ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Seventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon,
7 - 14 April 1986
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Twenty-first session of the Commission/
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

* E/EC
c/TPCW.7/l.
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c/CM.12/l.
1. The twentieth session of the Commission and eleventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers which was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 to 29 April 1985 adopted 30 resolutions embracing all sectors of socio-economic development. Among them, eight were specifically addressed to the General Assembly of the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council, appealing for increased resources to enable the Commission to carry out successfully its increasing responsibilities in the context of the critical economic and social situation in Africa. As is the custom, the actions taken on these resolutions will be reported in a separate document. The majority of the other resolutions appealed to member States, the Executive Secretary and organs of the United Nations and other organizations to take certain measures with a view to implementing the decisions of the Conference of Ministers. The purpose of this document is therefore to give the meeting a brief account of the various actions taken towards the implementation of the following resolutions and the difficulties encountered:

**Resolution 531 (XX): Signature and ratification of the Agreement establishing the African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF)**

2. In this resolution, the Ministers noted with the utmost concern that without adequate funds from African States, the viability of AIDF will be in doubt and subsequently they, inter alia, strongly urged all countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the AIDF agreement without delay, in accordance with earlier resolutions on the subject, in order to enlarge the membership of the Fund and make it viable. They also appealed to all member States to forward their contributions to AIDF so as to allow early commencement of the Fund's operations.

3. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Executive Secretary of the Commission who was requested to follow up its implementation sent a reminder to all member States attaching to it a copy of the resolution, but so far no reaction has been received from them.

**Resolution 532 (XX): Industrial Development Decade for Africa**

4. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers, inter alia,

(a) Called upon member States to select ongoing and future industrial programmes to forward to the secretariats of OAU, ECA and UNIDO for inclusion in a comprehensive programme of activities at the national, subregional and interantional levels in implementation of the Decade programme;

(b) Requested member States and intergovernmental organizations to provide information to the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats so that their Joint Committee can monitor the implementation of the Decade programme effectively;
(c) Called upon the General Assembly to consider the permanent allocation of $US 700,000 annually to enable ECA and the MULPOCs to conduct consultations and negotiations on ways of implementing multinational projects, including investment promotion.

5. Concerning the two first points, the Commission has not received information from member States and intergovernmental organizations which could allow for the monitoring of the implementation of the Decade programme.

6. As far as the third point is concerned, information is given in a separate document dealing with resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly.

Resolution 533 (XX): African demographic training institutes

7. In this resolution, operative paragraph 1 urges governments to continue their support of the institutes and to contribute to their more efficient management by paying their contributions regularly.

8. Payment of contributions by the African member countries of RIPS and IFORD is still a problem. The issue was brought to the attention of the Governing Council meetings of RIPS (26 and 27 June 1985) and IFORD (1 and 2 July 1985). The countries attending the meetings were asked to follow up with their own Governments the administrative procedures for getting their contributions in. So far no member country of RIPS (except Ghana) has contributed, whilst for IFORD only three countries (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Gabon) are up to date (1985) with their contributions and seven others (the Congo, Senegal, Guinea, the Central African Republic, Benin, Zaire and Togo) have contributed for some years.

9. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has not restored its funding back to the 1983 level. An appeal has been made by the Executive Secretary of ECA to UNFPA to continue its funding until 1987 and beyond.

Resolution 534 (XX): Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS)

10. At its twentieth session, held from 25 to 29 April 1985, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa adopted resolution 534 (XX) which, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers a report containing:

(a) The detailed plan of work for phase III of the PADIS programme (1986-1989).
(b) Planned and secured financing for phase III of the PADIS project;

(c) The degree of active and expected participation by member States in the PADIS System and Network.

11. In this regard, reports dealing with all the above issues are being finalized and will be submitted to the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS at its second meeting to be held in Yaounde on 11 and 12 April 1986.

12. This same resolution has also empowered the Executive Secretary of ECA:

(a) To negotiate, on behalf of member States, with development aid agencies (UNDP, EEC, ADB, and IDRC, *inter alia*) likely to provide the financial assistance needed to execute third phase activities of PADIS at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(b) To negotiate with member States on the details of their active participation in the technical and financial aspects of the PADIS regional project;

(c) To negotiate with specialized technical bodies (PATU, ITU, IBI and ESA) the preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of a pan-African data transmission network meeting PADIS requirements.

13. Regarding paragraph 12 (a), the following actions have been initiated:

(a) Preliminary contacts have been established with the EEC regarding the financial assistance needed to establish the PADIS subregional centres including the recruitment of regional advisors;

(b) Financial support was secured from UNDP to fully implement the 1986 work programme;

(c) Both ADB and IDRC have been approached to consider financing the third phase activities of the project.

14. In addition, new sources of funds were also sought, and requests have been submitted to the Governments of France and the Federal Republic of Germany respectively to conduct needs assessment missions in selected member States in order to determine the level and type of assistance needed, and to upgrade the PADIS printing facilities.

15. As regards (b) and (c) in paragraph 12, appropriate actions will be initiated when third phase activities begin to be implemented.

**Resolution 538 (XX): Measures to ensure the effective and accelerated implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in the African least developed countries during the second half of the 1980s**

16. In accordance with operative paragraphs 13 and 14 of resolution 538 (XX) requesting the Executive Secretary of ECA, in close collaboration
with the Secretary-General of OAU, to liaise with institutions and international organizations in other developing regions of the world in order to establish a framework for international negotiations of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) among all least developed countries with a view to adopting a common position on aid practices and on the adjustment of the SNPA before the high-level meeting on the Mid-term Global Review in Geneva from 30 September to 11 October 1985, the Executive Secretary of ECA on his own behalf and that of the OAU Secretary-General on 12 June 1985 addressed a letter to his colleagues of the Regional Economic Commissions in Western Asia, Latin America and Asia and the Pacific on this proposal and preparations for the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs. The responses dated 24 July, 17 September and 22 July which the Executive Secretary received from his colleagues respectively were very favourable to the idea of a framework for interregional negotiations.

17. Consequently, and as a follow-up to a decision taken by a meeting held between the secretariats of OAU and ECA on 20 September 1985, both organizations attended the meeting of the African Group held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 29 September 1985. At that meeting, both secretariats pledged their services to both the representatives of the African LDCs and the African Group during the period of the Mid-term Global Review from 30 September to 11 October 1985. In addition to the briefing on what follow-up action the ECA secretariat had taken in close collaboration with OAU, the African Group was informed that the secretariat was submitting to the representatives of African LDCs as well as the African Group four important documents including:

(a) The Memorandum by the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs (TD/B/AC.17/26/Add.1) (Part I);

(b) Resolution 538 (XX) on measures to ensure the effective and accelerated implementation of the SNPA in the African LDCs during the second half of the 1980s (TD/B/AC.17/26/Add.1) (Part II);

(c) 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


18. The ECA secretariat attended the sixth session of UNCTAD’s Intergovernmental Group on the LDCs for the Mid-term Global Review at a high level.

Resolution 540 (XX): African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development

19. As far as this resolution is concerned, a progress report on this Centre has been prepared as a separate conference paper (E/ECA/CM.12/14) so there is no need to duplicate.
Resolution 541 (XX): Role of trade and finance in alleviating Africa's social and economic crisis

20. In an effort to assist African countries on measures for developing effective distribution channels in domestic trade, the ECA secretariat undertook case studies on domestic trade structures, mechanisms and distribution channels in the Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. These were submitted as an integrated paper to the ninth meeting of the Niamey-based MULPOC policy organs which considered the findings and adopted recommendations therefrom based on the studies.

21. A project document prepared by the ECA secretariat has been approved by UNDP with a view to assisting the Central African States in implementing their Treaty and its protocols in the field of trade and financial cooperation. The project is expected to provide the framework for the organization of two negotiation meetings of ECCAS member States on trade barriers and identification of products for trade expansion in the subregion.

22. In the meantime also, ECA has participated in the regular meetings of the PTA Trade and Customs Committee which were held with a view to negotiating reductions of trade barriers within PTA member States.

23. The Conference of Ministers of Trade, meeting in Brazzaville, Congo from 25 to 31 October 1985, called on the African countries to take the necessary measures for the expansion of intra-African trade from its present low level to a rate of 10 per cent of Africa's total trade.

24. One other major trade promotion event which took place in 1985 was the fourth All-Africa Trade Fair in Lome, Togo. It provided a forum for a regional "Buy African Goods" campaign. The ITC, OAU and ECA secretariats provided assistance to the organizing committee and organized a joint ECA/ITC/AATPO trade information and exchange centre at the trade fair site enabling African exhibitors to gain a better insight on intra-African trade potentials and trade regulations as well as obtain addresses of African traders. Along with the Fair was held a symposium on intra-African trade which highlighted further the potentials for intra-African trade in various products, including food items and raw materials. At the request of the Dakar international fair management, ECA envisages to assist in organizing an intra-African trade and investment forum on the occasion of the seventh "Foire internationale de Dakar" (FIDAK) in Dakar, Senegal from 27 November to 8 December 1986.

25. The Federation of African Chambers of Commerce was established in September 1984 at its inaugural meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The membership of the Federation increased to 29 when the organization was joined by Togo and Ghana. During the meetings which were held in Cairo in March 1985, the Bureau and the Council of the Federation urged African Governments to support their national Chambers of Commerce in order to enable them to join the organization and meet their obligations. The Government of Egypt pledged its firm support to the Federation and offered facilities for hosting the headquarters of its secretariat.
26. The preamble of resolution 541 (XX) noted the diminishing role played by finance in dealing with the current economic and social crisis in the wake of an unfavourable international economic environment which causes a decrease in the prices of primary commodities and a reduction in the flow of official development assistance in the presence of high real interest rates in developed countries and volatility and misalignment of exchange rates in the international money markets. The absence of machinery for regular monitoring of developments in money and finance was also noted, particularly the need for the development of adequate intra-African monetary and financial institutions which would assist in resolving external debt and balance-of-payments problems.

27. Pursuant to the resolution, some countries have set up permanent national units to monitor external debt and to advise governments on effective debt management where such units did not exist. At the subregional and regional levels and following the establishment of a Conference of Ministers of Finance, the secretariat has carried out activities directed at monitoring and evaluating the impact of developments in the international monetary and financial system on African economies and proposed remedial measures. In this connection, a paper entitled "The impact of recent developments in the field of money and finance on African economies" was prepared in July 1985 for presentation to the Conference of Ministers of Finance in February 1986.

28. With regard to intra-African monetary and financial co-operation, substantial progress has been made towards the establishment of an African Monetary Fund. On the basis of a feasibility study entitled "The establishment of an African Monetary Fund: Structure and mechanism" and the recommendations of the second meeting of an Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Establishment of an African Monetary Fund, articles of agreement were drafted and presented to the third meeting of an Intergovernmental Group of Experts from Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Legal Departments which was held in Yaounde, Cameroon from 2 to 5 April 1986. The report of that meeting containing specific recommendations on the structure of the African Monetary Fund was submitted to TEPCOW and the ECA Conference of Ministers for noting and onward transmission to the joint Conference of Ministers of Finance and Governors of Central Banks scheduled to take place in June 1986.

29. Efforts designed to strengthen subregional clearing and payments arrangements were carried out and a declaration of intent and commitment for the establishment of a clearing house for North Africa was prepared and presented to the meeting of the Tangier MULFOC in February 1986.

30. At the international level, the secretariats of ECA, OAU, ADB and ACMS initiated preparations for the proposed international conference on Africa's external indebtedness. To this end, a progress report on the preparations was presented to the third meeting of an Intergovernmental Group of Experts which met in April 1986 and passed its report on the progress made to TEPCOW and ECA Conference of Ministers. The study traced the evolution of Africa's external debts, structure and made projections of the debt burden under two scenarios, namely debt servicing obligations
without external assistance and debt servicing with external assistance. On the basis of these scenarios, remedial measures were proposed for consideration by the Conference of Ministers of Finance at their conference in February 1986.

Resolution 542 (XX): Implementation of the Lusaka Programme of Action for Mineral Resources Development and Utilization in Africa

31. As far as this resolution is concerned, the secretariat is able to report that soon after the adoption of the programme by the ECA Conference of Ministers, some steps have been taken to implement or start the implementation of some of the 14 recommendations which constitute the programme. More precisely, the following activities deriving from recommendations (a), (h) and (n) have been undertaken:

(a) Recommendation (a): Assessment of natural resources endowment

On the basis of some criteria, the secretariat selected the following commodities and carried out in August and September 1985 surveys on them in the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, the Niger, Mauritania and the United Republic of Tanzania:

(i) gold and diamond;

(ii) building materials;

(iii) cassiterite and associated minerals;

(iv) fertilizers raw materials.

Documents on precious minerals, cassiterite and associated minerals and building materials are available, while the report on fertilizers is still under process. The reports analyse the status of the above-mentioned commodities prospection and exploration in these countries (which is at low level in most of the countries), and the problems related to their development and commercialization, among which is the smuggling of precious metals. Some suggestions are made to improve the knowledge of these minerals, their exploitation and contributions to the socio-economic development of the countries (for example, an effective organization and control of artisanal mining, which could reduce the problem of fraud and give the respective governments better control over production of precious metals as well as the review of mining legislations are suggested). A survey on fertilizer raw materials was also conducted by the Mineral Resources Unit in Burkina Faso and Mauritania in November 1985. The report on the survey is under process.
(b) Recommendation (h): Possibility of establishing a special mechanism for financing mineral development projects in Africa

The outcome of the discussions between ADB and ECA which took place at the headquarters of the Bank in August 1985 and regarding the above-mentioned subject can be summarized as follows:

(i) the creation of a financial institution in support of the African mining sector seems untimely considering the depressed market situation prevailing in the metal and mineral commodities sector world-wide;

(ii) the inability of the African States to contribute to multinational institutions' budgets as well as in industrial development fund set up some years ago with the assistance of ADB militates against the setting up of such institutions;

(iii) the role fulfilled by ADB, the World Bank and European Investment Bank (EIB) in providing finance to the sector though perhaps at a level well below the needs to sustain mining operations in the African region, offers little room for an additional finance institution while the overall growth prospect remains low on a global context which is economically marginal;

(iv) however, ADB would consider adopting its investment policy and extend greater lending facility to the mineral sector whether within the framework of the industrial sector under current arrangements or by establishing special facilities along the lines advocated by ECA if the current downturn reverts to more prosperous times for mineral development.

(c) Recommendations (n): Regional survey of aluminium fabricating facilities and marketing prospects with a view to promoting intra-Africa trade in aluminium products:

In August and September 1985, a representative of the secretariat visited bauxite mines in Guinea, alumina and aluminium plants in Ghana and Guinea and aluminium fabricating plants in both countries. He held talks with some Cameroonian authorities regarding the development of the aluminium industry in Cameroon in particular, and in Africa in general. The report is under process. But it can be already reported that there is a common agreement among the three countries on the need to identify multinational projects which will be opened not only to African but also to non-African countries, in the aluminium sector. A meeting of the three main countries concerned by the aluminium industry, namely Cameroon, Ghana and Guinea should be convened in order to identify the projects and define ways and means to implement the selected projects.
(d) **Third Regional Conference on Mineral Resources Development and Utilization in Africa**

Progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Programme of Action for Mineral Resources will be reviewed by the third Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa to be convened during 1987. Regarding the venue of the said meeting, a representative of Uganda informed participants in the second Regional Conference that his country was willing to host the next meeting. The ECA secretariat accordingly had written to the Ugandan authorities to get confirmation of this announcement. The reply is still awaited. Meanwhile, ECA had planned for the current year, a mission to Kampala to negotiate with the appropriate authorities the financial agreement as well as technical inputs.

**Resolution 543 (XX): Development-oriented social welfare policies and programmes on the situation of African migrant workers**

32. Operative paragraph 2 of the resolution urges all member States, particularly the least developed countries, to prepare for and arrange adequate representation at the Interregional Consultations on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes due to be held in 1987.

33. The secretariat will bring this again to the attention of member States during the forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee and Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Yaounde, 2 to 4 April 1986 and 15 and 16 April 1986 respectively. The request will also be reiterated at the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs scheduled for the first quarter of 1987. This meeting will serve as a regional preparatory meeting for the Interregional Consultations later in the same year.

34. By operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Executive Secretary is requested to prepare a report on the issues that will come before the Interregional Consultations which are of particular relevance to Africa and to ensure that the substance of that report is taken into full consideration in the agenda and documentation of the Interregional Consultations.

35. The report is being prepared accordingly and will be presented to the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs early in 1987. The Conference will define the African position for the Interregional Consultations.

36. Operative paragraph 4 of the resolution requests the Executive Secretary to make necessary arrangements for a thorough study of the status of African migrant workers in both receiving and sending countries with a view to promoting appropriate policies and actions for the welfare, protection and social integration of migrant workers and their families.

37. This operative paragraph endorsed operative paragraph 1 of resolution 2 (IV) on migrant workers adopted on 26 March 1985 by the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. Pursuant to
the earlier resolution, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-
General of OAU issued a joint letter dated 18 April 1985 to all member
States inviting their views on the scope and contents (legal, economic,
social, cultural) of the proposed study and on their readiness to be
associated with it. The letter also urged greater participation of the
African countries in the meetings of the General Assembly open-ended Working
Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Convention on the Protection of the
Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families. The Executive Secretary
contacted the member States again on the same subject matter on 14 May
1985 through the Directors of the ECA/MULPOCs. On 16 September 1985 the
Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of OAU again reiterated
their requests to the member States on the issues in another joint letter.

38. As a further follow-up action, senior officials of the secretariat
undertook missions in September/October 1985. One mission went to New
York where the officials assisted the African representatives to the General
Assembly Working Group considering the text of the draft Convention. The
second mission went to the United Nations Centre for Social Development
and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna where consultations were held on the
scope of the study on migrant workers and possible collaboration with
various intergovernmental agencies and bodies.

39. Given the magnitude and complex nature of the issues concerning African
migrant workers, the secretariat has proposed the holding of an inter-
agency consultation in Addis Ababa in the fourth quarter of 1986 to consider
the outline, methodology and resource requirements for the study.
Preparations are currently underway to implement this.

40. Operative paragraph 5 of the resolution urges ECOSOC to recommend
to the General Assembly the approval of the technical and financial
implications of ECA's involvement in both activities contained in the
resolution. The issue was brought by the secretariat for action by ECOSOC
as a draft resolution and was submitted to the 1985 second regular session,
3 to 26 July 1985. ECOSOC adopted it as resolution 1985/64 which repeated
the text of the ECA resolution and duly recommended to the General Assembly
to make the necessary approval.

41. The secretariat submitted in September and October 1985 the programme
budget implications of the ECOSOC resolution but no resources have been
allocated to date.

Resolution 544 (XX): United Nations Transport and Communications Decade
in Africa

42. In pursuance of operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the above resolution,
the secretariat prepared for the attention of the Secretary-General the
programme and financial implications of organizing:

(a) The fifth Conference of African Ministers of Transport,
Communications and Planning in 1986; and
(b) Co-financing meetings for certain specific regional projects and projects located in corridors affording access to the sea for land-locked countries.

These resources have since been made available by the Secretary-General for these activities as requested and reported in the document dealing with follow-up resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

43. Concerning operative paragraph 5, the secretariat is currently re-examining, in more detail, the proposal of organizing "at least two co-financing meetings a year" to bring out more clearly what this implies in terms of the nature of projects to be submitted, the criteria for selecting them, the type of donors to be involved in the meetings, the modalities of organizing such meetings and their relationships to other relevant ongoing activities. It is expected that such preparations, including also advance consultations with the interested United Nations bodies and African intergovernmental organizations, are necessary if the proposed co-financing meetings are to bear results.

44. As far as operative paragraph 6 is concerned, the three technical consultative meetings on air transport, railways and postal services were successfully held in Brazzaville, Congo, from 25 to 28 November 1985. Participation included 29 member States, 16 donor countries and 11 donor agencies.

45. The Governments of France and Federal Republic of Germany continue to provide a bilateral expert each to the Commission in the fields of transport and communications respectively, in accordance with operative paragraph 8.

Resolution 548 (XX): Africa's food and agriculture crisis

46. Since the adoption of this resolution, the following actions have been undertaken:

(a) In conformity with operative paragraph 4, these studies have been completed or are nearing completion:

(i) study on land use policies and farming systems in selected Eastern and Southern African countries;

(ii) in an effort to find out what countries are doing in the field of food self-sufficiency ECA is soon completing a study on import-substitution programmes in Africa;

(iii) the secretariat has almost completed a review of food and agricultural policies in selected African countries, and this review forms a basis for eventual improvement in government policy planning capacities;

(iv) it is also carrying out a study on measures for the improvement of co-operatives and small farmers' organizations in the marketing of food and livestock products;
(v) it also carried out in collaboration with FAO, Rome, group consultation on technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) for food marketing improvement in Eastern and Southern African countries where different countries had the opportunity of exchanging experiences as perceived by their national food marketing institutions. One important outcome of this group consultation was the decision to establish an Association of Food Marketing Institutions for the subregion;

(vi) formulation of the following projects:

a. a pilot project on integrated crop pest management and control. This has been formulated in collaboration with FAO and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology;

b. identification of pre-investment projects in arid and semi-arid areas in selected African countries;

c. conservation of Miombo woodlands in selected countries in Africa;

(vii) preparation of document on food and agriculture situation in Africa to be presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 550 (XX): Report of Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 477 (XVIII) on ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions

47. The final report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 477 (XVIII) to evaluate ECA- and OAU-sponsored institutions was discussed by the Governing Council meetings of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) held on 26 and 27 June 1985 and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographique (IFORD) held on 1 and 2 July 1985. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), which is the main funding source of the two institutes, was represented at both meetings.

48. As regards the options proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee for the future operation of the institutes, both the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD recommended that the two should remain as separate institutions. However, they felt that the cost of the institutes should be kept at the lowest level possible and that there should be co-ordination and collaboration between the two institutes as regards research, consultancy services and meetings as well as a joint bilingual publication. They recommended that IFORD diplomats should be encouraged to apply to do the RIPS Ph.D. and M.Phil courses.

49. The recommendation of the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee concerning the merger of the African Association of Cartography (AAC) and the African Remote Sensing Council (ARSC) was discussed at the level of AAC and ARSC where the recommendation was accepted in principle. An ad hoc committee consisting of Kenya, Algeria, Mali, Zambia and Zaire
and to be serviced by the secretariats of ECA, OAU, AAC and ARSC is to meet in March 1986 to consider the constitutional, social and other implications of the merger. The Secretaries-General of AAC and ARSC are to prepare the working documents for this meeting. The governing body of the Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA) is to meet this month to consider the recommendation contained in the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee that the secretariats of TAHA and the Trans-East African Highway Authority (TEAHA) be dissolved and their functions taken over by an ECA Trans-African Highways Bureau. It is proposed that a joint meeting of TAHA and TEAHA be held in June 1986 to consider this matter.

50. According to the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESMARDC) and the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC) are to remain separate, but that the situation should be reviewed in 1987 to consider whether the two institutions had each been able to mobilize $20 million, the capital needed to make them effective, and if not, to merge them. As regards the recommendations in the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee that the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE) should be merged with the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) or placed close to the Centre régional d'énergie solaire (CRES) at Bamako, the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers decided that ARCSE should remain as a separate independent institution and not to accept either of the two recommendations. To date, no information is available from IDEP or ACARTSOD as to the acceptance or otherwise of the recommendations in the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee that they should be run as a single institution for social and economic development with two campuses and a single governing body or to be merged and placed in one campus.

51. As far as the Bulletin referred to an operative paragraph 1(h) is concerned, the secretariat is happy to report that, at least, after the delay experienced in receiving contributions from institutions, the second Bulletin of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions is now out. Its contents are based on the information supplied by about only half the total number of ECA-sponsored institutions. If future Bulletins are to serve any useful purpose and come out regularly, then all chief executives should endeavour to send in their contributions on time. Copies of the second Bulletin will be distributed at the twelfth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. Copies will also be made available to chief executives and to PANA to enable its contents to reach as wide an African public as possible. The third Bulletin will come out in early 1987 and contributions should be sent to ECA by the end of September 1986.

52. In pursuance of the recommendation contained in the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee and endorsed by resolution 550 (XX), that ECA should continue to provide secretarial and technical services to the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa, the second meeting of Chief Executives of Port Management Associations held at ECA in October 1985 and chaired by ECA, passed resolution 2 requesting:
"the Executive Secretary of ECA that ECA continue in carrying out the work of the secretariat of the Association for a year or two until the Association manages to convince one of its members to host the permanent secretariat of the Association".

Resolution 552 (XX): Appointment of MULPOC Directors

53. (a) The post of Chief of the Yaounde MULPOC has been filled with effect from 1 January 1986 with a national of the subregion;

(b) A candidate from the subregion for the post of Chief, Tangier MULPOC, has been recruited and all necessary action is being taken to get him on board as soon as possible;

(c) The Gisenyi MULPOC post is still being encumbered by an officer-in-charge. It will be filled substantively as soon as possible;

(d) A candidate from the subregion for the post of Chief, Niamey MULPOC, has been recruited and all necessary action is being taken to get him on board as soon as possible;

(e) Operative paragraph 4 of resolution 552 (XX) requested the Executive Secretary to provide the MULPOCs with more resources to enable them to become more operational. In response to this resolution, the Executive Secretary has seconded, for a period of one to two years in the first instance, the following professional staff members from ECA headquarters to the MULPOCs:

(i) Lusaka: one mineral expert;

(ii) Gisenyi: one transport expert, serving both Gisenyi and Yaounde MULPOCs;

(iii) Yaounde: one economist, one financial expert, one industrial expert and one transport expert serving both Gisenyi and Yaounde MULPOCs;

(iv) Niamey: one water expert and one energy expert;

(v) Tangier: one trade expert.

Additional experts will be seconded to the MULPOCs as more resources become available.

Resolution 560 (XX): Activities of transnational corporations in the production, distribution and marketing of oil and petroleum products in Africa

54. Recognizing the importance of energy, particularly oil, in the programmes for rehabilitation and reconstruction of African economies in the wake of the present economic crisis, the ECA Conference of Ministers
in April 1985 adopted a resolution requesting the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Executive Secretary of ECA to undertake a comprehensive study on the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in the petroleum sector, covering both production, distribution and marketing of oil and petroleum products at regional level.

55. The importance of petroleum to the African economies stems not only from its role as an energy source but also as a source of finance by exporters, a raw material for the production process of various chemical products, including fertilizers and artificial fibres; similarly, the cost incurred in importing the product itself. Therefore, petroleum and petroleum products have a far-reaching impact on the fragile economic structure of African countries than most other commodities. However, in recent years, petroleum revenue has sharply declined while consumer countries have experienced large price fluctuations and an accumulation of debts.

56. These phenomena, however, remain to a great extent beyond the control of both producers and consumers. The link between both of them is mostly through the activities of transnational corporations whose presence is in almost every country. Over and above, the presence of TNCs is at every stage, starting from prospection to marketing of final products and by-products. Their huge financial resources, technological knowhow, management skills, large industrial base and marketing channels gives them tremendous power so that no single African country is able to effectively pose a challenge to them basically because for the majority of African countries, TNCs in the petroleum sector were already well-established before independence. Study after study confirms that the aim of the TNCs is to maximize investment returns and profits which therefore conflicts with development objectives of newly independent African countries especially where those profits are repatriated in bulk. It is in the light of the above that the purpose of the study to be undertaken will review the activities of TNCs in this sector and elaborate appropriate strategies and policies with a view to enabling the African countries to derive maximum benefits from the operations of TNCs within their territory.

**Resolution 535 (XX): Women and development in Africa**

57. This resolution called for ECA action in the following areas:

(a) Assistance to national machineries concerned with the integration of women in development to enable them to formulate and execute national programmes for women's development;

(b) Provision of regular budget posts and appropriations for the ATRCW and MULPOCs in order to ensure the continuity of the United Nations regional and subregional women's programme;

(c) Review of ways in which apartheid hampers the integration of women in the development process; and
(d) Study of ways in which member States can publicize nationally, subregionally and regionally their Governments' commitment to resolving the burning issue of women in southern Africa, particularly in apartheid South Africa and illegally occupied Namibia.

58. In response to this resolution, the secretariat organized fact-finding and advisory services missions on request from member States. These were carried out in the Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles. Consultancy services were also provided to Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Malawi. The main purpose of these missions was to ensure that women's concerns are incorporated in the mainstream of national development efforts. In addition, a needs assessment survey and intercountry workshop on formulation and management of income-generating activities were conducted in Zambia with a view to increasing women's efficiency.

59. In the same context, a subregional executive development seminar for women managers was organized in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania from 17 to 28 June 1985. Similarly, a subregional seminar on women's management and development planning took place at ESAMI, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania in September 1985.

60. These seminars offered an opportunity to high-level decision-making women to expand their knowledge, skills and the qualities required by successful managers.

61. With regard to the question of apartheid, a study on women and apartheid was finalized during the period under review.

Resolution 539 (XX): United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)

62. As far as this resolution is concerned, operative paragraph 1 urges member States that have not yet done so to deposit their pledged contributions. To this effect, letters, cables and notes verbales were sent to African countries, embassies and UNDP offices requesting, inter alia, member States to deposit their unpaid pledged contributions.

63. Reminder letters were sent also to countries which did not participate at the Pledging Conference requesting them to do so.

64. Operative paragraph 2 requests the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts in negotiating, on behalf of member States, with developing and developed countries as well as international financial institutions which might contribute to the Fund. To this end, preparatory missions are planned to some selected countries such as Egypt and the African Development Bank in order to work out the arrangements for the implementation of the relevant pledged contributions.