of youth were prepared, one of them, on the promotion of employment opportunities for young people in rural areas, as follow-up to the recommendations of the meeting of the executive secretaries of regional commissions on the promotion of TCDC/ECDC, held in Addis Ababa in February 1985. Two other proposals, namely African Youth and a thirty-minute 16 millimetre motivational film on the role of African youth in socio-economic development, have been sent to various donor agencies for consideration.

121. The secretariat continued to promote the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons (1983-1992) and the implementation of the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. In order to assist member States in the collection of appropriate data on disability, two project documents were prepared and submitted to various donor agencies for funding. One concerns a survey on available resources, programmes and facilities for disability prevention and rehabilitation; and the other proposes research on the causes, types and incidences of impairment and disability in African countries.

Advisory services

122. Advisory services have been carried out at the request of the Governments of Somalia, on rural development activities, and Madagascar, on teaching materials for training multi-skilled artisans.
123. Requests to advisory services were also received from OAU, on follow-up to the 1979 and 1983 Arusha Conferences on Refugees, and from the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, the African Group in New York, and the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC) on the elaboration of a draft convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, and on a comprehensive study on the situation of African migrant workers. All such requests were duly attended to.

Environment in Africa

124. The ECA environment in Africa work programme is executed under a subprogramme, called development of environmental capabilities including the conservation of resources and pollution control. The objectives of this programme are to assist African countries to develop national capabilities to minimize the negative impacts of environmental problems arising from the development process in Africa, within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action. During 1985/1986, programme activities have been geared towards alleviating the impacts of drought and desertification, in order to mitigate the present social and economic crisis in the region.

(i) Environment and development policies and capabilities

125. The ECA subsidiary policy organ that provides work programme guidance on environmental matters is the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment which was established in 1982 by ECA resolution 408 (XVI). Every 18 months this Committee reviews the ECA environment work programme for that period and makes recommendations to the ECA Conference of Ministers for final policy decisions. The Committee, hereafter referred to as the Joint Committee, held its third meeting in July 1985.

(ii) Environmental assessment and management

126. During the period under review, missions were carried out to three ECA member States to prepare a report for different ECA policy organs on environmental problems relating to industrial waste disposal and the development of national environmental standards. Follow-up activities continued on the establishment of the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in response to ECA resolution 540 (XX) of April 1985. Consultations took place with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the development of project documents for the funding of the Centre and negotiations were held with interested governments regarding the hosting of the institution.

(iii) Subregional activities with the MULPOCs

127. The secretariat actively participated in the preparation of reports for the MULPOCs on environmental matters (Niamey and Tangier). For the Niamey MULPOC, inputs were prepared for a paper on drought, desertification and economic crisis in the countries of West Africa. In the area of the North African MULPOC, a study was carried out on industrialization and pollution control, and the findings were reported to the policy body of that MULPOC in March 1986.
(iv) Environmental co-ordination activities

128. Within the ECA secretariat, the Environment Section continued to co-ordinate environmental activities to ensure that environmental considerations are included in all programme activities.

129. The secretariat has also represented on the interdisciplinary mission that went to Somalia, on the request of the Government of Somalia to help in finding lasting solutions to the problems for the overall development planning, particularly in the area of environmental degradation.

130. Concerning the intergovernmental organizations, inputs on environmental matters, particularly on measures to combat drought and desertification were made to the Organization of African Unity papers for the July 1985 Summit (E/ECA/CM.11/80).

Human settlements

131. During the period under review the secretariat carried out a series of activities aimed at implementing the human settlements programme in Africa. The following are some of the documents published or in the course of publication:

(a) Improvement and development of institutions and training programmes;

(b) Indicators for reformulating building codes and regulations in Africa; and

(c) Institutional mechanisms for formulating and implementing human settlements policies in Africa.

132. The following meetings and seminars were organized:

(a) The third meeting of the ECA Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

(b) Expert Group meeting on guidelines and indicators for the preparation of national models for integrated human settlements and national socio-economic planning; and

(c) A seminar on human settlements planning.

Public administration, management and manpower

Education, training, labour management and employment

133. Programme activities focused on formal and non-formal education policies and practices; training for skills development and transfer of techniques; career planning, guidance and counselling; institution-building; fellowship administration; labour and employment planning, and the development of institutional machinery for manpower planning, development and utilization.
Education subprogramme activities were geared to the orientation of university functions to socio-economic development needs. To this end, the Conference of Vice-Chancellors was held and the Mbabane Programme of Action was developed therefrom. In response to the programme's call for strengthening staff development for improved research, teaching and learning and for research and consultancy-oriented teaching and learning, six national and one regional staff development workshops for university lecturing staff were conducted between May and December 1985 in collaboration with the Universities of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Makerere and Malawi. The workshops covered teaching strategies, methods and techniques and psychological, social and philosophical dimensions of teaching and learning. A regional workshop on research and consultancy-oriented education and training, held during the second half of 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya, called for the integration of research and consultancy in university teaching and learning as a means of enhancing university interface with industry and government ministries.

A study was undertaken in Ghana to assess the effectiveness of non-formal education in responding to the needs of the community. Defining the linkage relationship between the knowledge and technology origination centres and the respective users, the study proposed measures for making non-formal education effective in serving as an instrument for integrated rural development and in responding to the needs of the clientele. A subregional conference held in Lesotho in August 1985 on credit programmes in adult education reviewed and examined ways and means of making adult education programmes more relevant to the needs of their clients.

National workshops in career planning, guidance and counselling were conducted in Ethiopia, Chad, the Central African Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshops focused on guidance and counselling problems of out-of-school youth and of human resource development; on data collection, testing and measurement; and on practical exercises in guidance and counselling. A number of technical publications were also produced relating to guidance and counselling and on examinations and accreditation for professional practice.

The training (development programme) activities culminated in one regional and one national workshop for staff development officers from parastatal organizations, ministries and private sectors in Kenya and Mauritius, and another for management educators (mainly teachers of management and financial accounting) in Botswana.

The grants and fellowships programme continued to focus on mobilizing resources in cash and in kind for placement and training of fellows in technical, vocational, scientific and management skills. Most awards took the form of three-to nine-month fellowships under the UNITFAC, UNDP and the Netherlands Schemes. During this period, however, there was a very serious drop in contributions to the fellowships programme, while the demand for such fellowships continued to increase.
139. The manpower and employment planning policies subprogramme continued with the promotion of the development of institutional machinery for policy harmonization and programme co-ordination in manpower planning development and utilization; the development of capabilities for those designated to man the machinery and operate manpower planning programmes effectively; and labour and employment surveys to build a data base and models for policy decisions, effective employment and labour market management. To this end, manpower and employment planning staff development workshops were conducted in Liberia and Kenya during the second half of 1985. The workshops assessed existing manpower development and utilization policies and their institutional arrangements for manpower planning and employment and labour market management, and went on to suggest policy measures for their improvement.

140. In an effort to secure the return to the continent of highly skilled manpower from outside the African region, the secretariat in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM) started implementing the project on the "Return of talent to Africa". At least 13 countries, Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, the Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, expressed interest or were participating in the project.

Public administration and finance in Africa

141. The programme focused on improving institutional capabilities and upgrading the quality of performance of public officials. Advisory missions were undertaken to the Gambia, Mauritius, Botswana, Cameroon, and Uganda to: (i) advise the respective Governments on the management services function in the public services; and (ii) study innovative approaches to the management of public enterprises and to fostering rural development.

142. National workshops on procurement and supplies management were conducted in Ethiopia in June 1985, in the Sudan in September 1985 and in Kenya in November 1985. Two other workshops were conducted, in Botswana for graduate entrants into the public service, and in Mauritius for training of trainers in the public service.

143. In the field of the development of budgetary and taxation systems, a technical conference was held in Cameroon in October 1985 in collaboration with the Association of African Tax Administrators (AATA). The Conference focused attention on the evolution of administrative systems in Africa, with special reference to tax administration; the role of management information in tax administration; and the importance of audit and collection in tax administration.

African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW)

144. During the period under review, the secretariat focused its attention on promotion of training opportunities for women to ensure their meaningful participation in development activities.
145. In this respect, the major concern was to ensure that national development plans, policies and programmes include women's issues. An effort was made to improve the data base on women and development in Africa through a seminar on improving statistics and indicators for women and development planning held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 29 April to 7 May 1985 in close collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Office and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

146. A subregional executive development seminar for women managers and a subregional seminar on management and development planning for women were organized at the East and Southern African Management Institute in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, from 17 to 28 June and in September 1985 respectively.

147. In addition, advisory and consultancy services were provided to national machineries in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Mauritius and Seychelles.

148. In accordance with recommendations of the Arusha Strategies, the secretariat continued its efforts to enhance women's technical competence. In this connection, it organized two entrepreneurship training workshops for English-speaking countries at the College of Adult and Distant Education in Kenya from 15 April to 21 June 1985 and from 27 January to 28 March 1986. Similar workshops for French-speaking countries took place at the Centre ivoirien de gestion des entreprises in Côte d'Ivoire from 25 February to 3 May 1985 and from 20 May to 26 July 1985.

149. In the same context, a subregional workshop on women's effective participation in activities of the United Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade was held in Lilongwe from 13 to 18 January 1986. Similarly, a workshop on the new role of women in the use of modern appropriate technology related to production, processing, conservation and marketing of foodstuffs took place in Yaoundé from 3 to 8 February 1986. The two workshops were follow-up to recommendations made by studies carried out in the Eastern and Southern, and Central subregions, respectively. In the same way, a national training seminar on administration and co-operative management was held in Kinshasa from 19 to 28 June 1985. The seminar brought together women working in the department of women's and social affairs at national and regional levels as well as representatives of women's associations who would promote the establishment of women's co-operatives in the country.

150. In the spirit of promoting technical co-operation among women of the developing countries of Africa, the secretariat organized an interregional workshop on the development and management of women's textile and garment co-operatives, held from 13 October to 2 November 1985 in Bamako, Mali. The selection of Mali as host Government was dictated by the country's long experience in the area of batik and fabric dyeing and printing. This enabled the eight countries invited to the workshop to exchange views with their Malian counterparts.
151. Special attention was given to drought-affected countries. A project on training in optimal nutritional use of the food donated for relief and food-for-work activities continued its implementation in Ethiopia. A new project has been developed to cover other drought-affected countries and is likely to be funded in 1986.

152. In addition the secretariat took part actively in the World Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 26 July 1985. A special brochure and poster entitled "Women in African development to the year 2000: Only two options for African women" were distributed during the Conference, together with the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa beyond the end of the United Nations Decade for Women.

153. Through the women's programme co-ordinator in each MULPOC, the secretariat organized meetings of the subregional committees on integration of women in development for the Lusaka, Gisenyi, Yaounde and Niamey MULPOCs, preceded in each case by meetings of the Bureau of the subregional committees.

154. With regard to research activities, several studies were completed and published. A new achievement has been the issue of the Newsletter in Portuguese, in addition to English and French.

The Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)

155. Advisory services were rendered to Algeria and Benin on the installation and testing of hardware and software in their national documentation centres. In Botswana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, advisory services covered the activities of PADIS in the Eastern and Southern Africa, the progress in the establishment of the Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System (ESADIS), and the System's interconnection at national level.

156. Group training was conducted for staff of documentation centres of member States, in PADIS Central Co-ordination Office, in Niamey, the Niger, for West African countries, and at national level in Algeria, Benin, Togo and Guinea. Both group training and national training were meant to introduce participants to PADIS/DEVSIS methodologies.

Data processing services

157. During this period PADIS provided EDP services to the ECA secretariat.

Subregional technical committees of PADIS

158. Two subregional committees, for North Africa and for West Africa, were organized by PADIS.

Acquisition of data bases

159. Besides the expansion of its own PADDEV and TCDC data bases on development and expertise, PADIS acquired two new data bases, from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
Co-operation with other international organizations

160. PADIS engaged in negotiations with various international and United Nations agencies, notably the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UNESCO, the African Development Bank (ADB), the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Economic Community (EEC), regarding the strengthening of co-operation between these organizations and PADIS.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

161. As in the past, close relations were maintained by the Commission with other United Nations programmes as can be appreciated from the account given below.

162. As mentioned in the chapter dealing with technical assistance co-ordination and co-operation above, UNDP funds were used, inter alia, to finance projects in the fields of statistics, industry, national accounts.

163. In recognition of the need for concerted action among the least developed countries, the secretariat has, in collaboration with FAO, organized a group consultation on TCDC for food marketing improvement in Eastern and Southern African countries.

164. Due to the deteriorating emergency food situation facing the region, the secretariat has been requested by various sister organizations such as OAU, WFP, ADB and FAO to participate in actions initiated by them to alleviate the scourge of malnutrition and hunger in the region.

165. The secretariat also held consultations with FAO in Rome in January 1986 with a view to examining possibilities for joint ECA/FAO projects in the areas of resources of the sea, especially fisheries and aquaculture.

166. In view of the decline in food self-sufficiency in the region, the secretariat, in collaboration with FAO, ILO, UNIDO and ICA, organized a Regional Expert Consultation on the Role of Rural Co-operatives in the Productive Sectors in Africa.

167. With UNEP, there was also collaboration in preparing the African Environment Conference in Cairo. There was also continued collaboration with WMO in working out logistics for the establishment of ACMAD. Coordination with WHO continued as the ECA secretariat made inputs into the activities of the UNDP/WHO/World Bank Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

168. In the field of telecommunications, the secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Brazil and UNDP undertook a study mission on the state of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network (PANAFTEL) and measures for its improvements.

169. During the period under review there was also active collaboration with FAO in Rome, Population Division of the United Nations, New York, WHO's African Regional Office in Brazzaville, OAU, ESCAP, the World Bank and other organizations in various activities on population.
III. TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. Attendance and organization of work

170. The twenty-first session of the Commission/twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held in Yaounde, the Republic of Cameroon, from 17 to 21 April 1986. The meeting was formally opened by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon. Statements were also made at the opening ceremony by the outgoing Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Bernard Chadzero, Minister of Finance and Economic Development and Planning of Zimbabwe, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of ECA (see section C below).

171. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

172. Observers from the following States Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission were present: China, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Venezuela.

173. Observers from the following States not Members of the United Nations were also present: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Holy See and Switzerland.

174. In accordance with rule 72 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) was represented.

175. The United Nations Council for Namibia was also represented.


178. Observers were also present from the following non-governmental organizations: Baha'i International Community, Conseil international des femmes (CIF), Grand répertoire économique de l'Afrique centrale (GREAC), International Centre for Public Enterprises (ICPE), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO), and the Hunger Project.

179. The Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Sadou Hayatou (Cameroon)
First Vice-Chairman: Mr. Yaovi Adodo (Togo)
Second Vice-Chairman: Mr. Abdel Khalifa (the Sudan)
Rapporteur: Mr. Louis J. Chimango (Malawi)

B. Agenda

180. On 18 April 1986, the Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. General debate on:
   (a) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on ECA activities, 1984-1985;
   (b) Review and appraisal of economic situation in 1984-1985 and perspectives for 1986;
      (i) Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa 1984-1985;
(ii) ECA/ADB economic report on Africa 1986;

(c) The situation of food and agriculture in Africa.


7. Report and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on:

(a) Preparations for the international conference on Africa's external indebtedness;

(b) Progress in the implementation of ongoing special programmes:

   (i) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Progress report on the second phase programme and consideration of future action;

   (ii) United Nations Industrial Development Decade for Africa: Joint progress report by ECA, UNIDO and OAU and consideration of future action;

   (iii) Review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in Africa;

(c) Promotion of economic co-operation and integration:

   (i) Reports from the MULPOCs' Councils of Ministers;

   (ii) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of ECA-sponsored specialized institutions, 1984-1985;

   (iii) Biennial consolidated programme of work and priorities including budgets of ECA-sponsored specialized institutions, 1986-1987;

   (iv) Regional and interregional economic and technical co-operation: issues for consideration;

(d) Institutional development: Establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development: Progress report and required further action;

(e) Special issues:

   (i) The importance of coal in Africa: Basic proposals for its development;


   (iii) Report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

   (iv) Computer applications and development;
(f) Reports from the subsidiary organs of the Commission:

(i) Report of the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

(ii) Report of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries;

(iii) Report of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology Development;

(iv) Report of the seventh meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

(v) Report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade;

(vi) Report of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts from the Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Legal Departments on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund;

(vii) Report of the third meeting of the ECA Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

(viii) Report of the second meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS;

(ix) Report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions;

(g) Follow-up on resolutions of the Commission and resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly that are of interest to Africa:

(i) Follow-up action on other relevant resolutions adopted by the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

(ii) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and by the General Assembly at its fortieth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa;

(iii) Proposals for updating the 1986-1987 programme budget in the light of General Assembly approved appropriations and availability of extrabudgetary resources;


8. Draft resolutions submitted by the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole for consideration by the twenty-first session of the Commission/twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.
9. Any other business.
10. Date, venue and other matters relating to the twenty-second session of the Commission/thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.
11. Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting.
12. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

181. In his opening address His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, welcomed all participants and wished them a pleasant stay in Cameroon.

182. Africa, he said, required the participation of every African in order to make progress and attain food self-sufficiency. Africa's recovery was a long-term undertaking, and the Commission should take specific measures to get Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 under way. The continent should not wait for outside assistance, but should seek to resolve its problems on its own. In so doing, however, the African countries would have to face many difficulties. It was essential for them to pool their efforts and act in a spirit of greater co-operation among member States in order to develop the food and agriculture sector, combat desertification, reduce the external debt and develop trade and industry. Success in that undertaking would require increased solidarity among African States.

183. The Commission was meeting to strengthen the will to unify the African countries, draw up a specific programme, and adopt resolutions. Africa would have to formulate concrete proposals during the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's critical economic situation, and to ensure credibility, the African countries must be firm in their commitments and demonstrate their will to remedy the situation by working together as responsible States whose future belonged to them.

184. He then declared the meeting open.

185. In a message read by the Executive Secretary, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the central issue for the meeting was how to restore and accelerate the pace of economic and social development in Africa. The individual and collective efforts of member States would be of utmost importance at the present critical period for Africa.

186. Just a year ago, Africa had been in the grip of a human tragedy of unprecedented proportions, with famine and related scourges of malnutrition and disease threatening millions of people and the survival of countries. While there were still areas of need, especially of people who remained displaced and destitute, and an estimated US $1 billion was needed to cover emergency requirements, it was safe to say that the worst of the drought-related emergency was over. In addition to the return of the rains, the
massive relief operation mounted over the past two years by the international community, in support of the determined efforts of the African Governments and peoples, had also contributed to the dramatic change in the situation.

187. He was pleased that the United Nations had been able to play a central role in sensitizing the world to the problem and in mobilizing and facilitating the co-ordination of assistance, thus demonstrating that it was possible to forge a world-wide partnership to face a common cause. That convincing expression of human solidarity must now be put at the service of Africa's long-term development needs.

188. The recent drought-related crisis was only an extreme manifestation of a much more fundamental structural problem. On the initiative of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the General Assembly was to convene a special session in May 1986 to consider in depth the critical economic situation in Africa, and had established a preparatory committee to ensure that session's success. That session would focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium- and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries with a view to promoting and adopting action-oriented and concerted measures.

189. It had always been recognized that Africa should define its own future, and the African document formulated under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity, with the valuable assistance of the ECA Conference of Ministers at the first extraordinary session of the Commission, for submission to the special session, was thus essential to the preparatory process for the special session. The document made clear once again the resolve and determination of African Governments to relaunch the initiative for medium- and long-term development and growth, and outlined areas in which action was required pursuant to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. The international community must now indicate the nature and extent of the support it intended to give to the African countries' efforts. On the basis of discussions in the preparatory committee as well as informal contacts, it should be possible to fashion a political agreement at the special session involving clear commitments by members of the international community to assist in the restoration and acceleration of the pace of economic and social development in Africa.

190. To that end, significant improvements in the international climate were required. An increased flow of well co-ordinated and generous development assistance relevant to the domestic needs and priorities established by African countries themselves was needed. In that context, the recent initiatives taken by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were encouraging.

191. For many countries in Africa, the external debt problem had become intolerable. Similarly, the problems of commodity prices and easier access for African exports into the markets of developing countries also required urgent attention.

192. The special session of the General Assembly would be neither the beginning nor the end of a process. A continuing and diligent effort by all was required if the programme agreed upon was to be realized, and serious consideration must be given to appropriate follow-up arrangements at both the national and global levels.
193. The Conference's deliberations and the decisions would be of critical importance, and he wished its meeting success. The United Nations would spare no effort to mobilize additional resources for African development and support co-ordinated national and international actions.

194. In concluding his statement, he extended sincere thanks to His Excellency President Paul Biya, and through him to the people of Cameroon, for hosting the Commission's session. That generous gesture was clear testimony to their continued devotion to the goals not only of ECA but also of the United Nations in general.

195. Dr. Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the twentieth session of the Commission/eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the first extraordinary session of the Commission and the ECA Conference of Ministers welcomed participants and, on their behalf, thanked His Excellency President Paul Biya for having agreed to address the opening meeting, as well as the Government and people of Cameroon for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of the Conference and for the hospitality extended to all participants.

196. He reviewed the socio-economic conditions in which the twentieth session of the Commission and eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers had taken place. The region had been experiencing at that time an economic crisis of unprecedented proportions which were magnified by a particularly unfavourable world economic environment, resulting in a decline in the quantity and value of African exports, high real interest rates in industrialized countries, increased prices of imports of developing countries, deteriorating terms of trade, and sharp reduction in capital inflows to Africa, all exacerbated by the alarming increase in Africa's external indebtedness. In 1986 as in 1985, moreover, the lower-income developing countries, and mainly the African countries, had derived almost no benefits from the general upturn in the economies of the industrialized and newly industrialized countries.

197. For southern Africa, that situation was still compounded by the destabilization activities of the racist regime of South Africa, the infiltration of bandits into majority-ruled democracies, overt and covert support of counter-revolutionary groups in some of the front-line States, economic sabotage and blackmail, as well as direct military intervention.

198. Consequently, the eleventh meeting of the Conference had focused on how to reverse the trend towards economic decline and create the basis for lasting peace, economic rehabilitation, development and structural transformation in Africa on the basis of collective self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

199. He drew attention to resolutions 555 (XX) and 556 (XX) out of the 20 resolutions adopted by the Conference. The first had adopted the Second Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and requested the Executive Secretary to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council. The second was the Conference's recommendations on the economic issues to be considered by the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU formulated in response to the request of
the Council of Ministers of OAU contained in its resolution CM/Res.963 (XLI), and which the Executive Secretary was requested to make available to the OAU Permanent Steering Committee for use in finalizing the documentation for the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly and for transmission to the OAU Council of Ministers at its forty-second session. The provisions of those two resolutions, aimed at assisting in developing action-oriented programmes for dealing with the worst economic crisis Africa had ever known and mobilizing maximum assistance from the international community to supplement African countries' own efforts to deal with the crisis, had been fully implemented, and the intended objectives were well on the way to being realized.

200. Two very important events had occurred since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The first was the submission of the Second Special Memorandum to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in 1985. The Council had examined the Memorandum in depth, focusing on the structural causes of Africa's economic and social crisis and the need for fundamental and comprehensive measures, at both the national and international levels, to meet it. Second, the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985, had adopted, on the basis of the Conference's recommendations, Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, whose implementation, he said, would require determined and sustained efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

201. Accordingly, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had adopted resolution AHG/Dec. 1.1 (XXI) which urged member States to establish or strengthen national mechanisms designed to effect follow-up measures to implement the Priority Programme, invited regional economic groupings to reinforce co-operation in all economic and social sectors and decided to establish an OAU Permanent Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of the Priority Programme. The OAU resolution further called for the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, and requested the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA to provide all possible assistance to the Steering Committee and to undertake all necessary preparations for the special session.

202. ECA member States were greatly indebted to His Excellency Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, for his dedicated leadership and untiring effort which had led to the decision by the General Assembly at its fortieth session to convene from 27 to 31 May 1986 in New York a special session at the ministerial level to consider in depth the critical economic situation in Africa. To ensure the success of that session, the General Assembly had established a Preparatory Committee of the Whole. That session would be the first occasion in the history of the United Nations that the General Assembly had convened to focus on the economic problems of a single region. It was no exaggeration to say that its outcome could decisively affect the direction, pace and pattern of Africa's economic growth and development, and indeed structural transformation, for decades to come. It was thus vital that Africa should be adequately prepared for the session.
203. The present twenty-first session of the Commission and twelfth meet. of the ECA Conference of Ministers constituted, by virtue of the clear relation between its agenda and the continuing problems afflicting Africa and some of the key issues to be considered at the special session, an integral element in a whole series of preparatory meetings, variously involving the current Chairman of OAU, the executive heads, secretariats and subsidiary bodies of ECA and OAU, representatives of the United Nations system and the African Group at United Nations Headquarters.

204. The ECA secretariat had contributed immensely to the preparatory process, for instance through the joint ECA/OAU field missions sent to help all African States elaborate their priority programmes for the period 1986-1990 in the light of the requirements of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, identify and estimate the cost of their priority activities, specify the resources secured or expected to be mobilized from both domestic and external sources, and determine the investment gap for which the assistance of the international community would be required. In that whole exercise, the priority areas continued to be food and agriculture, industries in support of agriculture, human resources and the fight against drought and desertification.

205. Through those numerous preparatory efforts, African Governments had clearly articulated their needs and expressed their hopes with respect to the outcome of the special session. They must do their best to impress upon the international community that theirs was an honourable and serious cause requiring immediate remedies, or commitment to remedies, to prevent Africa continuing along the path of economic regression. Positive responses would mean a new start on the path of efficacious collective, self-reliant and self-sustaining economic growth and development.

206. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers was taking place barely six weeks before the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the critical economic situation in Africa, whose outcome could decisively affect the direction, pace, pattern and structure of Africa's economic growth and development. The special session offered a unique opportunity to Africa and the international community as a whole to demonstrate solidarity and launch co-ordinated and effective measures which should help Africa get out of its development problems and on to a new era of sustained growth. Africa's credibility was at stake. Their efforts had to succeed; they dared not fail.

207. Within Africa itself, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the general economic situation in most countries remained bleak despite the improvements in food production. The problems thus remained real and stubborn, and the challenge relentless. Yet with African countries' own national and collective self-reliant efforts, effectively complemented by international support, the problems could, and must, be solved. The twelfth meeting of the Conference offered an opportunity to review and appraise the economic and social conditions in Africa and to situate them in the context of the generally inhospitable world economic environment.

208. In concluding, he reiterated participants' gratitude to the President, Government and people of Cameroon, and expressed his own gratitude for the support he had received during his term of office as Chairman of the ECA
Conference of Ministers. He would continue to do all in his power to advance and strengthen the work of the Commission, for the greater good of Africa and in the cause of greater international understanding and co-operation.

209. Mr. Ide Oumarou, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, thanked the President, Party, Government and people of Cameroon for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Conference, and paid tribute to the role Cameroon, as a founder member of the Organization, had played in OAU over the years, including the provision of two of the former Secretaries-General of the Organization.

210. Three weeks previously, the first extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers and of the Commission had reviewed Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic and social situation in Africa, to be submitted a few hours later to the OAU Foreign Ministers, also in an extraordinary session, and in so doing had made an invaluable contribution to the document and its credibility. In that connection, he paid tribute to the ECA secretariat, which had worked with OAU to enable the Permanent Steering Committee to produce a full, detailed and credible document for submission to the General Assembly. The joint work of the OAU and ECA secretariats was the beginning of a new era of co-operation between the two secretariats which must be strengthened and extended to all their activities, particularly those on implementing the expected outcome of the General Assembly's special session.

211. The Ministers were meeting to discuss the problems of an Africa suffering from underdevelopment, malnutrition, external debt, mistakes in management and lack of structures capable of relaunching and promoting its development. But discussion and diagnosis could not be prolonged indefinitely; the time had come to apply the remedies so often prescribed. The OAU Heads of State and Government had clearly defined the problems, and their decisions had to be implemented not only by working for the full success of the forthcoming special session, but above all by preparing for the follow-up to it; in other words, by making available the resources, of all kinds, which African Governments had undertaken to mobilize for Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, so that their peoples could become the true agents of their own development.

212. To that end, OAU had recently held a meeting of African Ministers of Labour (Addis Ababa, 7-9 April 1986) and the first OAU Conference of Ministers of Culture (Port Louis, Mauritius, 13-15 April 1986). The need for those sectors to participate in the recovery programme was self-evident in view of the commitment in Africa's submission to the General Assembly to mobilize human resources, revise structures, review management methods, question political options, rationalize the participation of women, young people and farmers in development activities and bring cultural values to bear on the achievement of indigenous and self-sustaining development.

213. For how could development succeed if the labour force was not organized to provide suitable employment for the young and avoid underemployment of the qualified? And how could adaptability and creativity be encouraged without freeing the population from socio-cultural constraints and anachronisms? At a time when the African continent was afflicted by famine, and when development was increasingly being seen in terms of matching
production with consumption, it was disturbing that traditional beliefs constituted one of the main constraints to agricultural development. Hence, the organization of cultural life was an essential prerequisite for development and the release of Africa's creative genius. The OAU Heads of State and Government had, by adopting a declaration on the cultural aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action, demonstrated their concern to incorporate human factors and value systems into development strategies. Work on such fields as scientific research, education, and the role of women and youth now took their inspiration from African culture, and the time had come to develop administrative and technical measures for the integration of African culture into planning and programming.

214. Despite its lack of resources, Africa seemed to the world to be the continent where the most and longest meetings were held. The Conference should demonstrate that all those meetings were a sign of renewal, not by adding resolutions to resolutions, and plans to plans, but by ensuring that each new resolution marked a step forward, that each new plan aimed at consolidating the achievements of, and filling the gaps left by, its predecessor. That was the only way of disarming Africa's many detractors and escaping from the humiliating and untenable position of a continent in continual need of assistance.

215. He was therefore pleased to note that the Conference's agenda comprised a consistent set of topics all aimed at such a reordering of Africa's affairs in areas which, given collective priority, could ward off the emergency and lay the foundations for lasting economic recovery. He hoped the work of the Conference would mark such a starting point.

216. The Executive Secretary thanked His Excellency President Paul Biya and the people of Cameroon for their generous hospitality which had made it possible for the Economic Commission for Africa to have successfully concluded the series of intergovernmental meetings which culminated in the twenty-first session of the Commission/twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers. Cameroon had demonstrated its total commitment to African economic co-operation, integration and unity. The Commission had even more reasons to be thankful since two of the ECA-sponsored institutions, namely the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD) and the Yaounde-based MULPOC, were located in that country and had continued to enjoy the material and political support of the Government.

217. The fact that both the OAU and ECA ministerial councils had had to meet in extraordinary sessions a few weeks earlier and the fact that a special session of the United Nations General Assembly was to be convened the following month to consider Africa's economic and social crisis reflected the profound crisis that had gripped Africa. The drought-induced emergency situation in a large number of African countries from 1983 to 1985, with the attendant famine, malnutrition and loss of lives and the international publicity which it had brought in its trail, had deepened the apprehension of many people, particularly members of the international community, about the unenviable future of the African economies.

218. With vicious interaction between excruciating poverty and abysmally low levels of productivity in an environment marked by serious deficiencies in basic economic and social infrastructures, the persistent poor performance
of the dominant agricultural sector, the heavy dependence of domestic production on imports of factor inputs, the failure to diversify and the absence of domestic linkages and the paralysis of multiple and persistent debilitating crisis which typified African economies, a gloomy view of Africa's development perspective seemed inevitable. All the major economic and social indicators supported that pervasive gloom and despair.

219. At the heart of Africa's continued underdevelopment was the failure to achieve a significant structural transformation and necessary economic diversification that were required to move the continent away from inherited colonial economic structures. The principal reason for that failure was the pervasiveness of structural disequilibria in the agricultural sector which itself was characterized by subsistence production, antiquated technology, and a pervasive dualistic and fragmented economic system with cleavages between the export enclaves and the subsistence sector, between the rural sector and the parasitic urban areas and between industry and agriculture. The major challenge in the years ahead was therefore to achieve a major and sustained structural transformation of that sector, as well as the supportive sectors, and to raise the general level of productivity.

220. Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted in July 1985 by the African Heads of State and Government, provided the basis for facing the future and meeting its challenge. Derived as it was from the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the Priority Programme was sharply focused, time-bound and highly selective in its objectives and targets. Its adoption represented Africa's collective determination to give a frontal attack to the problems of economic rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and development. The capacity to translate that determination into operational terms at national, subregional and continental levels and to pursue with single-minded purpose their implementation would be a practical manifestation of the degree of seriousness with which the future was viewed and faced.

221. The African economies were at a crossroads. Deliberate and calculated decisions had to be made as to the turning to make. It was a time not only for introspection, general reappraisal and crucial decision-making as to the desirable or imperative change in direction, but also for making a choice and pursuing that choice to its logical conclusion. The year 1986 was Africa's year of destiny for three principal reasons. First, 1986 marked the beginning of the second half of the first decade after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action. Secondly, it was the first year of the implementation of the Priority Programme, and thirdly, it was the year that Africa had convened the international community to present its case for support and understanding and for solidarity and assistance.

222. It was accordingly in that year 1986 that African Governments and people must put into effect the following commitments. First, to give the highest priority in their rehabilitation and recovery programme to the rural sector in general and agricultural development in particular. Secondly, to continue to make genuine efforts to improve the management of their economies, rationalize public investment policies and promote the most efficient utilization of resources. Thirdly, to impose greater sacrifices on themselves
by adopting appropriate austerity measures and through greater mobilization of resources. And fourthly, to continue the process of undertaking essential policy reforms and adjustments, difficult and painful as they were.

223. As far as the international community was concerned, Africa expected first a full commitment by that community to the full implementation of the Priority Programme by reordering their assistance and co-operation programmes to ensure their consistency and complementarity with Africa's Priority Programme. Secondly, the international community must agree to improve the environment and structures for international co-operation with Africa so as to achieve a shift from project support to programme support, and from ad hoc short-term assistance to medium-term support. Thirdly, there was an urgent need to bring about an improvement in the external environment, including the adoption of policies in the rest of the world that were conducive to growth rather than contraction of the world economy. Finally, the international community would need to take urgent measures to alleviate the debt burden of African countries.

224. The direction in which Africa should move and the role the international community could be expected to play in enabling Africa to move along the desired path was therefore crystal clear. The Executive Secretary hoped that the special session of the General Assembly would be remembered as the session during which the world joined hands with Africa to get the continent out of the quagmire of poverty, and that 1986 would come to be regarded as the turning-point in Africa's economic development - as the year when the African people, finding themselves at the economic crossroads, took the path of honour and integrity to will an economic future of recovery and growth for themselves.

225. On behalf of the delegations, Mr. Abdou Rahim Mikidache, Minister of Planning, Supply and Urban Development of the Comoros, read a vote of thanks addressed to His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, the Government and people of Cameroon for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to all participants. He asked President Paul Biya to kindly transmit to the Government and people of Cameroon the heartfelt and profound gratitude of all the delegations.

General debate (agenda item 5)

(a) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on ECA activities, 1984-1985

(b) Review and appraisal of economic situation in 1984-1985 and perspectives for 1986
   (i) Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa 1984-1985
   (ii) ECA/ADB economic report on Africa 1986

(c) The situation of food and agriculture in Africa

226. The representative of Nigeria said that Africa's economic and social problems had been well analysed in the report of the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole. Despite the fact that overall growth had been about the same as population growth rate, the growth
attained was more encouraging than in the past. However, structural problems had yet to be tackled. Where problems of drought and desertification were concerned, and since there was no assurance that nature would continue to be generous, African Governments should continue to design and implement realistic and practical programmes intended to sustain achievements attained so far and free African economies from the devastating effects of the vagaries of the weather. They must also pursue concrete programmes to achieve reduced food losses and wastage and ensure optimal utilization of resources, and strengthen the linkage between agriculture and other economic sectors such as the industrial sector.

227. He then drew attention to Africa's external debt problem and the compounded effects of low foreign exchange earnings from low prices for Africa's exported commodities, unsuccessful attempts to reschedule loans and tightening of credit lines, as a result of which it was almost impossible for most African countries to import essential industrial raw materials, machinery and spare parts, leading to an inevitable drastic reduction of capacity utilization and unemployment. The proposed conference on Africa's external indebtedness was therefore most timely.

228. Notwithstanding the austerity measures adopted by African countries, meaningful structural adjustments of economies had not been achieved. He hoped that the adoption of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the African submission to the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly would greatly assist African countries to strengthen the external sector, provided an understanding was reached with external creditors and donors.

229. Lastly, he stressed that it was necessary for member States to honour their financial commitments to the ECA-sponsored institutions so that with their assistance, the pace of economic development in Africa could be accelerated.

230. The representative of Egypt recalled the continued economic deterioration in Africa, with low production and productivity, a decline in the prices of export commodities, and losses in export earnings suffered by African countries, including oil-exporting countries. The terms of trade and purchasing power had equally deteriorated, leading to increases in balance-of-payment deficits and the debt burden. It was only through integrated policies at national, regional, subregional and international levels in the short, medium and long term that those problems could be solved.

231. If Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 was to translate aspirations of mutual interdependence and self-reliance into practical realities, a strong African position in support of the African submission to the General Assembly's special session was essential, and agreement must be reached on a single African strategy for collectiveness and solidarity.

232. He endorsed the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole. Food and agricultural problems, as well as their supporting sectors, had been dealt with extensively, and the recommendations it contained represented useful contributions to the implementation of the Priority Programme. In that context, the experience of Cameroon with its plan for
the implementation of food self-sufficiency projects up to the year 2000 was a clear example to be followed in implementing that Programme at the national level.

233. The external and internal environments affecting Africa's economies were extremely significant. More value could be obtained from exports only if measures were taken to increase the capacity of processing, marketing, distribution, and transportation of African exported raw materials.

234. He requested the Executive Secretary to speed up the implementation of the resolution of the African Ministers of Trade (E/BCA/OAU/Trade 29) concerning the formulation of an African position particularly in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries within South-South trade relations, to convene a meeting of a group of experts as soon as possible for that purpose, and to inform member States of the proposed date for such a meeting.

235. The representative of the Congo said that in almost all African countries, economic growth was irregular, and showing a steep downward trend. The deterioration in external balances had led to a deficit in the current account balances and a deterioration in the terms of trade. Because of the worsening of the disequilibrium in internal finances, African countries had had to resort to external sources of financing. That situation, also marked by a drop in official development assistance and increased procurement of loans from the private sector, had led to an increase in the external debt and its service.

236. The effects of the world economic crisis were particularly felt in the food and agriculture sector, and the consequences were famine, food dependence and explosive socio-economic situations. In general, the economic crisis had forced African Governments to negotiate and sign agreements with international agencies which had harmful consequences both socially and economically. Such agreements could bring investments and growth to a near standstill, slow down the production machinery and accentuate the inequalities between the various social groups. The Conference must therefore examine concrete ways of implementing the guidelines of the Priority Programme, with a view to surmounting the crisis and putting the Lagos Plan of Action into effect. In that respect, it was encouraging to note the increased co-operation between ECA, OAU and other African development institutions. Special attention should also be paid to assistance in the field of agricultural and technological research and the training of senior staff.

237. In conclusion, he emphasized the need for African countries to set aside petty nationalism and cultivate a common consciousness so as to solve the political and technical problems related to economic co-operation and integration in the continent. Active solidarity and a spirit of complementarity were a basic pre-condition for translating the principles of collective autonomy and self-sufficiency into reality, in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

238. The representative of Tunisia, after recalling the alarming economic crisis which Africa had been facing for the past several years, emphasized that Africa's future depended primarily upon the capacity of African States
themselves to mobilize their energy and potential to take up the double challenge of survival and development while emphasizing intra-African co-operation, particularly technical co-operation.

239. African States must come to the General Assembly's special session on African economic crisis as serious, credible and responsible partners motivated above all by a spirit of partnership, and respecting each other's freedom of choice of development policies and their mutual interests. Otherwise, attitudes or policies might be imposed on them which did not meet Africa's preoccupations, economic and social realities or fundamental and sovereign rights where development was concerned. In that connection, there was an increasing trend for sources of funding to tie their support to what were known as adjustment measures, which in most cases delayed and made still more difficult the solution of certain problems which in fact called for collective action.

240. Where the ECA-sponsored institutions were concerned, the measures specified by the Ad Hoc Committee, calling for the control and harmonization of some institutions' activities, and the merger of certain others in order to avoid duplication and any risk of the scarce resources allocated to them being wasted, should be put into effect.

241. In order to ensure a favourable response to the special session of the General Assembly, he suggested that the President of that session should submit to the forthcoming meeting of the most industrialized countries, in Tokyo, a communication highlighting the search for a commitment to the settlement of the external debt problem and the implementation of a plan for the real and appropriate transfer of technology for purposes of a well-balanced development of agriculture leading to food self-sufficiency.

242. The representative of Ethiopia said that in analysing Africa's development issues, a distinction must be made between the causes and the symptoms of the problems encountered. A wider and more optimistic outlook on the range of policy options was also needed. The current socio-economic crisis had emanated from external factors such as the collapse in the prices of primary commodities, fluctuations in interest rates, protectionism and the non-implementation of commitments on international co-operation, including the Substantial New Programme of Action for LDCs, and internal factors such as the low level and rate of mobilization of domestic human, financial and material resources, inappropriate strategies, policies and priorities and a colonial heritage of an externally oriented pattern of production.

243. Although the Lagos Plan of Action and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 had analysed the problems mentioned above as largely symptoms of underdevelopment characterized by structural weaknesses and low productivity, the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1984-1985 which was before the meeting had departed from that perception. The section in chapter III, part D dealing with development policy issues wrongly made public enterprises, government intervention and planning responsible for the current economic crisis, while upholding non-interference and free markets as the panacea. The Survey also criticized as outmoded the traditional grass-roots approaches to development aimed at mobilizing the investible surplus concealed in rural labour, which were in accord with the basic needs approach advocated by ILO and the widely accepted Nurksian thesis of savings mobilization.
244. Ethiopia's long-term development plan would enable mobilization of its human and natural resources, land-use planning, generation of surplus from the agricultural sector, settlement and resettlement of rural populations to facilitate the provision of essential economic and social services, and implementation of measures to combat drought and desertification. He objected to what he considered to be the biased assessment of Ethiopia's villagization process in paragraph 140 of the Survey, and criticized the analysis contained in paragraph 57, where it was stated that the decline in primary commodity prices would bring about more aid flows from donors; that view was contrary to the position of developing countries, which opposed ever-falling commodity prices. More aid was not, and could not be, a substitute for more trade. Moreover, the paragraph took the same position as the World Bank report on sub-Saharan Africa, which had been rejected by the eighth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in 1982.

245. Finally, he acknowledged that the analysis in the Survey of the food and agriculture sector had placed appropriate emphasis on the need for strong backward and forward linkages between agriculture and industry. The greatest need was to increase the rate and level of investment to enable the inherent structural problems of Africa to be tackled. In that regard, member States should call for a substantial inflow of resources at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the critical economic situation in Africa.

246. The representative of Zaire said that the biennial report of the Executive Secretary 1984-1985, and all the other major background documents should, in conformity with article 10 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, have been sent to member States at least six weeks before the meeting to enable member States to analyse them thoroughly at the national level.

247. He called upon African States to be more active in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly so as to ensure that ECA was provided with the resources it required to implement its mandate. Africa should increasingly make use of its own technical expertise. In that respect, and contrary to the relevant draft resolution proposed by the Technical Preparatory Committee, ECA should be called upon not to consider the problem caused by the use of foreign expertise within the sole framework of indebtedness but rather to evaluate the general impact of technical assistance on all African economies and to promote the use of African experts who, apart from their individual expertise, had the advantage of being more conversant with conditions in Africa.

248. With respect to the assessment of the role of ECA since its creation which had been proposed by the Technical Preparatory Committee, member States, which were the most directly concerned, should be requested to transmit their own assessments of the role of ECA in their respective countries to the secretariat, which would then summarize them.

249. He criticized the negative attitude of developed countries to the development of transport in Africa and said that subregional integration could accelerate industrialization in Africa. The costs of setting up industrial production plants and of maintenance and the capacity to market
production were fundamental factors which warranted such an approach. With respect to intra-African trade promotion, he confirmed the offer made by his country at the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to host the fifth All-Africa Trade Fair.

250. In conclusion, he said that the meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers should be held every two years because the problems of development were such that a long lead time was required to implement the programmes and decisions adopted. Sectoral meetings would be held between two meetings of the Conference of Ministers. Zaire supported the institutionalization of meetings on some sectors of African economies such as tourism which was a source of considerable foreign exchange earnings.

251. The representative of Lesotho said that his country had hosted the 1986 meeting of the Lusaka-based MULPOC and had participated fully in the meetings of PTA and SADCC as a demonstration of its commitment to subregional economic co-operation and integration, despite its geographical position. He welcomed the recommendations of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on rationalizing the activities of ECA-sponsored institutions. SADCC had been established with the objective of reducing economic dependence on apartheid South Africa through collective action. Despite economic damage resulting from the political, economic and military destabilization of the subregion by South Africa, member States of SADCC were determined to succeed through their own collaborative effort and the support of the international community. He noted with satisfaction the co-operation and understanding between SADCC and the ECA-sponsored institutions in the subregion, but urged that the proposed rationalization between ECA-sponsored institutions in the subregion and SADCC be effected as soon as possible.

252. It was to be hoped that the special session of the General Assembly on Africa's economic crisis would mark a turning-point for Africa's economic development, through the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990. The representative of Lesotho stressed his country's determination and preparedness to support subregional collective efforts, and urged the co-operation of the international community.

253. In conclusion, he informed the Conference that Lesotho would be hosting a high level United Nations Volunteers intergovernmental meeting from 16 to 21 November 1986, and extended an open invitation to all representatives.

254. The representative of Angola acknowledged the positive trends reported by ECA in some sectors, particularly agriculture, during 1984-1985. Nevertheless, member States should still give greater emphasis to policies which increased agricultural production, since the situation was still critical in some countries; surplus foodstuffs from one region could be used to supplement deficits in other regions. Deep-rooted government policies and economic structures hampered the increased production of food, in that they encouraged production for export, not consumption. In effect, Africa had accepted external dependence as a way of life.

255. In Angola, the disadvantages of external dependence were particularly aggravated by South Africa's destabilization and destruction of vital economic and social infrastructure, with the encouragement and assistance of the United States of America, whose "constructive engagement" policy it deplored.
by 223 per cent over that for 1983. The programme had concentrated initially on addressing the structural weaknesses in the economy through macro-economic management within a framework of rigorous fiscal and monetary discipline, but now sought to build upon the foundation created by improving sectoral programmes and programme implementation.

268. The significant improvement in food production had created problems of localized and seasonal glut in Ghana. Massive financing was required to purchase the crop so that the peasant farmer could concentrate on production and provide adequate storage in order to reduce the extent of post-harvest losses and even out supplies throughout the year. In designing a programme for Africa's economic recovery, such problems must be anticipated and addressed so that promising developments did not flounder.

269. He concluded by commending ECA and ADB for the joint economic report on Africa; such joint efforts by African economic institutions must be encouraged in order to ensure a more efficient use of their resources in the solution of the economic and social problems of Africa. With the major problem areas for each subregion identified through such a report, the lending programmes of ADB would find practical expression in the solution of the problems.

270. The representative of Sao Tome and Principe emphasized that the meeting was being held at a time when the African continent, despite a slight recovery of agriculture, was hard-hit by economic crisis. The increase in production was far from meeting the food needs of African populations. The African countries' debt and debt service burden was a serious threat to the continent's development.

271. That difficult situation was the result, among other things, of the international economic environment, the deterioration in the terms of trade and the stiffening of loan terms. He welcomed the adoption, by the twenty-first ordinary session of the OAU assembly of Heads of State and Government, of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990.

272. The development of his own country, whose isolation was compounded by the weakness of its infrastructure and the vulnerability of its economy, could not be achieved without subregional, regional and international cooperation. The Government, with UNDP assistance, had just held a conference of development partners in order to mobilize external resources for the financing of its development plan, 1986-1990, which placed particular emphasis on the rehabilitation of agriculture, energy, water resources, transport and communications.

273. The representative of the Gambia said that the worsening food and agricultural situation in Africa called for greater collective efforts to arrest the declining trend. Although there were signs of recovery, Africa could not afford complacency.

274. Noting the preoccupation with agricultural rehabilitation by provision of essential inputs, price incentives and extension services, he stressed that such measures alone could not transform African agricultural stagnation without a strong research capability. Research into improved drought-resistant, high-yielding seeds was lacking. He underlined the
importance of agricultural productivity and appealed to ECA and other relevant
regional institutions to give more attention to the improvement of agricultural
research both at the national and regional levels.

275. In conclusion, he stated that the success or failure of African economies
would depend on the degree and level of commitment to Africa's Priority
Programme for Economic Recovery.

276. The observer for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that
neither the arms race nor the nuclear war could be won by any one side, and
informed the meeting that on 15 January 1986 the General-Secretary of the
CPSU Central Committee proposed a plan to rid the world of nuclear weapons
before the end of the century. Continuation of the arms race and its extension
to the outer space would further heighten the risk of nuclear catastrophe.
Elimination of nuclear weapons and the arms race would release massive
resources which could be used for development.

277. The critical situation of African economies could only be overcome in
a world of equal and equitable economic relations. In that respect, he pointed
out the financial pressures on the African countries and the need to end
exploitation by foreign transnational corporations. In reference to
privatization of African economies, he warned against abandoning social
programmes and reduction of their public sector. He described as well the
USSR assistance to the developing countries, including those of Africa.

278. He referred to the destabilization activities of the South African
Government and condemned apartheid, drawing attention in that connection
to the decision of the forty-third OAU Council of Ministers on the convocation
of an international conference on apartheid.

279. He said that the International Year of Peace would come into history
of mankind as a year of beginning of creation of the universal system of
international security and mentioned his country's proposal to ensure the
economic security. He expressed the hope that the conference would take
decisive action in that direction.

280. Speaking on the co-operation between his country and African countries,
the observer for the Federal Republic of Germany said that the Lome III
Convention demonstrated the political will of Europeans and Africans to
find joint answers to problems and challenges in the field of trade, economic
cooporation and development. He reiterated the importance his Government
attached to multilateral development co-operation in Africa, particularly
in the areas of communications, food security, energy and development planning,
expressed the hope that the long-standing close co-operation between his
country and ECA would continue, and drew attention to his Government's
initiatives with respect to the implementation of the regional programme
to improve post-harvest protection in Africa adopted at the eleventh meeting
of the Conference of Ministers. Emphasizing the problem of Africa's commodity
markets and the need to find solutions thereto, his Government had presented
a proposal to UNCTAD on export earnings stabilization and hoped that the
Conference would be supportive.

281. He welcomed the fact that the forthcoming special session of the United
Nations General Assembly would deal with food security and the revitalization
of the agricultural sector in Africa. Equally, the debt situation in Africa and its implications for the continent's economic development would have to be dealt with. Measures were required that would increase export earnings, and he commended African countries for the realistic and constructive attitude they had taken during the recent GATT negotiations.

282. The observer for France said that the present meeting was of particular importance, because it was being held at a time when Africa's economic situation was at the centre of the debates taking place in the highest international forum. Development assistance was now more than ever a priority, and should serve to support the reforms carried out by African Governments, taking into account the severe handicap which the debt burden placed on their countries. France devoted almost 70 per cent of its bilateral aid to Africa, and gave priority to the least developed countries, the majority of which were in Africa.

283. The observer for India said that the twelfth session of the Commission was taking place at a time of renewed hope for Africa's economic recovery, and high expectations of a better future. The document prepared by the extraordinary sessions of ECA and of OAU in Addis Ababa for submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the economic crisis in Africa was a concrete plan of action, and constituted a pragmatic approach to solving Africa's problems. Its emphasis on self-reliance was correct; the international community should appreciate the basic concept and extend to Africa the assistance required for achieving the target.

284. The African strategy underlined the need for agricultural development and the establishment of agriculture-related industries. Africa had vast unutilized potential for food production. In that connection, he outlined various activities and programmes of his Government in favour of African countries, called on African countries to utilize the experience of several Asian countries in agriculture and water resources management, and informed the meeting of India's participation in and contribution to SADCC. The activities included a workshop held from 5 to 10 May 1986 to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experience between Indian and African food and agricultural experts, focusing on planning, agricultural research and training, irrigation and water management, drought management and extension services; and a planned exhibition of Indian machinery for small-scale industries to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, later in the year.

285. He called for concerted efforts to promote South-South dialogue, and suggested that the planned Centre for Science and Technology for non-aligned and other Developing Countries to be established in India, as well as the agreement reached on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among non-aligned and developing countries, could provide possible areas for immediate co-operation. The Government of India was willing to continue its commitment to the economic development of Africa, particularly in areas and ways which might be identified as a result of the deliberations at the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly.

286. The representative of Czechoslovakia said that the issues pertaining to the critical economic situation in Africa, such as drought, famine and external debt, were very difficult ones. His country was also concerned with those issues and would, within available means and possibilities, assist in solving them.
287. The problems facing Africa and all mankind could only be solved in circumstances of lasting peace, as the question of economic security should make this change - it is the standard term of States and of economic and social development could not be separated from the great role of safeguarding peace, disarmament measures and the related decrease in military spending. Czechoslovakia therefore fully supported the complex of disarmament proposals put forward by the USSR. Arms reductions would make it possible to release enormous resources for development purposes. The solution to Africa's economic problems, which were caused by centuries of colonial and imperialist exploitation, had also to be linked with the restructuring of economic relations through the struggle to achieve a new and just international economic order.

288. The solution to Africa's problems could not be postponed any longer, and Czechoslovakia would contribute as much as possible to the success of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on Africa.

289. The representative of the United Nations Council for Namibia stressed that the political and economic emancipation of Namibia and Southern Africa as a whole was severely hampered by the racist regime of South Africa. He emphasized in that connection the illegal occupation of Namibia, the systematic exploitation of its wealth with the support of foreign Powers and the acts of sabotage committed against the economies of the countries of the subregion. While commending the various African countries and international organizations for their continued support of the Namibian nation-building programme, he appealed to them to strengthen that support. He extended very sincere thanks to the host country for its support for the training of Namibians in its institutions. Finally, he urged African countries to close ranks for the preparation and conduct of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on Africa's critical economic situation.

290. The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa welcomed the general support of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the paper on the UNDP-assisted regional programme for Africa - fourth programming cycle, 1987-1991, on the basis of which a draft resolution on the UNDP-assisted regional programme for Africa during the fourth cycle had been prepared for submission to the Conference.

291. While national problems often required national solutions, inter-country and regional programmes could play a very significant role in contributing to their solution. Some $US 135 million had been allocated for the last cycle, and about $US 200 million were estimated to be made available for the fourth programming cycle. The principal objective of the UNDP-assisted regional programme was to assist member States in identifying, preparing and implementing subregional or multinational projects of benefit to several countries and which also supplemented national programmes.

292. Regional co-operation in Africa over the past 20 years had been manifested by the establishment of several intergovernmental organizations/institutions. UNDP-assisted regional programmes during the past 10 years had been associated with those institutions, and he expected that such collaboration in the identification, elaboration, design and implementation of regional programmes
and projects would continue during the fourth programming cycle. The three areas on which the UNDP-assisted regional programme for Africa during the fourth cycle would concentrate were: (a) research and development for food production; (b) productivity and management for the production of goods and services; and (c) energy, water, communications and transport.

293. While acknowledging that other critical areas could have been included in the programme, he pointed out that, given the limited amount of $US 200 million over a five-year period, the programme was to be seen as a series of activities that could attract additional resources, not only from sources outside African countries but also from African Governments themselves. He emphasized that the objectives of the regional programme-supported projects were people - the ultimate objective of all development.

294. Proposals had been invited within the framework of the orientation paper from African Governments, United Nations executing agencies and intergovernmental organizations and selected NGOs. Close consultations would be held before submission of the regional programme to the UNDP Governing Council in June 1987, prior to which an extraordinary session of the ECA Conference of Ministers in October 1986 would have considered and endorsed the regional programme.

295. With respect to the proposed orientation paper expected from the Regional Bureau for Arab States, the UNDP Regional Director for Africa Bureau said that his colleague in charge of the Arab Bureau regretted his inability to participate personally in the meeting. However, he had requested him to inform the Conference that as a result of consultations previously conducted through field visits, seminars, symposia and visits to Governments over the past two years, the Regional Bureau for Arab States had defined the following priorities for the fourth programming cycle: food security; human resources development; introduction of advanced technology; and TCDC between the Arab region and Africa.

296. The Director of UNSO said that since its establishment in 1973, the Office had drawn up and implemented nearly 300 national and regional drought and desertification control projects, with a total cost of some $US 1 billion, in 22 African countries. It was anxious to extend its activities to those countries of southern Africa which were suffering from the disastrous effects of drought and desertification in addition to the results of South Africa's subversive activities.

297. Drought and desertification were at present factors which the African continent must take into account in its development strategies and programmes. The recommendations of the inter-agency meeting held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 March 1986, co-sponsored by OAU, ECA and UNSO, focused on the need for a global and multisectoral approach, for each African country concerned to draw up and integrate into its development strategies and programmes a plan to combat drought and desertification, and for increased regional and subregional co-operation in the light of the fact that drought and desertification, trans-humance and population movements went beyond territorial boundaries.

298. Where South-South co-operation with regard to drought and desertification control was concerned, the countries of North Africa could be of great
assistance to those south of the Sahara by sharing their experience in the fields of sand-dune fixation, re-afforestation, management of lakes in elevated areas, and training of managerial staff. He called upon the OAU and ECA secretariats to ensure that African Heads of State and Government made such co-operation a major tool for the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990.

299. The observer for ITU said that the basic activity of his organization was to regulate, standardize and co-ordinate the development of telecommunications and to contribute to the development of that sector by providing advisory services and exchanging all kinds of information. As early as 1963, ECA and ITU had signed a memorandum of understanding whose aim was to accelerate the development of communications in Africa and to establish a modern and autonomous regional telecommunications network covering the whole continent so as to meet the immediate and long-term requirements of African countries. As a result of steadfast support from members of the Co-ordinating Committee and African Governments, the African continent could now pride itself on having a modern continent-wide communications network. The PANAFTEL network had already eliminated, to a large extent, situations in which telephone calls between neighbouring African countries had had to be routed through European capitals. However, much still remained to be done, and the PANAFTEL network should be considered a continuously developing project. As a result of advances in technology, some links should be modernized and their capacities increased; others had still not been connected or were in a disastrous state of disrepair.

300. So far, the PANAFTEL network had mainly used land-based micro-wave links, but other possibilities should be explored, such as submarine cables or satellite systems and all types of appropriate technology, particularly those that could improve the establishment of telecommunications services in the rural areas where the largest and most productive part of Africa's population lived.

301. ITU would continue to provide assistance to African countries in increasingly close co-operation with ECA; that should help to further the aim of bringing communications within the reach of all by the first half of the next century.

302. The observer for FAO stated that only a year ago, the existence of some 30 million people had been threatened by drought, but that the recent good rains had brought about renewed hope and vitality. Both food and agricultural production in Africa had increased by about 4 per cent in 1985.

303. During those difficult years, FAO had alerted the international community and mobilized the necessary aid for Africa's relief. The need now was to restore African agriculture fully and meet the basic requirements, including seeds, tools, fertilizers and infrastructural support such as pricing policies, improved market access, research and development, post-harvest loss prevention measures and land and water development and control mechanisms - issues which had already been examined by the Technical Preparatory Committee. FAO continued to play its part in that effort and had, in co-operation with the countries, prepared the African Regional Programme for Agriculture.
304. An in-depth study of long-term problems and the potential of food production in the different agro-ecological areas of the continent had been completed, and it was hoped that it would assist in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990.

305. Reviewing the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, he stated that the need was still great and pledged to continue and intensify FAO's activities in assisting the liberation of African women from institutions and processes that institutionalized their poverty.

306. Finally, he expressed the hope that the proposed arrangements for the institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment would continue to take fully into account the competence and ongoing activities of FAO.

307. The observer for ILO noted the convergence of the objectives of ILO, ECA and OAU, namely to combat injustice, poverty, unemployment, and to create better economic, social and living conditions for African peoples confronted with natural disasters and the effects of the international economic crisis, and said that ILO was sensitive to the economic and social crisis affecting the African least-developed countries.

308. The analysis made in the orientation paper on the UNDP-supported regional programme for Africa, 1987-1991, of the need to improve agriculture and human resources tied in with ILO concerns. The Organisation had supported technical co-operation projects particularly in the sectors of rural development infrastructure, labour-intensive works, co-operative activities, employment in rural areas and the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

309. In view of the serious problems facing some African countries, ILO had tried to adopt a new multi-faceted approach which took a global and coherent view of those problems. It was willing to co-operate with ECA and OAU within its sphere of competence, and to strengthen its co-operation with African countries.

310. The observer for IMF said that when the Conference of Ministers had last met a year ago, the outlook for African economies had been very uncertain. Since then, notable progress had been made, including a reduction (from $US 15 billion to $US 13 billion) in the external current account deficit of African countries during 1985 despite a deterioration of about 23 per cent in the terms of trade. That improvement was a credit to the efforts of African Governments under the difficult circumstances facing them. IMF had played a role in those collaborative endeavours. In addition to regular financial assistance, the technical and general policy assistance given on request by the Fund to its member countries was broadly similar to that of the World Bank. The Fund had participated actively in the work of international forums dealing with Africa's economic development, such as the preparatory work for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa.

311. Looking ahead, it was clear that the outlook remained difficult. Africa's external debt service payments had been estimated at $US 15 billion
to $US 35 billion annually over the next five years, averaging roughly about half of annual export earnings. The co-operative efforts of the past gave grounds for confidence about the prospects for tackling those problems. In that connection, he informed the Conference that the Fund had recently established a Structural Adjustment Facility, designed to recycle repayments of Trust Fund resources for providing financial assistance to eligible member countries facing serious and protracted balance-of-payments problems and adopting medium-term growth-oriented adjustment programmes.

312. The Director-General of UNESCO, in a special message to the Conference, highlighted the close and intensifying co-operation between ECA and UNESCO in various sectoral activities of common interest to the African continent, and referred to the annual joint concertation meetings as a model forum and framework for co-operation at the grassroot levels. He wished the Conference every success.

313. In a document distributed to the Conference, the meeting was informed of the objectives and activities of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and its scope to participate in regional projects including those executed by other agencies. The multisectoral involvement of UNV in Africa's development efforts had, in the past, focused on human resources development, agriculture, health and transport.

314. Within the framework of the UNDP-assisted fourth regional programme for Africa, the UNV programme would be aimed at strengthening existing, and encouraging the creation of new domestic development service organizations. The programme's technical assistance in the area of participatory development at the grassroots level would be channelled through these development service organizations. Consequently, a regional umbrella project was to be designed that would provide skilled personnel to African Governments whenever they identified the needs for such requirements in relation to the assistance provided under the fourth regional programme.

315. The representative of the World Bank expressed his organization's concurrence with the emphasis given by ECA and OAU to food and agriculture in the African submission to the General Assembly special session on Africa's critical economic situation. Appreciating African efforts in the development of the region, he hoped that donors would match the required resources gap.

316. He underlined the need, already expressed, for dedicated and disciplined self-reliance and highlighted the importance of training. African problems were partly managerial, but they also raised doubts on past ideas and discussions concerning economic management. Hence, there was need for training and the exchange of experience in management and economic development. He then highlighted the role and activities of the Economic Development Institute (EDI), whose programmes involved in-service training and provided an opportunity for exchange of mutual experience in the development process. So far, EDI emphasis had been on macro-economic sectoral adjustment.

317. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of proper selection of candidates for in-service training programmes and the need for proper rewards after training. He appealed for the establishment of an African institution with responsibility for training in macro-economic management, and added
that where there was also a need for a training in project analysis, that need could best be met by national institutions.

318. The representative of the World Food Programme said that the Programme currently had ongoing projects in Africa to the tune of about half a billion dollars. It was engaged in soil conservation, re-afforestation, small-scale irrigation, rural road construction, human resources development and food security, all with the objective of helping the small farmer increase his food production and thus contribute to Africa's eventual food self-sufficiency. WFP was also heavily engaged in the transportation, storage and warehousing of food both for emergency relief and for medium- and long-term development. It continued to purchase grain from surplus areas and provide it as food aid in food-deficient areas of the continent.

319. The representative of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) recalled that his organization's purpose was to promote, by uniting and co-ordinating the efforts of its members, the further extension and improvement of co-operation, the development of economic integration, the gradual improvement of the economies and industries of member countries, an increase in labour productivity, the gradual equalization of the economic development levels of member countries, and the improvement of their peoples' well-being. The CMEA member countries believed that peace and disarmament were essential for the restructuring of international economic relations.

320. The national incomes of the CMEA member countries had increased by 18 per cent in five years. In order to consolidate economic integration, those countries had, in December 1985, approved a comprehensive programme of scientific and technological progress up to the year 2000. The implementation of that programme would broaden the areas for mutually beneficial co-operation with all countries, including developing countries.

321. The CMEA member countries shared the views expressed at the twenty-first ordinary session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government that Africa's economic problems could be solved not through short-term emergency measures, such as food aid, but through the restructuring of African countries' economies, with emphasis on the training of managerial staff and the mobilization and rational utilization of the financial resources required for the development of agriculture, transport and communications, energy, mines and building.

322. The observer for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL) said that the difficult situation most African countries were experiencing was due largely to the decline of agriculture. Hence a plan for the rehabilitation of agriculture was needed, based on specific measures and in-depth knowledge of each country's exact situation, and allocating the scarce resources available to integrative projects which would promote the development of the sector. Among the priority sectors identified by CEPGL to which all available technical, human and financial resources would be channelled in the years to come, first place was assigned to the food and agriculture sector. CEPGL welcomed the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development.
323. In the industry sector, CEPGL's efforts were concentrated on the development of agro-industry, the chemical, metallurgical, mechanical, forestry and building materials industries, and small-scale industry. The transport and communications sector had always been one of CEPGL's main concerns, because of the land-locked situation of the countries of the Community and their vast tourism potential. To promote trade, the Community's member countries had recently signed a convention on the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital and on the right of establishment.

324. In conclusion, he appealed to international organizations and friendly countries to promote more intensive consultation at the regional and subregional levels in order to accelerate the exchange of experience and assess the efforts made in the pursuit of common objectives.

325. In a document distributed to the meeting, the Baha'i International Community said that little progress had so far been achieved in realizing many of the goals and objectives of the Third United Nations Development Decade. The African food crisis and the gross disparities in living standards were some of the examples.

326. Successful development efforts required co-operation among all participants in the development process. That co-operation should, inter alia, be aimed at ensuring for every individual the fulfilment of his/her basic needs; enhancing the creative energies, potential and initiative of each individual; fulfilling the participation of women in the development process; and enabling countries, in relating to each other, to eradicate the gross inequalities among nations, as those inequalities continued to destabilize the world.

327. The development of an attitude of co-operation at all levels required universal education in the truth of human unity, and that education was already being offered in a number of countries.

328. The organization applauded ECA's efforts to co-ordinate and facilitate the implementation of sound development strategies. Baha'i Communities would continue to give high priority to the goals of those strategies as they worked to enhance co-operative and development efforts at every level.

Report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries (agenda item 6)

329. The Chairman of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least-Developed Countries introduced the report of that meeting (E/ECA/CM.12/38) and highlighted the main points of the opening statements, discussions and conclusions. The meeting had discussed: (a) the economic and social conditions in the African LDCs, 1984-1985; (b) progress made in the implementation of the SNPA in the countries in 1984-1986; (c) assessment of food strategies; and (d) examination of ECA activities 1984-1985 and work programme for 1986-1987. It had concluded that the growth rate of the countries' economies had continued to decline due to the poor performance of agriculture and that efforts made by the States and international community to implement the SNPA had been inadequate to meet the needs. It had recommended that; (a) resources for development in the
LDCs should not be used up in debt servicing; (b) as regards modalities of technical assistance, countries should make better use of national experts and, where necessary, South-South co-operation; and (c) the ECA secretariat should undertake a study to assess the structural adjustments undertaken by various countries.

330. The Chairman stated that the meeting had discussed the possibility of presenting a separate document on the problems of the LDCs to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, and had concluded that there should be only one African document which, however, should emphasize the particular situation of the LDCs.

331. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Comoros drew attention to the fact that some of the difficulties encountered in carrying out studies and projects were due to lack of human resources and capabilities. In that regard, his country had benefited from the technical assistance of United Nations Volunteers, and he suggested that the possibilities of that assistance should be explored at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

332. The Conference took note of the report.

Report and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (agenda item 7)

333. The Chairman of the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole introduced the Committee's report (E/ECA/CM.12/44), which also contained the draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Conference of Ministers. He said that the Committee's debates had resulted in consensus on all items discussed with the exception of the report of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 3 to 11 March 1986, on which lively discussion had taken place following a Moroccan statement questioning the decision taken by that Conference, not to reinstate the Lagos-Tangier highway. The Committee's conclusion on that subject appeared in paragraph 92 of its report.

334. The representative of Morocco welcomed the quality and accuracy of the Committee's report, and said he had no objection to the Conference taking note of it. However, his delegation reserved the right to comment when draft resolution 2, concerning the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, was considered by the Conference.

335. The Conference took note of the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

Draft resolutions submitted by the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole for consideration by the twenty-first session of the Commission/twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 8)

336. The 26 draft resolutions submitted by the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole for consideration by the Conference of Ministers were adopted subject to the amendments, decision and reservation indicated below:
Draft resolution 2: United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

337. The representative of Morocco proposed an amendment to this draft resolution.

338. He stated that the amendment concerned the principle of complying, on one hand, with the decisions set forth in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, adopted at the fortieth session of the General Assembly, and, on the other, with the resolutions previously adopted by one of the sectoral meetings and the Conference of Ministers of ECA.

339. The amendment comprised the addition of the following phrase at the end of operative paragraph 7 (c):

"on the understanding that ECA will strictly abide by the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Decade and by the resolutions previously adopted."

340. The amendment was endorsed by several delegations.

341. The delegation of Algeria, in accordance with rules 56 and 62 of the Commission's rules of procedure, requested a vote on the amendment proposed by Morocco.

342. The Chairman suspended the proceedings for the purpose of holding consultations among the countries concerned and all others present at the meeting. Following the consultations and on the Chairman's proposal, the Conference decided to adopt the draft resolution as submitted. However, the Moroccan position, which had been supported by several delegations, would be fully reflected in the report of the Conference of Ministers.

Draft resolution 4: Improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa

343. In preambular paragraph 2, after "1986-1990", insert "adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its twenty-first ordinary session".

Draft resolution 6: Development of tourism in Africa

344. In operative paragraph 4, second line, insert between "the" and "organization" the word "Secretary-General of the" and in the third line, insert "the Executive Heads of the" before the word "relevant".

345. Algeria withdrew its reservation regarding this resolution.

Draft resolution 20: Pan-African Documentation and Information System

346. In the English version, insert the word "Pan" before the word "African" in the title.
347. With reference to operative paragraph 7, the representative of Zaire informed the meeting that his country would like to host the proposed Central African Documentation and Information System (CADIS).

Any other business (agenda item 9)

348. The representative of Zaire drew the attention of the Conference to the observations he had made during the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on the issue of the frequency of the meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers. He suggested that delegations should consider the matter very seriously and that it should be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Conference.

349. The Executive Secretary informed the Conference that the 1979 meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Rabat, Morocco, had decided to change the period from two years to one year with a provision to review the decision after four years; that review had been carried out in 1983, and it had been decided that in view of Africa's economic crisis, the Conference should continue to meet annually.

Date and venue of the twenty-second session of the Commission and thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 10)

350. The Executive Secretary informed the Conference that Cameroon and the Congo had both offered to host the twenty-first session of the Commission/twelfth meeting of the Conference and it had been decided that Cameroon was to host the 1986, and the Congo the 1987, session/meeting. He understood that consultations with the delegation of the Congo indicated that due to other commitments, the Congo could not host the 1987 meeting. If there were no other offers, the Conference would be held at ECA headquarters at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 1987.

351. The representative of the Congo confirmed his country's inability to host the 1987 meeting.

352. The Conference then agreed to meet at Addis Ababa as suggested by the Executive Secretary.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the twenty-first session of the Commission and twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 11)

353. The draft rapporteur who briefly reviewed the various parts of the report and said that it focused on the decisions and recommendations of the meeting.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

354. The Conference adopted the present report and the resolutions contained in the present document.

355. In his closing statement the Executive Secretary once more thanked His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon and through
him the Government and people of Cameroon for the hospitality accorded to all the delegations and members of the secretariat during their stay in Yaoundé. The holding of the Conference in Cameroon had enabled the numerous delegations to see for themselves the efforts the Government and people of Cameroon had been making to maintain national unity and develop the country. Many African countries should emulate Cameroon's example.

356. In his closing statement, the Cameroonian Minister of the Plan and Regional Development thanked his colleagues for electing him Chairman of the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers and for assisting him in conducting business and stressed that it was up to Africa to solve its own problems and that Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, should facilitate discussions on concrete measures to be taken at the end of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled to be held in New York from 27 to 31 May 1986.

357. He welcomed the smooth manner in which business had been conducted and thanked the ECA Executive Secretary, the secretariat staff and all the Cameroonian officials for contributing to the success of the Conference. He declared closed the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

D. Programme of work and priorities

358. From 30 April 1985 to date the secretariat was involved in implementing activities programmed for the third and fourth quarter of 1985 and those carried over from previous periods.

359. Details on the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 1984-1985 are given in the biennial report of the Executive Secretary 1984-1985. In the last quarter of 1985, the secretariat prepared the programme performance report for the biennium 1984-1985 on the substantive programmes of the secretariat. That report is part of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which will review it at its twenty-sixth session in 1986.
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IV. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWELFTH MEETING 1/

562 (XXI). Biennial report of the Executive Secretary

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 403 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 and 508 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the biennial report of the Executive Secretary,

Having examined the biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission during 1984-1985, 2/

Concerned about the deteriorating situation of the resources available to the Commission for the implementation of its work programme and priorities, particularly at the dwindling amount of resources from extrabudgetary, notably multilateral and trust fund, sources,

Appreciative of the fact that a number of bilateral funding agencies have continued to provide increasing financial and material support for the activities of the Commission,

Convinced that, in view of the prevailing critical economic situation in Africa, the Commission requires more resources to enable it meet the increasing demand on its services by member States,

Noting with satisfaction that the secretariat has now been authorized to recruit an additional officer with the responsibility to carry out the monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects on a regular basis,

1. Takes note of the biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1984-1985;

2. Commends the Executive Secretary for the comprehensiveness of the report and for the efforts made during the biennium to assist member States individually and collectively, through their intergovernmental organizations, in tackling the critical socio-economic problems confronting them;

3. Invites member States, in view of the prevailing financial crisis in the United Nations which has adversely affected the level of regular budget resources, to pay and/or increase, as a matter of urgency, their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

4. Expresses its gratitude to bilateral donors for the increased interest they have shown in the work of the Commission;

1/ Algeria expressed reservations concerning draft resolutions dealing with ECA-sponsored institutions.

2/ E/ECA/CM.12/3.
5. Appeals to the international donor community, including in particular the developed countries, other developing countries in a position to do so, and international and regional financial institutions, to provide the Commission with additional resources to enable it undertake programmed activities for and on behalf of its member States;

6. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to increase substantially its allocations to the Commission during the fourth regional programming cycle;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to prepare the biennial report using the present format and to send the report to member States at least six weeks before the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole within the time limits prescribed by the General Assembly.

247th meeting.
19 April 1986.

563 (XXI). 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 resolution 544 (XX) of 29 April 1985 by which it requested the Secretary-General to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with resources to enable it to organize the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as meetings on co-financing arrangements, and its resolution 487 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 by which it endorsed the programme of the second phase of the Decade,


Referring also to the report 3/ of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and to the General Assembly at its fortieth session,

Having taken note of the annual reports on the implementation of the Decade programme for 1984 and 1985, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit of the


Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to mobilize resources and to secure international assistance for implementing the second phase of the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that financial resources have been allocated by the General Assembly for the activities envisaged in its resolutions 38/150 and 39/230, including studies on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes and manpower and training needs in transport and communications,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted at the annual meetings in 1986 of the Councils of Ministers of the Central Africa I, Eastern and Southern Africa and West Africa MULPOCs, of the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of State of the Central Africa II MULPOC, and of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North Africa MULPOC, on transport and communications,

1. Adopts the report and endorses the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its fifth meeting on 11 March 1986 at Harare, Zimbabwe;

2. Welcomes the role played by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, under the Economic Commission for Africa as the "lead agency", in co-ordinating activities towards the attainment of the Decade objectives;

3. Appreciates the continued financial support of the General Assembly for the activities of the Decade;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for his continuing support of the Decade through the financing of the Decade Co-ordination Unit and other Decade activities, and requests him to continue to provide funds to the Commission during the Programme's fourth programming cycle (1987-1991) for the realization of the development process which was accepted during the Decade;

5. Thanks donor countries and financing institutions for the financial assistance provided for the implementation of the Decade programme, and urges them to continue and intensify their support for the Decade programme and for the strengthening of the Co-ordination Unit for the Decade;

6. Requests the General Assembly to allocate, within the limits of available resources, the necessary means to enable the Commission to:

4/ The delegation of Morocco expressed reservations regarding this paragraph.

5/ Morocco expressed reservations regarding this paragraph.
(a) Carry out an in-depth evaluation of the Decade programme in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on that programme;

(b) Organize and service meetings of the Technical Committee on Air Transport;

7. Urges member States to:

(a) Provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary information on the financing and physical execution of their projects so that the in-depth evaluation of the Decade programme can be carried out successfully;

(b) Intensify their efforts to obtain external financing for their Decade projects and provide the local cost component of the projects;

(c) Do everything possible to attain the objectives of the Decade according to the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

(d) Do everything possible to bring about effective harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport within and between the subregions in order, inter alia, to facilitate trade between the subregions;

8. Invites the specialized agencies of the United Nations and African intergovernmental organizations to continue to lend greater support, in their respective areas of competence, to the Commission in the discharge of its duties as the "lead agency" for co-ordinating the implementation of the Decade programme;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary to increase his efforts to collect data on the implementation of the Decade projects, to ensure implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 6 above, and to submit to the Conference at its thirteenth meeting a progress report on the second phase programme.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

564 (XXI). Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 532 (XX) of 29 April 1985 in which it called, inter alia, for the allocation of resources to enable the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling further resolution CM/Res.941 (XL) concerning the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its fortieth ordinary session,

Conscious of the fact that the implementation of the programme for the Decade and of the Priority Programme depends upon the availability of adequate resources and the full commitment of Governments at the national, subregional and regional levels, as well as of the international community,

Noting with satisfaction that in resolution 1985/61 of 26 July 1985, the Economic and Social Council called upon the General Assembly to consider the annual allocation on a permanent basis of $US 700,000 to the Economic Commission for Africa, to be absorbed from the $US 5 million allocated to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, under General Assembly resolution 39/233 of 18 December 1984, for the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Mindful of the fundamentally important linkage between industry and agriculture in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and of the vital contribution which the implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa would make to food production and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa,

1. Reiterates the importance and priority which African countries accord to the industrial sector in view of its fundamental role in the implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990 and the full attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the fifth joint progress report on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 6/ and requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to submit it to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;

3. Commends the efforts made by African countries and organizations, as well as by the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, towards the implementation of the Decade programme;

4. Welcomes the reports of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres on efforts made towards the implementation of the programme of the Decade, and endorses the resolutions adopted by the policy organs of the Centres on the Decade;

5. Requests the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa and of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to increase their assistance to African countries and subregional organizations with a view to promoting subregional industrial co-operation within the framework of the Decade;

6. **Urge** all African countries and organizations to intensify their efforts and to increase the financial and human resources, including the mobilization of all relevant national competences and institutions, towards the full implementation of the Decade programme;


8. **Appeals to** all member States of the Organization to continue to support the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

9. **Urge** the Programme and Budget Committee and the Industrial Development Board to increase the allocation for the Decade in the 1988-1989 programme budget in accordance with the high priority accorded to the programme by the Organization;

10. **Appeals to** the General Assembly to allocate to the Economic Commission for Africa, on an annual basis, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1985/61 of 26 July 1985, the sum of $US 700,000 being the difference between the normal allocation of $US 5 million approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/233 for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the annual amount of $US 4.3 million allocated to the Decade in the 1986-1987 programme budget of the Organization;

11. **Requests** that the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency should not lead to a reduction of the resources made available for assistance to African countries and organizations within the framework of the programme of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

12. **Appeals further** to the international community, multilateral funding agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, and bilateral and investment institutions, to increase the flow of investment and technical assistance resources to the industrial sector in Africa to enable the implementation of national and subregional investment and support projects;

13. **Urge** all African Governments to continue to participate in meetings of relevant international bodies as well as of their subsidiary organs so as to ensure that priority continue to be accorded to the programme of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and that adequate resources are allocated to the secretariats of the Commission and the Organization for the implementation of the programme.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
565 (XXI). Improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply concerned at the continuing deterioration of the food and agriculture situation in Africa in recent years, exacerbated by natural calamities such as drought and by the prolonged world economic crisis,

Recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, which accords a high priority to the food and agriculture sector,

Aware of the detrimental impact of the recent recession experienced by the developed Western market economies and of the restrictive trade practices adopted by them to the detriment of African agricultural exports,

Noting the various resolutions on food and agriculture adopted by the 1986 annual meetings of the Councils of Ministers of the Yaounde-, Lusaka- and Niamey-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, of the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of State of the Gisenyi-based Centre, and of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African Centre,

Convinced of the need to rehabilitate African agriculture, especially through the strengthening of the foundation for a solid development of the food sector,

Noting the success in food production achieved by some countries, and wishing this trend to proceed towards the total elimination of hunger from the African continent as soon as possible,

Having examined the reports on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa, 7/

1. Takes note of the various documents submitted by the secretariat on the development of the food and agriculture sector;

2. Reaffirms the individual and collective commitment of African Governments to the full implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, with its focus on food and agriculture;

3. Urges member States to translate into concrete programmes and projects the recommendations on food and agriculture contained in the Priority Programme, especially the commitment to increase the share of public expenditure allocated to agriculture to attain the target of 20-25 per cent of aggregate public investment by the year 1989;

4. **Calls upon** member States to endeavour to achieve structural reforms in the food and agriculture sector through the application of science and technology to agriculture, the development of manpower and physical and social infrastructure, institution-building, the conservation and rational utilization of natural resources including forest resources, the maintenance of ecological balances, and the adoption of appropriate policy measures to increase food and agriculture production;

5. **Further calls upon** member States to facilitate the attainment of collective self-sufficiency in food products, including livestock, through the design and implementation of viable subregional and regional programmes in research, training, production and distribution of basic inputs and agricultural livestock and fisheries products, as well as the adoption of appropriate price policies as called for in the Priority Programme and the Lagos Plan of Action;

6. **Calls upon** member States which have not yet done so to encourage the co-operative movement as a means of promoting the agriculture sector and to establish national institutions to implement policies relating to the co-operative sector;

7. **Expresses gratitude** to the international community for the generous support provided to African countries to enable them to cope with the emergency situation;

8. **Calls upon** the international community to provide, in addition to emergency aid, increased support for the rehabilitation and long-term development of the food and agriculture sector;

9. **Requests** the developed countries to remove restrictive trade practices on, and create favourable conditions for, the development of African export commodities;

10. **Calls upon** the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to sensitize the international community to the problems of African food and agriculture and to support African efforts to resolve those problems;

11. **Also calls upon** the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to extend to African countries and subregions, other than those already covered, studies on review of food and agricultural policies, land-use policies, food import substitution and food losses and on measures to improve co-operatives and small farmers' organizations, and to report the results of these studies to the Conference of Ministers at future meetings;

12. **Urges** all those institutions involved in food and agricultural development to assist in the implementation of the relevant aspects of the 1986-1987 work programme of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;
13. Requests the Commission, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, to assist member countries in each subregion served by a Multinational Programming and Operational Centre, on request, in drawing up sound food and agricultural policies;

14. Urges all aid agencies and donors to assist those African countries currently facing a food-surplus situation in the preservation, management and disposal of their surpluses and in using them as food aid to food-deficit African countries;

15. Calls upon all member countries of the Economic Commission for Africa to give priority to intra-African trade as a means of encouraging food production and of promoting greater collective food self-sufficiency in the region;

16. Requests the Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant international organizations to strengthen programmes designed to promote food security in the region at all levels, including preparedness measures such as stock management, food distribution and the development of early warning systems.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

566 (XXI). The role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in the promotion of subregional co-operation and interregional technical and economic co-operation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its previous resolutions on economic co-operation, in particular resolutions 552 (XX) and 549 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the appointment of Directors of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and on subregional, regional and interregional technical and economic co-operation,

Taking note of the biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the secretariat in the field of interregional technical and economic co-operation among developing countries and of the 1986 reports of the policy organs of the Centres on the implementation of their work programmes as well as activities planned by them,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the steps taken by the Executive Secretary to strengthen the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and make them more operational through decentralization of staff from the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa to the Centres;

2. Calls upon the Centres to intensify their efforts to assist the intergovernmental organizations and relevant national institutions within their respective subregions in identifying and promoting multi-country projects geared towards further strengthening of co-operation and integration among their member States;
3. **Commends** the steps taken by the regional commissions of the United Nations to identify proposals for interregional technical and economic co-operation in such fields as trade, industry, transport and communications, fertilizers, computer science, and employment of women and youth in rural areas.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

567 (XXI). **Development of tourism in Africa**

The Conference of Ministers,

**Aware** of the important contribution of tourism to the economic, social and cultural development of African States,

Recognizing the important and greater benefits which African States can derive from concerted regional action to harmonize and co-ordinate tourism policies and activities so as to avoid waste and duplication of efforts, and the close co-operation which already exists between some African member States in this field,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa and the relevant provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

Further recalling the Manila Declaration on World Tourism, the "Acapulco Document", and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on tourism,

1. **Endorses** resolutions 1 and 2 adopted by the Regional Conference on Intra-African Tourism Co-operation, held in Niamey, the Niger, from 2 to 6 October 1984, relating to the establishment of a Conference of Tourism Ministers;

2. **Welcomes** the decisions of the Niamey Conference which provide the rational basis and guidelines for, and define, the strategy for regional co-operation in the development of tourism in Africa;

3. **Calls upon** member States and the relevant intergovernmental and international organizations actively to support the Niamey decisions and collectively work out the ways and means of implementing them;

4. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to ensure the implementation of this resolution in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the executive heads of relevant United Nations agencies and other organizations, and to submit annual progress reports to the Conference of Ministers.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
Trade and development finance

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa, and its annex which, inter alia, stressed the heavy dependence of African countries on the export of a few primary commodities, rendering them particularly vulnerable to sharp price fluctuations that result in drastic shortfalls in export earnings so that urgent action is needed to stabilize commodity prices, improve market access for African primary and non-primary products and diversify production,

Recalling further Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted by the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, and the important role which trade and finance can play in the implementation of the Priority Programme,

Reiterating its resolution 541 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis, in which it expressed grave concern about the diminishing role played by international trade and finance in dealing with Africa's current economic and social crisis in the wake of an unfavourable international economic environment,

Noting that the lack of proper linkages between the development of agriculture and industry and of trade has been one of the major factors responsible for the slow rate of industrialization and, in particular, for increased unutilized capacity in many African countries,

Noting further that the development and expansion of domestic and intra-African trade continues to be accorded low priority in the national development plans of many African countries,

Aware of the important role which the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations plays and can continue to play in promoting the trade of African countries, especially domestic and intra-African trade,

Recognizing the need to minimize the impact of international economic instability, increase foreign exchange reserves and expand export earnings from both primary and non-primary exports,

Taking note of the resolutions on trade and finance adopted at the 1986 annual meetings of the Councils of Ministers of the Yaounde-, Lusaka- and Niamey-based MULPOCs, the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of the State of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, and the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,
I. International trade issues

1. Adopts the report of the eighth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, 8/ and endorses the resolutions annexed thereto on: (a) the new round of multilateral trade negotiations [I(VIII)]; (b) the establishment and development of a regional African Trade Information System [2(VIII)]; and (c) the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations [3(VIII)];

2. Strongly urges, once again, African Governments to participate effectively in the North-South and South-South global international negotiations, and to ensure the continuity of African representatives as much as possible throughout all international negotiations in order to ensure an effective and co-ordinated African position;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Organization's Permanent Steering Committee, to ensure effective African participation in the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development by providing assistance in organizing meetings of the African group to exchange views and harmonize their position at the Conference, as well as in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the proposed Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, bearing in mind Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990; 9/

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to intensify their efforts to assist member States in promoting trade between Africa and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and with China through concrete measures including the following:

(a) Development of effective ways of expanding trade flows especially in semi-processed, processed and semi-manufactured products;

(b) Encouragement of trade missions and business tours between Africa and these countries.

II. Regional, subregional and national trade issues

1. Appeals to member States to intensify their efforts to explore new opportunities for domestic trade expansion and to adopt new policies so as to promote the production, marketing and distribution of locally produced goods, especially agricultural products, including food, within each member State as a top priority policy option for attaining national self-reliance;


9/ Morocco expressed reservation regarding this paragraph.
2. **Further appeals** to member States to accord greater priority to measures for increasing intra-African trade, especially in cereals and other commodities identified in the Lagos Plan of Action, namely rice, coffee, tea, maize, sorghum, wheat, pulses, sugar, meat, fish, oil-seeds and vegetable oils, to 10 per cent of Africa's total trade by the year 1995, and to reduce and eventually remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to intra-African trade and effectively promote intra-African trade in industrial products;

3. **Calls upon** all member States to support financially and thereby strengthen the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations as well as other subregional and regional organizations charged with the promotion of trade and economic co-operation as a means for achieving collective self-reliance at the subregional and regional levels;

4. **Reiterates** the need to bring the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, which was established in September 1984, into an operational phase at the earliest possible date, and urges all African Governments to ensure that membership subscriptions are paid to the interim secretariat of the Federation before 30 June 1986 in order to enable it to begin its operations without further delay;

5. **Further urges** those national chambers of commerce which have not yet done so to join the Federation as soon as possible;

6. **Invites** member States to accelerate the process of economic integration within existing subregional groupings and to promote the establishment of economic integration mechanisms in the subregions where they do not yet exist, *inter alia*, by assisting the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in carrying out the following activities:

   (a) Study of unregulated frontier trade in Central Africa;

   (b) Round table of economic operators and Government representatives in Central Africa;

   (c) Strengthening of the operations of the Trade Promotion and Training Centre for Eastern and Southern African States;

   (d) Convening of an intergovernmental expert meeting to study trade measures and policies, particularly those relating to the project for the establishment of a preferential trade area and payments and clearing system for North African States;

   (e) Establishment of a commodity exchange for Eastern and Southern African States.

III. **International support for trade expansion**

1. **Appeals** to all bilateral and multilateral donors to include in their financing packages measures for promoting and expanding African trade as an essential element of development;
2. Further appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to increase financial assistance to the Economic Commission for Africa during the fourth programming cycle so as to enable the Commission to assist member States effectively in the implementation of programmes and projects designed to promote intra-African and external trade as a means of increasing their foreign exchange earnings.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

569 (XXI). Institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered:

(a) the Executive Secretary's consolidated biennial report on the activities of the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions for 1984-1985, 10/ and

(b) the Executive Secretary's consolidated biennial work programme and budget of the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions for 1986-1987, 11/

Noting with satisfaction from these two consolidated biennial reports the activities which the institutions have undertaken and plan to undertake in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, and the earning of revenues,

Concerned at the inadequacy of financial resources provided by African States for the institutions, which has adversely affected their development,

Recalling its resolution 550 (XX) of 29 April 1985 in which it inter alia requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to ascertain from the Governments of the States belonging to the institutions they sponsor whether they are still interested in the institutions and obtain from them solemn declaration of intent to support the institutions financially, and in the event of affirmation, to request immediate payment of 25 per cent of the arrears owed, and the remainder within five years,

Noting with appreciation the financial and material support which the institutions have received from the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies as well as from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies,

10/ E/ECA/CM.12/25

11/ E/ECA/CM.12/26
Convinced that the provision of adequate resources to these institutions will enable them to provide more and better services,

1. **Appeals** to member States of the regional and subregional institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa to reaffirm their interest in the institutions, and to those in arrears with their subscriptions to pay them as soon as possible;

2. **Urges** African States to make as much use as possible of the technical services and expertise provided by these institutions whenever these are available;

3. **Further urges**:

   (a) African and other institutions, including United Nations funding institutions, to make as much use as possible of the technical services and expertise available at the institutions sponsored by the Commission;

   (b) The institutions sponsored by the Commission themselves to make as much use as possible of each other's technical services and expertise;

4. **Calls upon** the United Nations system and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to give financial and material support to the institutions, and in particular, upon the United Nations Development Programme to provide support for the programmes of the institutions during the Programme's fourth regional programming cycle for Africa, 1987-1991.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

570 (XXI). **Establishment of the African chairs of technology programme in food processing, biotechnologies and nutrition and health**

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the recommendations in the Lagos Plan of Action which called upon African countries to establish regional institutions to assist Africa in achieving rapid self-reliant and self-sustaining economic development,

Conscious of the role of the African Regional Centre for Technology in the development of technologies particularly in the fields of food production, and reduction of post-harvest food losses through food processing, preservation, storage and distribution,

Noting with satisfaction the results of the scientific meeting of eminent African and non-African scientists jointly sponsored by the African Regional Centre for Technology, the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, the City College of New York and the Association of African Universities, held in Dakar in March 1986, at which an African chairs of technology programme was launched,
1. **Congratulates** the sponsors of the scientific meeting on the initiative taken to establish the African chairs of technology programme in the fields of food processing, biotechnologies and nutrition and health to contribute to the long-term solution of food, malnutrition and health problems in Africa;

2. **Expresses satisfaction** with the identification of food processing, biotechnologies and nutrition and health as priorities in the technological development of African nations and as areas needing the most urgent attention if the African economic crisis is to be tackled effectively;

3. **Appeals** to the United Nations agencies and other international, regional, subregional and national organizations to lend their full support to the African chairs of technology programme;

4. **Further appeals** to donors and funding organizations to contribute generously to the foundation set up under the programme;

5. **Encourages** the African Regional Centre for Technology and the co-sponsors of the programme to continue, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and other regional and international organizations, their efforts to develop technologies which will enable Africa to become self-sufficient in food;

6. **Requests** the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to bring this effort of African and non-African scientists to the attention of the African Heads of State and Government and the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

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571 (XXI). Human settlements

The Conference of Ministers,

**Recalling** its resolutions 316 (XIII) of 1 March 1977, by which it decided to establish the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements, and 358 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on human settlements,

**Recalling also** its resolution 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 by which it extended the mandate of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee to include environmental matters,

**Having examined** the report of the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 26 July 1985,
Convinced that Habitat and construction needs remain very high and absorb more and more resources of member States and that the latter should receive increased assistance in order to enable them to overcome this obstacle,

Aware of the vital role to be played by applied research in improving the human settlements situation in general and the promotion of local building materials and construction industries in particular,

Recalling in this connection the conclusions, resolutions and recommendations adopted in this field by various meetings, particularly the 1986 meetings of the policy organs of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

1. Endorses the report and recommendations adopted at the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and the relevant conclusions of the recent meetings of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres' policy organs;

2. Urges member States, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, to take appropriate steps to implement the specific activities defined in the recommendations adopted by the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee at its third meeting;

3. Calls upon the Commission on Human Settlements to assist the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee in the implementation of the regional human settlements priorities decided by the said Committee;

4. Commends the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Programme and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies for the appreciable assistance they have provided to date in the field of promoting local building materials and construction industries in the African region;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, in particular, to do everything possible to ensure that applied research into the development of local building materials and construction industries, on a subregional and regional basis, receives substantial assistance over the period 1987-1991 from the United Nations Development Programme, other donor agencies and countries, and the non-governmental organizations concerned;

6. Recommends that cooperation between the Commission secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should be strengthened with a view to promoting human settlements activities in the African region.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/50 of 8 December 1977 and 39/74 of 13 December 1984 which called upon the relevant organizations to ensure the concise and comprehensive contribution of the regional meetings to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy,

Conscious of the vast potentialities for social, economic and technological improvement which nuclear energy offers in its many and varied applications that could be utilized, together with other available technologies, for the benefit of Africa and its peoples,

Noting the results of the meeting of experts from the African region held at the Economic Commission for Africa from 1 to 4 July 1985 in preparation for the Conference, including the experts' appeal to the Executive Secretary for assistance in creating an association of African nuclear scientists,

1. **Urges** the African countries to endeavour to utilize existing institutions and/or to develop the national, subregional and regional organizational frameworks and institutional structures needed to promote nuclear science and technology and their peaceful applications to the solution of problems of socio-economic development;

2. **Invites** African Governments to ensure adequate representation of African countries at the Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy;

3. **Requests** the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the executive heads of the relevant bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system:

   (a) To lend their full support to the creation of an association of African nuclear scientists;

   (b) To provide technical and financial assistance to intra-African projects on the introduction of nuclear technology in various socio-economic sectors;

   (c) To assist African countries to master nuclear science and technology; and

   (d) To involve African countries in nuclear research and development activities from the outset, rather than merely providing them with finished nuclear technology.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
573 (XXI). Subregional perspectives

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 501 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on perspective studies in Africa,

Noting with interest the Joint Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel/Economic Commission for Africa study entitled "Economic development achievements of the CILSS countries and prospects",

Taking note of resolution 06/21/CM/86 adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee relating to its member countries' development perspectives,

Aware of the need to implement the conclusions of the colloquium held in Dakar from 21 to 23 November 1985 on the economic development of the member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee: assessment and perspectives,

1. Recommends that the Economic Commission for Africa should continue its collaboration with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel within the framework of the decisions of the Dakar colloquium, and calls upon the international community to provide support to the Committee and its member countries for the implementation of the Plan of Action and the directives on research adopted by the ministers of the Committee;

2. Invites other African subregional institutions to undertake such prospective studies;

3. Calls upon bilateral and multilateral donors, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to provide support to the Commission and subregional institutions for the conduct of subregional prospective studies.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

574 (XXI). African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 285 (XII) of 28 February 1975, 350 (XIV) of 29 March 1979, 399 (XV) of 12 April 1980, 433 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 and 537 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Noting the achievements of the Institute and the interest still shown by member States in its activities as stated in the 1984-1985 annual report of the Institute,
Considering the critical nature of the Institute's finances resulting from the decline in member States' contributions to the Institute from SUS 600,000 in 1979 to about SUS 255,000 in 1985, or less than 25 per cent of the expected level,

Taking note of the fact that apart from the funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme, which have remained constant over the last few years, the only other resources available to the Institute are contributions from member States, and that support staff costs are met entirely from these contributions,

Recalling further that the General Assembly did not approve the provision of four core teaching staff posts as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985,

Considering that the Institute is the only pan-African institute training African experts in the field of planning,

Convinced that the Institute can and should play an important role in the development planning of African countries to help member States reverse the economic crisis now facing the region,

Conscious of the new role the Institute is to play in the coming years, during which it is expected to generate income from its own activities in order to become partly self-supporting,

1. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue his discussions with the United Nations Development Programme on the role it has to play in the funding of the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning during the forthcoming programming cycle, especially in the creation of the capacity which will make the Institute an income-generating institution, and to pursue further the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985 on the provision of four core posts in the regular budget for the Institute;

2. Requests all African Governments to pay their annual contributions regularly in order to enable the Institute operate effectively;

3. Urges African Governments concerned to endeavour to pay as soon as possible at least 10 per cent of their arrears to the Institute in addition to their 1986 contributions;

4. Invites African Governments which are in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Institute whenever possible;

5. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to continue its funding of the Institute for at least a transitional period which will help the Institute create the capacity to become ultimately an income-generating institution, and after which the African countries will assume full responsibility for the financing of the Institute's basic training programme;
6. **Requests** the Director of the Institute to take all the necessary steps possible to improve upon the collection of contributions from member States, and to intensify his efforts to raise funds from external sources, in the form either of voluntary contributions or of technical assistance, both in support of the Institute's programme of activities and for fellowships for trainees.

7. **Invites** African member States to make full use of the Institute's training capacity by sending trainees with the appropriate qualifications and making more provision under their national indicative planning figures or from other sources for fellowships for training at the Institute.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

575 (XXI). **Short-term economic forecasting in the African region**

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 500 (XIX) of 26 May 1984, in which it called upon African countries to undertake and strengthen short-term outlook activities and provide subregional outlooks, and requested the Economic Commission for Africa to assist individual African countries, on request, in the establishment of short-term forecasting systems,

Noting the need to establish such systems in African countries to serve as early warning mechanisms for countries to analyse and undertake short-term adjustment measures in response to external and internal disturbances,

Aware of the shortage of resources resulting from the present economic problems of African countries,

1. **Calls upon** bilateral and multilateral donors, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to provide financial assistance to individual African countries and the Economic Commission for Africa for the effective and speedy implementation of short-term economic forecasting systems, including assistance for training of the needed specialists;

2. **Requests** the secretariat of the Commission to continue and strengthen its work on short-term economic forecasting in close collaboration with national planning organs, African multilateral institutions and research institutions so as to ensure that African countries have the necessary tools and skills for effective economic management.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa was established in 1978 to alleviate the acute shortage of statistical personnel required for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development,

Noting that the programme has so far made good progress, but that the problem of inadequate training fellowships for study at centres participating in the Programme constitutes one of the major obstacles to its development,

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action urges African countries, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen their statistical infrastructures as a basis for effective policy-making and planning,

Considering that the twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed that the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum of sectoral activities in the economic development process,

Recalling further its resolution 415 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 entitled "Statistical Training Programme for Africa: Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries",

Noting with satisfaction that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa is a good example of multi-donor assistance, involving particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and various bilateral agencies and institutions,

1. Urges African Governments to accord high priority to statistical training and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships is earmarked for training at centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa, either from national resources or from the funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies through country programmes;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to ensure co-ordination of assistance to the Portuguese-speaking African countries in statistical training within the framework of the Programme;

3. Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the Programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, and its hope that their support will continue and be further strengthened;
4. Requests these agencies to facilitate and accelerate the procedure for the granting of fellowships as much as possible, and to pay particular attention to financial support for national and regional statistical training programme of interest to Portuguese-speaking African countries.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

577 (XXI). African demographic training institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly decision 37/444 of 21 December 1982 which approved the statutes of the two African demographic training institutes,

Recalling its resolution 477 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983, which established an Ad Hoc Committee to review the activities of the institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 550 (XX) of 29 April 1985, in which it requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to enter into consultations and negotiations with the host governments, participating member States and donor agencies as regards new commitments and facilities which would make it possible to cost the options proposed in respect of the co-ordination of the activities of and merger of institutions and select the best course of action to be adopted,

Taking note of the commitment of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue financing the institutes at current levels up to the end of 1987 and progressively to reduce such financing thereafter, as approved by resolution 84/21 of the Fund's Governing Council,

1. Expresses its profound gratitude to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, member States and other donors for the assistance provided to date to the Regional Institute for Population Studies and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques for the training of African demographers and the advancement of population research on the continent;

2. Recommends that African Governments should progressively take over the financing of the institutes so that by the end of the five-year period they will have assumed the financing of a significant part of the institutes' budgets; 12/

12/ Tunisia expressed a reservation regarding this paragraph.
3. **Appeals** to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue its funding of the institutes in order to allow the African Governments time to progressively take over such funding, at a time when they are facing severe economic constraints;

4. **Invites** the Executive Secretary to restructure the institutes on the basis of the recommendations of the joint session of the Governing Councils of the Regional Institute for Population Studies and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques, including a revision of the statutes and salary scales as necessitated by this restructuring.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

578 (XXI). **Development of environmental capabilities in Africa**

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering General Assembly resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984, on the critical economic situation in Africa, and the aggravating effect of the prolonged drought, desertification and other natural calamities on basic food and agricultural production, water resources management, energy supply and industry outputs,

Recalling resolution AHG/Res.133 (XX) on the establishment of a special Emergency Assistance Fund to deal with drought and famine in Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twentieth ordinary session,


Further recalling its resolution 499 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on a Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Impacts of Drought in Africa,

Desirous to develop national, subregional and regional capabilities in Africa through institutional infrastructure to facilitate the mitigation of the current crisis, elimination of environmental degradation and promotion of the conservation of the natural resources base,

Realizing that the African Regional Organization for Standardization has not done very much concerning the implementation of environmental protection standards,
Noting: (a) the report and the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, 13/ and (b) the report of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, 14/ 

Desirous of taking action in the following areas:

(a) Development of national environmental standards,

(b) Implementation of conventions and protocols on the environment, and

(c) Institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

I. Development of national environmental standards

1. Recommends that the national standards bodies or their equivalent in each African country should have overall responsibility for the development of environmental and other standards in the country, and that they should collaborate closely with the national environmental institutions responsible for overall environmental assessment and management for the implementation of environmental standards adopted;

2. Further recommends that in the context of developing regional standards for the protection of the African environment, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Regional Organization for Standardization should liaise with international organizations competent in the establishment of environmental standards and critically examine the standards established by the organizations before they are applied in the African environment, while emphasizing social standards to halt environmental degradation, with priority on safe drinking water supply, human waste disposal, agro-chemicals and industrial wastes and desertification control, and to mitigate the effects of drought;

3. Further recommends to member States of the Commission that they establish or strengthen national standards bodies, environmental co-ordinating machineries, pollution monitoring laboratories, and environmental legislation to enforce national standards.

II. Implementation of conventions and protocols on the environment

1. Recommends that a study should be undertaken to identify the difficulties experienced by African countries in the implementation of international treaties in the field of the environment;


2. Further recommends that the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations, should provide technical assistance to African countries in order to increase their participation in the protection of the African environment.

III. Institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment


2. Endorses the institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to meet every two years to review the Cairo Programme for African co-operation on the environment and eco-development;

3. Decides that the existing Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, whose establishment was decided upon in the Lagos Plan of Action and by General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and Conference of Ministers resolutions 316 (XII) of 28 February 1975 and 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981, should serve as the technical advisory working group of African experts to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;

4. Recommends that the Executive Secretary consult with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in order to establish modalities for co-operation between the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and to ascertain the legal status of the latter within the United Nations system, and to report to the Commission at its twenty-second session in 1987.

247th meeting, 19 April 1986.

579 (XXI). Women and development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 535 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on women and development, General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and resolution E/CN.6/1986/L.24 of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

Appreciating the action taken by some African Governments for the benefit of women,
Still aware of the urgency of including the women's component in national development projects, programmes and plans,

Resolved to maintain and to develop the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Concerned by the gravity of the economic crisis which is affecting more severely the African countries and bearing in mind the pressing need for subregional and regional machineries established to promote, reinforce and develop the equitable participation of women in development in Africa,

Concerned also by the financial crisis now besetting the United Nations which seriously affects the United Nations programmes and staff,

Aware of the importance of financing by the United Nations Development Programme of the Programme for the Integration of Women in Development in Africa,

Considering the expanded mandate of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, set forth in General Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, and its African Investment Plan serving as a framework for its activities in Africa,

Appreciative of the effective contribution of the women's programme of the Economic Commission for Africa to the advancement of African women,

1. Appeals to African Governments to continue doing everything possible to include the women's component in national development plans, programmes and projects, while encouraging the implementation of specific programmes and projects for women, whenever this seems possible;

2. Requests African Governments to do everything within their power to mobilize and release the funds with a view to implementing the Arusha Strategies and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Requests also African Governments to associate national women's machineries with national planning and programming exercises and with negotiation exercises with the international, intergovernmental, regional and subregional financing institutions with a view to the greater integration of women in development;

4. Requests further African Governments to continue to do everything possible to ensure that an official is put in charge of women's affairs in their missions accredited to the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and in embassies to ensure that all meetings resolutions and recommendations capable of having an impact on global or sectoral actions for the integration of women in development are transmitted to the national women's machineries with a view to follow-up;

5. Calls upon African Governments and the United Nations to take all possible action within and outside Africa in order to ensure, on the one hand, that the number of African women recruited to posts in the United Nations regular budget is increased and, on the other hand, to ensure the promotion of African
women to decision-making posts in the Economic Commission for Africa and at the United Nations;

6. **Urges** national machineries for the integration of women in development:

(a) To do everything possible to be present at the different stages of the preparatory and programming exercises of the fourth programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) To organize national information sessions with the relevant technical services and with non-governmental organizations on the contribution of women to national planning and to the fourth programming cycle;

(c) To exercise continuous vigilance in order to participate in decision-making activities relating to the formulation of plans and to the allocation of resources in this context, and to ensure that resolutions concerning women in development are taken into consideration and followed up;

(d) To ensure that technical programming, follow-up and research units are established within their machineries to collect, process and disseminate pertinent data concerning women and their activities with a view to their better integration in development;

7. **Expresses** its thanks and profound gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for its financing of subregional and regional women's programmes;

8. **Appeals** to the Programme:

(a) To continue providing its support to the programme for integrating women in development, at all five Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, to the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute and to the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development during the fourth programming cycle 1987-1991;

(b) To prepare, or assist the Economic Commission for Africa in preparing, for national machineries for integrating women in development, an information document on its financing machineries and on the other sources of financing of the United Nations system, as well as the procedures for gaining access to such financing;

(c) To release funds for the training and technical specialization of experts of national machineries in order to enable these experts to present documents which will meet the needs of Governments and the requirements of financing institutions, and to give priority to projects that include women's components;

(d) To give a new impetus to the women's programmes of the Gisenyi- and Tangiers-based Centres by maintaining the outstanding balance of the funds of the previous cycle and appointing new co-ordinators;

9. **Appeals** to African Governments to take the necessary measures to ensure the allocation of funds from their respective indicative planning figures to finance projects for integrating women in development;
10. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to co-operate in the recruitment of African women consultants and to continue its work of preparing a directory of African women consultants for the purpose of formulating and implementing programmes for the integration of women in development, and thus contribute to enhancing the planning and programming capacities of national machineries;

11. Requests the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in the context of its strategy for implementing its expanded mandate, particularly through its participation in the donor round-table process and in the country programming exercises of the United Nations Development Programme, to continue its activities in collaboration with the activities of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres for the integration of women in development;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to take appropriate measures to ensure that the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and the African Training and Research Centre for Women participate in the meetings of planners, statisticians and demographers in order to sensitize them on the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies concerned with the programmes of women in development;

13. Requests also the Executive Secretary to do everything possible to mobilize new financial resources both from the African Governments and from other sources of funds with a view to diversifying and increasing the resources of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres' programmes for integrating women in development;

14. Calls upon the United Nations and governmental and non-governmental multinational and bilateral financing sources which contributed to supporting women's projects and programmes in Africa during the United Nations Decade for Women (1975-1985) to do everything possible to continue their support for the follow-up of national, subregional and regional activities for women with a view to increasing their contribution to the development of Africa;

15. Requests further the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its next session on progress made in implementing this resolution at the national, subregional and regional levels.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

580 (XXI). Women and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa 15/

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the current economic and social crisis facing the African continent, and the potential for women in agriculture and food production to alleviate the crisis,

15/ Morocco expressed reservations regarding this resolution.
Having examined the preparations being made by the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the African economic and social crisis,

Anxious that the special session of the General Assembly should yield positive results for Africa,

Convinced that the improved participation of women in agriculture and food production is a major part of the answer to Africa's economic crisis,

1. Notes with appreciation the decision of the United Nations to convene the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to formulate strategies that will be intended to resolve the present economic and social crisis in Africa;

2. Calls on the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to ensure that Africa's submission to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled to take place in May 1986 reiterates the key role of women in African development as highlighted in the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

3. Calls upon member States, the United Nations and its agencies, donors and development organizations to allocate a percentage of funds made available for the economic recovery of Africa to the socio-economic needs of women as producers;

4. Calls upon the member States of the Organization of African Unity and of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that any structures or machineries that may be established as a follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly include women's programmes;

5. Urges African member States to include representatives of national machineries dealing with the integration of women in development in their delegations to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, not only at ministerial level, but at the level of technical experts as well.

247th meeting, 19 April 1986.

581 (XXI). Pan-African Documentation and Information System

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 377 (XV) of 12 April 1980 on the Pan-African Documentation and Information System,

Recalling also its resolution 413 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 concerning the financing of the System,

Further recalling its resolution 498 (XIX) of 26 May 1984, by which it decided to establish the Regional Technical Committee for the System,
Nothing with satisfaction the progress made by the Pan-African Documentation and Information System project in providing assistance to member States in the development of methodologies for handling numerical and non-numerical information,

Also recalling its resolution 534 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the financing and work programme of the System and on the importance attached by member States to the project,

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the Executive Secretary's negotiations with donor agencies to secure the financing required for the third phase of the System's programme,

Noting also with satisfaction the action taken by some member States towards setting up and strengthening their national information and documentation infrastructure,

Further noting with satisfaction the actions being taken by the countries of the North Africa subregion towards the creation of the North African Documentation and Information System,

Noting the outcome of the evaluation undertaken jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Development Research Council and the Government of the Niger,

Having examined the report and recommendations of the Regional Technical Committee for the System at its second meeting, held at Yaounde, Cameroon, on 11 and 12 April 1986,

1. Adopts the report of the second meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System, and takes note of the System's work programme for the period 1986-1987 contained therein;

2. Expresses its thanks to the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Research Centre for their assistance in the evaluation exercise and for their renewed financial commitment to the Pan-African Documentation and Information System project;

3. Expresses its appreciation of the interest shown by the Governments of France and the Federal Republic of Germany and the African Development Bank with regard to the financing of certain elements of the System's programme;

4. Expresses its thanks to the League of Arab States for having accepted that the Arab League Documentation Centre will host the North African Documentation and Information System for a transitional period of three years;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to enter into negotiations with the League of Arab States for the implementation of the above project;

6. Expresses its appreciation to all international organizations, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for their past and prospective assistance to the Pan-African Documentation and Information System;
7. Invites the Yaounde- and Gisenyi-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to finalize arrangements for the setting up of the Central African Documentation and Information System;

8. Requests the Regional Technical Committee to submit to the Commission at its twenty-second session the strategy and work plan for the period 1987-1991;

9. Calls upon the African countries members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States to approach the European Economic Community so as to enable the Pan-African Documentation and Information System to have access to funds earmarked for regional projects under the Lome III Convention;

10. Further calls upon the other African countries, particularly those which are members of the Regional Technical Committee for the System, to make the same approach to the Community in order to obtain financing for the North African Documentation and Information System project;

11. Also calls upon the Governments of the Niger and Zambia to continue to facilitate respectively the setting up of the West African Documentation and Information System and the Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System, respectively;

12. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take necessary measures to ensure the approval of project RAB/82/008 for the establishment of the North African Documentation and Information System and to this effect mandates the chairman of the North African subregional technical committee for the Pan-African Documentation and Information System to make approaches to the United Nations Development Programme for this purpose;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue and intensify the negotiations he has initiated with donor agencies to secure the financing of the third phase of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System;

14. Invites the Executive Secretary to carry out the necessary consultations with all institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as with international and regional organizations active in the information and documentation field in Africa, with a view to harmonizing their information and documentation programmes, and to establish co-operative links in this field;

15. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the Commission at its twenty-second session.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
582 (XXI). Proposals for updating the 1986-1987 proposed programme budget in the light of General Assembly approved appropriations and availability of extrabudgetary resources

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 554 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the work programme and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa, 1986-1987,

Taking note of the support which the African and other members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination gave to the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987,

Having examined the proposals for updating the 1986-1987 proposed programme budget,

Concerned about the declining resources available to the Commission for the effective implementation of its work programme and activities,

Convinced that programme of activities should reflect available resources,

1. Decides to update the work programme and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 1986-1987 in accordance with the proposals;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for their support to the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to revise the relevant programmes of the Commission's work programme and priorities for the biennium 1986-1987 in accordance with the updated 1986-1987 work programme and priorities;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take into account these proposals when preparing the programme performance report on the biennium 1986-1987.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

583 (XXI). Second updating of and revisions to the medium-term plan, 1984-1989

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 541 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis,

Recalling also its resolution 535 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on women and development in Africa,
Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982 and annex on the regulations governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation,

Having considered the proposals for the second updating of and revisions to the medium-term plan, 1984-1989,

1. Endorses the proposals on second updating of and revisions to the medium-term plan, 1984-1989;

2. Calls upon the African members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to support these proposals at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee;

3. Urges the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to consider these proposals favourably at its twenty-sixth session, and recommend, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in July 1986, their adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to revise the proposals in the light of General Assembly recommendations.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

584 (XXI). Review and appraisal of the impact of the Economic Commission for Africa on African development: Policy-making, programming and execution of projects

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 508 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on the biennial report of the Executive Secretary, particularly paragraph 6 on improvement of programme performance evaluation methods,

Conscious of the need for institutions to undertake periodic self-evaluation so as to enable them determine how far they are performing their functions and so readjust their methods of work if necessary,

Convinced that the Economic Commission for Africa, as the main general economic and social development centre for Africa within the United Nations system, can benefit from self-evaluation,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary for taking the initiative to undertake evaluation of the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in Africa's development;

2. Recommends that the study should cover the period 1958-1985, with emphasis on the period 1975-1985, so as to provide information on the impact of the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa throughout its 28 years of existence;
3. Calls upon member States to give full support to the exercise on the review and appraisal of the impact of the Commission on African development;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit the report to member States for comments before it is finalized.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

585 (XXI). Establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 473 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 on the climatic situation and drought in Africa, 528 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 on meteorological services to combat drought in Africa and 540 (XX) of 29 April 1985 on the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development,

Recalling also resolution AHG/Res.133 (XX) concerning the establishment of a special Emergency Assistance Fund to deal with drought and famine in Africa adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twentieth ordinary session,

Noting the report and the recommendations of the third meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment 16/ and the progress report on the establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, 17/

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake consultations with potential host countries in regard to the capital and other costs of the establishment of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development and their willingness to underwrite them;

2. Further requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to prepare the draft constitution of the Centre and submit it through the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment to the Conference of Ministers at its thirteenth meeting;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to seek financial support from the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian

16/ E/CEA/CM.12/9

Office, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and bilateral and multilateral donors to establish the Centre, to carry out the project's preparatory assistance phase in 1986 towards the establishment of the Centre, and to report to the Commission at its twenty-second session in 1987;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation as appropriate with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to report to the Commission at its twenty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution and of resolution 540 (XX) of 29 April 1985, paragraph 3, on the World Meteorological Organization's regional telecommunications system.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

586 (XXI). United Nations Development Programme-assisted fourth regional programme for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the document 18/ on the orientation and areas of concentration for the United Nations Development Programme-assisted fourth regional programme for Africa, 1987-1991, jointly prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting with satisfaction the way and manner in which the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme continue to collaborate in the formulation and implementation of the regional programme for Africa assisted by the Programme,

Taking note of the lessons drawn from the implementation of the regional programme for Africa for 1982-1986,

Further noting the volume of resources envisaged for Africa under the United Nations Development Programme-assisted fourth regional programme,

1. Takes note of the document on orientation and areas of concentration for the regional programme for Africa during the fourth programming cycle (1987-1991);

2. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its continued support to the development of the African region;

3. Decides to convene a special session of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers on 13 and 14 October 1986 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in order to review and approve the draft of the United Nations Development Programme-assisted regional programme for the fourth cycle prior to its submission to the Governing Council of the Programme in June 1987 for approval;

18/ E/ECA/CM.12/37.
4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue their efforts so that the United Nations Development Programme-assisted regional programme for Africa is executed effectively.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.

587 (XXI). Maintenance of the financial resources allocated to the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries during the third programming cycle

The Conference of Ministers,

Having been informed of the request addressed to the United Nations Development Programme by the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries for the release of the funds originally allocated during the third programming cycle for the implementation of priority projects before the end of that cycle,

Recalling that the implementation of a number of multinational projects for assistance to the Community was delayed in order to permit the evaluation of the Community's activities in conformity with a decision by its highest authorities,

Recalling also that the funds to be released will permit the continued implementation of seven projects falling within the priority areas agreed upon by the Community's Summit Conference of Heads of State,

Bearing in mind that the studies relating to these projects have already been initiated,

Urges the United Nations Development Programme to release the funds originally allocated for the implementation of these projects as soon as possible and enable the Economic Commission for Africa, which is the main executing agency, to carry out the projects.

247th meeting,
19 April 1986.
### Annex I

**MEETING OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (30 APRIL 1985 TO 21 APRIL 1986)**

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<td><strong>Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development</strong></td>
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<td>Chairman: Mr. Gaston Payom (Cameroon)</td>
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<td><strong>Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning</strong></td>
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Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Least Developed African Countries

Chairman: Mr. Odaye Komlanvi (Togo)
Rapporteur: Mr. G.W. Lutaya-Kamya (Uganda)

Fifth meeting
Yaoundé (Republic of Cameroon)
2-4 April 1986

Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Chairman: Mr. Jean Baptiste Djoumessi (Cameroon)
Rapporteur: Mr. C.W. Lutaya-Kamya (Uganda)

Seventh meeting
Yaoundé (Republic of Cameroon)
7-14 April 1986

Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries

Chairman: Mr. Yaovi Adodo (Togo)
Rapporteur: Mr. G.W. Lutaya-Kamya (Uganda)

Sixth meeting
Yaoundé (Republic of Cameroon)
15-17 April 1986
Annex II

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<td>Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on ECA activities, 1984-1985.</td>
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<td>Report of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development.</td>
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<td>Progress report on the establishment of an African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).</td>
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<td>Follow-up action on resolutions and decisions adopted by the twentieth session of the Commission and eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers.</td>
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23. E/ECA/CM.12/23 Report of the meeting of the secretariats of OAU, ECA, ADB and ACMS to prepare for the proposed international Conference on Africa's External Indebtedness.

24. E/ECA/CM.12/24 Reports from the MULPOCs Councils of Ministers.


33. E/ECA/CM.12/33 Report of the second meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS.
34. E/ECA/CM.12/34 Report of the sixth Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions.

35. E/ECA/CM.12/35 Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985 and by the General Assembly at its fortieth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa.


44. E/ECA/CM.12/44 Report of the seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.