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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa adopted at the ninth session resolution 188(IX) on the institutional machinery of the Commission and established an Executive Committee, comprising the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the session of the Conference of Ministers; two representatives from each sub-region (each office bearer of the Conference of Ministers being regarded as representing the sub-region in which his country was situated), two African members of ECOSOC, one representing the English-speaking and the other French-speaking countries; and two African members of the Governing Council of UNDP, one representing the English-speaking and the other French-speaking countries. The Executive Committee would to meet at least twice a year. In accordance with that resolution, the Executive Secretary was requested to convene the first meeting of the Committee.

2. The first meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Addis Ababa (Africa Hall) from 30 June to 4 July 1969 and was attended by representatives from Congo (Brazzaville) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Central African sub-region; Sudan and Morocco in the North African sub-region; Kenya in the East African sub-region (the representative of Botswana was not present); and Senegal and Nigeria in the West African sub-region. ECOSOC was represented by the delegates from Chad and Sierra Leone. Algeria and Tanzania represented UNDP.

3. As the Chairman, Mr. Lissouba, had cabled to the effect that he would be unable to arrive in Addis Ababa on 30 June 1969, it was suggested that the meeting should be postponed to 1 July. However, after some discussion, the members in attendance unanimously decided that, until his arrival, the representative of Kenya, the Honourable Tom Mboya should act as Chairman of the session. Mr. Mboya took the chair, declared the meeting open and welcomed the participants.

4. A point was raised as to whether the press should or should not be allowed to attend the deliberations of the Executive Committee. After some discussion, it was decided that the press should not be permitted to attend

the meetings, and press representatives were requested to leave the Committee room. It was also decided that representatives of UN agencies would not be permitted to attend, unless required for the examination of certain items. As far as embassy staff of member States were concerned, the Committee was of the opinion that since the meeting concerned all African member States, it would be unfair to allow only representatives of African countries with embassies in Addis Ababa to attend the meeting. In view of the desire of OAU and ECA to strengthen their relations, it was agreed that OAU could be represented by an observer who would assist in policy co-ordination.

5. It was confirmed that the office bearers of the ninth session would automatically be the officers of the Committee. It was also confirmed that, in accordance with the terms of resolution 188(IX), "no country may have more than one representative on the Executive Committee".

6. The members of the Committee examined the revised provisional agenda established by the secretariat (E/CN.14/ECO/1/Rev.2). After a long debate, the agenda was adopted with a change in the numbering of items and a few amendments (see annex).

Chairman's report on meeting with United Nations
Secretary-General in New York on 18 March 1969
Agenda item 1 (a)

7. The Chairman, Mr. Lissouba, thanked the Executive Committee for the understanding shown regarding his late arrival at the present session of the Executive Committee and also the Hon. Tom Mboya for holding the fort in his absence, to enable the Executive Committee to proceed without any loss of time. Continuing, he explained that his delay in coming to Addis Ababa was due to circumstances beyond his control. In Congo (Brazzaville), as in other African countries, reorganization of the Government was constantly taking place and quite recently the Congo (Brazzaville) Government had been reorganized. It was that process that prevented him from starting early so as to be at Addis Ababa on time. He then went on to speak about his meeting in New York with the immediate colleagues of the Secretary-General: Mr. Ph. de Seynes, Mr. A. Stark, Mr. I.S. Djermakoye, Mr. Paul-Marc Henry and others, except Mr. Hoffman of UNDP whom

he was unable to see. He mentioned his subsequent meeting with the Secretary-General. The Hon. Tom Mboya, who was then in New York, attended that meeting at the end of which, the Chairman handed to the Secretary-General a memorandum regarding the decisions taken at the ninth session, particularly on the reorganization of ECA. He also took advantage of his visit to New York to meet African representatives of ECOSOC and UNDP, and explained to them the resolutions adopted at the ninth session.

8. In New York his main preoccupation was to see how the resolutions adopted at the ninth session of ECA could be implemented, and he discovered that to achieve that end, it was necessary to mobilize African opinion. The most important problem facing the present meeting of the Executive Committee was how to present the case for the reorganization of ECA to (a) ECOSOC; and (b) UNDP in the light of the Capacity Study. At that stage, the Chairman read out to the Committee the text of a letter he had received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the morning of his arrival at Addis Ababa.

9. Broadly speaking, the Secretary-General did not see much difficulty in having ECA reorganized in line with the resolutions of the ninth session, provided those resolutions were acceptable to ECOSOC and the UNDP Governing Council. Where the reorganization implied new budgetary allocations, it was necessary to have the matter referred to the General Assembly for approval.

10. In the course of his conversations with Mr. Stark, Under-Secretary-General for administration and management, the Chairman had been assured that once ECOSOC had endorsed the resolutions at its forthcoming summer session in Geneva, an attempt would be made to find savings in the 1969 budget, to finance a meeting of the Executive Committee in Addis Ababa sometime in the second half of 1969 (the related costs were of the order of \$14,000).

11. The Chairman then suggested that the Executive Committee should write to the Secretary-General thanking him for his support, the understanding he had shown of the need for the reorganization of ECA, and his desire to see something concrete done for Africa during the second Development Decade.

12. After the Chairman's introductory remarks, the Executive Committee decided to suspend discussion on that particular item of the agenda, until they had had copies of the minutes of the above meeting and his correspondence with the Secretary-General. Those documents were later distributed to the members of the Committee.

13. It was agreed that a report should be submitted to ECOSOC on the deliberations of the Executive Committee, including (i) the Chairman's memorandum of 18 March 1969 to the Secretary-General, (ii) the Secretary-General's reply to that memorandum; (iii) document E/CN.14/ECO/6 on the reorganization, structure and functions of the secretariat of ECA, and (iv) the addendum to this document, reflecting the attitude of the Executive Committee to it.

14. One Drafting Committee was set up to work on that report and another to prepare the report of the meeting of the Executive Committee.

15. It was pointed out that if the submissions of the Executive Committee were to stand any chance of being accepted, it was necessary (a) for the members of the Executive Committee to satisfy themselves that all African countries accepted them fully and (b) that their representatives would support them at ECOSOC, the UNDP Governing Council, and the General Assembly. It was therefore necessary to decide on the position that the Executive Committee should adopt, not only at the forthcoming ECOSOC meeting, but also at subsequent meetings.

16. The Committee was to determine the Commission's approach to ECOSOC and the General Assembly, in getting the resolutions of the ninth session accepted, and also to African Heads of State and Government in securing the political support ECA needed.

17. It was suggested that the Committee should approach African representatives on UN bodies to assist in making ECA "the window through which African problems should be viewed". For that purpose, African representatives on other UN bodies should be fully informed of the decisions of the Executive Committee and the activities and aspirations of ECA. The meeting took note of the Chairman's remark that African delegations at UN Headquarters had expressed the view that they needed to be instructed by their governments and that the least that the Executive Committee could do would be to associate their governments with any guidance they decided to provide for African delegations.

Interpretation and implementation of the resolutions of the
ninth session and tenth anniversary of the Commission

Agenda item 1 (b)

18. The impression which had been gained during the ninth session that the implications of the Commemorative Resolutions called for changes in the Commission's terms of reference still persisted in some quarters; but both the record of the discussions of the Chairman with senior officials of the UN at Headquarters and the Secretary-General's letter addressed to the Chairman at the beginning of the meeting of the Executive Committee, made it clear that no changes in the terms of reference were necessary.

19. There was still, however, some confusion about the roles to be played by the ECA secretariat - involving the exercise of the authority and functions of the UN Headquarters - and the Executive Committee. That uncertainty had no basis in fact, but it seemed necessary to set out the objectives of the resolutions in summary form to help clear the air for meaningful discussions at ECOSOC and the General Assembly: (a) resolution 187(IX) emphasized the need for self-reliance and multinational and sub-regional co-operation; pointed out difficulties in current trade and aid policies and practices; urged the secretariat to co-ordinate its work programme and activities with those of the operating and executing agencies of the UN system and to participate in the operation of any machinery that might be set up to evaluate planning policies and performance during the next Development Decade; (b) resolution 188(IX) recognized the importance of involving member States in the implementation of the decisions of the Commission, in other words, of making the Commission African in form and spirit, and in conformity with UN practices, by establishing (i) a Conference of Ministers to replace the biennial sessions of the Commission at a higher level of responsibility; (ii) a technical Committee of Experts to assist the secretariat in formulating the Commission's programme of work and priorities and to take proper measures to establish effective contact between the secretariat and governments of member States at the working level; (iii) an Executive Committee to consider matters relating to the implementation of the resolutions of the Commission and its work programmes; and to recommend ways and means for closer co-operation between the Commission and other UN bodies and African representatives on various international organizations; (c) resolutions 189(IX) contained proposals for the

organization, structure and functions of the Commission's secretariat, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 1709(XVI) and 1823(XVII) and ECOSOC resolutions 793(XXX), 823(XXXII) and 879(XXIV), dealing with the question of the decentralization of economic and social operational activities of the UN and the strengthening of the regional commissions.

20. The Commission at the ninth session further realized that political and popular support for the activities of the UN in Africa could be considerably increased if, without contravening the provisions of the UN Charter, the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OAU were to be associated with the work of ECA. The procedure for bringing about that association was set out in resolution 190(IX).

21. The participants stressed the fact that representation on the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts should be at a level high enough, to reflect the policies of the governments involved on given issues.

22. With regard to the composition of the Executive Committee, the meeting agreed that there was no problem with sub-regional representation, nor with those who were members of the Committee by virtue of their being African representatives of ECOSOC and the UNDP Governing Council. There could, however, be a problem when, as a result of reshuffles within a government of a country, the status of an office holder changed. It was decided that in such cases it would be incumbent on the government in question to communicate the name of the office holder to the appropriate UN authorities, as was already the practice with other United Nations bodies.

23. The meeting agreed that to stress the individual capacity of members of the Executive Committee at future meetings, participants should not be referred to on the basis of their country of origin. Since, in actual fact, they represented not their countries, but sub-regions, or else were members of the Committee by virtue of the fact that they held seats at ECOSOC and the UNDP Governing Council. At future meetings, members would be referred to by name.

24. It was decided that, whatever the composition of the delegation representing the Executive Committee at the next session of ECOSOC, the Chairman and the Rapporteur of the ninth session of the Commission plus the Hon. Tom Mboya, Kenya's Minister for Economic Planning and Development, should be included.

25. In that connexion, attention was drawn to UN General Assembly resolution 1798(XVII) of 1962 on the system of travel and substantive allowances to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. The participants felt that since the Executive Committee itself had been established within the terms of reference of ECA, and since members of that Committee attended meetings in their personal capacities, they qualified under that resolution for their travel and per diem to be met from UN funds. The meeting also agreed that the question of travel and per diem should be taken up further at the next ECOSOC meeting, where it would be pointed out that members of other United Nations organs who attended such meetings in their personal capacities, had their travel and subsistence allowance met from United Nations funds. Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary was invited to request the United Nations to bear the travel and subsistence allowance of the representatives of the Executive Committee at the next meeting of ECOSOC.

Arrangements and procedure for establishing working relations or effective contact between the Executive Committee and various organizations

Agenda item 2(a)

The secretariat of the Commission

26. In carrying out resolution 188(IX) dealing with the institutional machinery of the Commission, it was suggested that the secretariat of the Commission should be the administrative secretariat of the Executive Committee and should centralize all the necessary documentation in liaison with the Rapporteur.

27. It should keep members of the Executive Committee informed of the activities of the secretariat. That should be done in addition to the usual channels of communication of ECA with Member States of the Commission. There should be someone close to the Executive Secretary, whose duty should be to keep in contact with members of the Executive Committee, so that at all times it should be possible for them to have easy and direct access to the ECA secretariat. The Executive Secretary should also forward a report to member

States of the Commission every three months, through the magazine "African Target", and provide information on the activities of the secretariat as often as necessary. A similar service should be provided for the Ambassadors of the member States of the Executive Committee, resident in Addis Ababa.

28. It should be enough to decide on two meetings of the Committee a year, but not fix specific dates for them. The time for each meeting should be dictated by the prevailing circumstances. Meetings should take place a few weeks before important international meetings (like meetings of ECOSOC, the General Assembly and meetings of the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government, whose schedules might vary.)

29. Meetings of the Executive Committee and also of the Technical Committee of Experts should take place at Addis Ababa, so as to (a) cut running costs and (b) get the secretariat of the Commission to service them.

30. The basic document, (the report of the Executive Secretary) should reach the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, a month before a meeting was held. That report should deal with (a) the implementation of resolutions and work programme; (b) co-operation with international and intra-African organizations; (c) the secretariat's requirements in order to discharge its responsibilities.

31. The secretariat should report regularly to members of the Executive Committee about its activities including the work being done in the sub-regional offices. Its reports should be prepared every three months, but should any thing of special significance occur during the intervening period, a special report should be prepared for the members of the Executive Committee.

The Government of States, Members of the Commission

32. It was agreed that reports of meetings of the Executive Committee should be circulated to member States of the Commission. Other communications should be signed by the Chairman of the session or, in his absence, the Rapporteur, and deal mainly with political matters, while the ECA secretariat should prepare reports covering administrative and technical matters.

33. Visits should be made to member States by members of the Committee, within the limits of available finance. The Chairman and the Rapporteur, especially, should be in a position to attend meetings of Heads of State and Government,

the object of such visits being to inform member Governments of the activities of the Committee and the secretariat, and, to ensure wide publicity for the secretariat's activities.

Sub-regional and multinational institutions

34. Reports of the meetings of the Committee should be forwarded to sub-regional offices and multinational agencies, as well as the report on the activities of the secretariat.

35. Agencies at work in Africa should be invited to forward reports of their meetings to the Executive Committee. It was pointed out that while certain organizations like sub-regional offices and IDEP could be made to present reports of their activities to the Executive Committee, it was not certain whether the autonomous agencies like ADB for instance would recognize the competence of the Executive Committee to invite them to submit reports to it. That could perhaps be done if the Heads of State and Government emphasized the need for them to have a general picture of the economic and social development taking place in Africa.

36. It was decided that the secretariat of the Commission should provide members of the Committee with a list of all the sub-regional offices and multinational agencies in Africa.

The subsidiary bodies of the Commission

37. The meeting recognized the need of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, e.g., Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians, Working Group on Manpower and Training, Working Party on Intra-African Trade, the Advisory Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training, to keep the Executive Committee informed of all their activities.

African members of various United Nations specialized and other agencies and African Permanent representatives to the United Nations

38. The Committee decided that the Executive Committee should keep in close touch with African members of various United Nations specialized and other agencies and with African permanent representatives to the United Nations. The ECA secretariat should supply an up-to-date list of African members serving on these bodies and keep members of the Executive Committee informed of their meetings

as well as the subject for each meeting. ECA should, at the same time, inform African members of those agencies or bodies of the decision taken by the Executive Committee on the matter, in relation to the changes proposed at the ninth session of the Commission. The names of African members serving on such bodies should be put on the mailing list, and the deliberations, decisions, and conclusions of the Executive Committee meetings transmitted to them.

39. It was pointed out that the African representatives should normally receive communications through their governments. It would therefore be useful to request member States to authorize direct communication with their representatives at the United Nations.

The various organs of OAU

40. The OAU secretariat should be represented at meetings of the Executive Committee by an observer, who would be in a position to report on the deliberations of the Committee, and bring it up to date with problems raised at OAU meetings. Conversely, the ECA secretariat should be similarly represented on the OAU Committee, which came nearest to being a counterpart of the Executive Committee.

41. It was pointed out that in the convention between ECA and OAU, provision had been made for such reciprocity. Consequently, all that was needed now was to implement that provision. In that spirit, the OAU secretariat should be invited to consider allowing its New York office to be used by the Executive Secretary in contacting African representatives at the United Nations. Exchange of documents, on which both organizations based their activities in the past, should be continued. The OAU representative assured the meeting of the willingness of the secretariat and all the OAU subsidiary bodies, including the OAU office in New York, to co-operate with ECA, at all times.

Arrangements and procedure for regular presentation of reports on the
activities of ECA for the consideration of African Heads of State
and Government

Agenda item 2(b)

42. The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that the report to be submitted for consideration by Heads of State and Government should be a consolidated report, indicating all the political aspects of the resolutions and deliberations of the Executive Committee. The secretariat should assist the Rapporteur in preparing that report.

43. The report, once drafted, should be forwarded to the OAU secretariat, the body responsible for preparing the draft agenda of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

44. As suggested under agenda item 2(a) (ii), it would be desirable for the Chairman and the Rapporteur to be present at the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and present the report in question themselves on that occasion.

Arrangements and procedure for briefing African members of the
Economic and Social Council and African Governments on the
activities of the Commission prior to sessions of the
Economic and Social Council and the
General Assembly of the United Nations

Agenda item 2(c)

45. The subject of that item having been discussed under agenda items 2(a), (v) and (vi), the only reminder necessary was that documents should be forwarded to African members of ECOSOC officially through their Government. That should not, however, prevent the Committee from sending them copies of such documents personally.

Arrangements and procedure for receiving reports from the
Technical Committee of Experts and for submission
of reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers
biennially

Agenda item 2(a)

46. The Technical Committee of Experts should meet once a year and present reports to the Executive Committee. Such reports should deal with ECA studies and programmes of work and priorities. Consequently, it would be advisable for meetings of the Technical Committee to take place at the end of the year or, at least, early in the new year, to examine what had actually been achieved by ECA during the past year, and the draft work programmes for the coming year. At the meeting immediately prior to the Conference of Ministers, the experts should examine ECA's progress report during the past biennium, and the draft work programme for the coming biennium. A report should be presented at the Conference of Ministers through the Executive Committee.

Review of structure and composition of sub-
regional groupings and associated problems

Agenda item 3

47. The Commission had decided to establish a number of sub-regions, because it realized that the fragmentation of Africa made economic development in member States well-nigh impossible. The economies of most African countries were characterized by small national markets, paucity of skills, unequal distribution of natural resources and acute shortage of capital. The present grouping into four sub-regions was not intended to be rigid. It provided relatively convenient geographical units. Moreover, within each sub-region, other co-operative groups had been forming: the Maghreb in North Africa, the Chad Basin, the Niger and the Senegal River Commissions in West Africa, the Economic Community in East Africa. All those efforts at present received support in staff and funds from UNDP and the rest of the United Nations system, and even though they were originally sponsored by ECA, the Commission's relations with them were now extremely tenuous.

48. On the basis of ECA studies the Maghreb and the rest of North Africa intended to hold a conference on the prospects of sub-regional industrialization later in the year. The secretariat had provided documentation for consultations in East Africa and was preparing studies for sectoral meetings recommended by the Lusaka Conference of Heads of State and Government held in April 1969. The Chairman of the consultative committee had offered to assist in resuscitating the Central African Sub-region which in essence was based on co-operation between Congo-Kinshasa, and the UDEAC countries.

49. The Committee felt that the proposals of the secretariat had not paid sufficient attention to the ninth session request that the re-grouping of countries should be reviewed and radical changes suggested where necessary. The Committee attempted a number of alternative groupings based on geographical contiguity, common interests, development of common services and infrastructure, economic trends, past associations and emergent growth points. It further suggested that the dependent territories of Africa - Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, Namibia - should be included in any new re-grouping of countries into sub-regions. It proposed that Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mauritius and Madagascar might be considered as a separate sub-region. Finally, it decided that present arrangements should remain, pending a detailed study to be made by the secretariat and submitted to it in accordance with resolution 194(IX).

Reorganization, structure and functions of the secretariat

Agenda item 4(a)

50. Document E/CN.14/ECO/6 on the reorganization, structure and functions of the secretariat demonstrated the need to staff the substantive divisions adequately, suggested a combination of the Programme Co-ordination Section of the Executive Secretary's office with the Technical Assistance Co-ordination Unit, and proposed a nucleus of staff for each of the existing sub-regional offices.

51. The document demonstrated the absolute need for the suitable decentralization of some of the activities of United Nations bodies at work in Africa, with scrupulous regard for the principle that certain aspects of the Organization's operational activities, such as the administration of finance, the use of currencies, contracts for the implementation of Special Fund Projects and staff recruitment should be administered by Headquarters. The Executive Secretary emphasized the fact that after very careful examination of all the implications, only a minimum additional staff and funds had been requested. He further indicated that on page 11 of Annex II of the document, it was clearly stated that detailed proposals for the reorganization of the sub-regional offices would be put forward later (a) on the completion of the United Nations Capacity Study (b) when it became clear that adequate funds would be granted to enable the sub-regional offices to discharge their duties.

52. After congratulating the secretariat on the quality of the work done, the Committee pointed out a few loop-holes and urged the secretariat to rectify them in later working documents, in order to reflect a truer picture of the spirit of the options made at the ninth session.

53. The Committee thought a risk was being taken by being content to request staff who might prove to be inadequate. It also stated that, as far as Africa was concerned, the first Development Decade might well be described as a "political decade" in which development was completely neglected. Actually, the second Decade would really be the first Development Decade for Africa. Some members felt that although the arguments put forward in the document were compelling, the requests based on them were excessively modest.

54. On the subject of decentralization, the Committee clearly reaffirmed the options made at the ninth session, by requesting that the two forms of decentralization recommended be taken into consideration:

(a) The decentralization of United Nations bodies at work in the African region, in favour of the secretariat, was the first priority. It should be regarded as such to enable the Commission to carry out its mandate for the second Development Decade. It implied the direct participation of ECA in the deliberations and activities of UNDP and the specialized and operating agencies. On that point, the Committee appealed to members who would be presenting ECA resolutions to ECOSOC to urge most vigorously the acceptance of that principle of decentralization;

(b) The decentralization of the secretariat in favour of the sub-regions should not be regarded as a break-up of the secretariat. It merely implied a genuine reorganization of its structure, thus enabling it to assume new tasks of co-ordination and policy-making which, it was hoped, more intensive activity in the sub-regions would require. For that purpose, the Committee should ensure that the sub-regional offices were given suitable status and their rightful place in the ECA framework. It should also reconsider their structure at a later date, in the light of the results of the Capacity Study. As the sub-regional offices became more active, the secretariat's role at Addis Ababa would increasingly assume the shape of co-ordinating their activities.

55. In considering the question of staff and finance for the sub-regional offices:

(a) The fact that UNDP was prepared to supply the sub-regional offices with experts (see memorandum and minutes on meetings of the Chairman with the Secretary-General) would be taken into account, as also that the administrative services necessary for such experts might be financed from the regular budget made available to the secretariat;

(b) The assumption was that substantial savings could be made in the operations of United Nations bodies, if the sub-regional offices were used as co-ordinating centres working in co-operation with groups of resident representatives. They might also make a contribution to administration in formulating and implementing multinational projects.

Personnel

Agenda item 4(b) (i)

56. The meeting recalled that at the ninth session the question of recruitment of staff and personnel was made the responsibility of the Advisory Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training. However, since the Executive Committee was responsible for ECA policy matters, it could consider the question of staff recruitment and advise the Executive Secretary, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. It was recognized that the question of Africanization of the secretariat and staff development needed a long-term approach, and the Executive Secretary was requested to continue his efforts to Africanize ECA as much and as quickly as possible. The meeting stressed the fact that while recognizing the need of universality in staff recruitment, in keeping with the character of United Nations bodies, the question of Africanizing ECA deserved special attention. It arose from the conviction of Africans that their institutions would be best served by their own people, who were involved in African problems, and for whom the economic and social development of their continent certainly meant more than for professionals who tended to look at the development of Africa as just another case requiring attention.

57. As a short-term approach, the meeting agreed to ask African Governments to help the Executive Secretary prepare a list of qualified Africans, on whom the United Nations could call as experts and consultants. That list would constitute a reservoir of African manpower on whom both the United Nations and governments in the region could draw. The meeting took note of the fact that the Secretary-General had agreed in principle to having 75 per cent of the staff of ECA African.

58. The meeting also agreed that in discussing matters relating to recruitment and personnel, reference should be made not to individual cases, but to basic principles. It was recognized that the official at the head of the secretariat should, as in any institution get to know his staff, their problems and aspirations, and take an interest in their welfare. Where prospects for advancement were slow, it would be difficult to recruit and retain the best brains and the most capable. The Executive Secretary was therefore urged to continue his efforts to get ECA staff promoted as vacancies became available, in order to raise their morale.

59. The need for some form of linguistic balance was recognized, but the crux of the matter was Africanization of the ECA secretariat to the extent approved by the Secretary-General. The question of language was recognized as being important, in that a French-speaking African would have a better understanding of the problems facing African French-speaking countries and vice versa. The Committee, therefore, urged that, while every attempt should be made to maintain standards, the Executive Secretary should continue his efforts to achieve some form of linguistic balance. Within the ECA secretariat itself, facilities should be created for both English and French-speaking staff members to learn the language of the other. The meeting requested the Executive Secretary to inform member Governments periodically of existing vacancies in the ECA secretariat, and also the qualifications needed to fill such vacancies.

60. The meeting regarded ECA document ECO/INF/1 of 25 June 1969 as helpful in considering the question of personnel and staff development and was of the opinion that its proposals should be implemented as a matter of urgency. It was thought advisable to invite an official from the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to attend the next meeting of the Executive Committee and explain to members the United Nations position on staff recruitment.

Changes within the United Nations
and their effects on ECA

Agenda item 5(a) (i)

United Nations Capacity Study

61. The United Nations had in recent years been concerned with the efficiency of the parent body and its various executing and operating agencies. In compliance with General Assembly resolutions, a Committee of seven was appointed. It visited the headquarters of the regional commissions as well as those of the Specialized and Operating Agencies. On the recommendations of that Committee, arrangements had been made for a Management Service and Manpower Survey within the United Nations Secretariat. The most significant observations^{1/} of the Committee of Seven, on regional economic commissions were in paragraph 33(a):

"While it is aware that some aspects of the questions mentioned below will be covered by the Capacity Study being undertaken under the auspices of UNDP, the Committee recommends that the following should be explored:

"(a) A study of the extent to which decentralization is possible to the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut of such sectoral functions within the Department as resources, transport, tourism and housing, without the loss of effective central control. In any case, the Committee believes that in such sectors the setting up of new autonomous organizations should be ruled out as a possible solution."

and para 37:

"The Committee recommends that the secretariats of the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut be reinforced through:

^{1/} Document A/7359 of 27 November 1968.

(a) Delegation of authority for implementing on behalf of the United Nations certain UNDP multi-country projects and perhaps certain country projects. This may also include sectoral activities depending upon the conclusions reached on the above-mentioned exploratory work;

(b) Better definition of their role in the co-ordination, at the regional level, of the activities of the organization of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields through joint administrative arrangements;

(c) More effective consultation regarding the appraisal of UNDP and other projects requested by Governments, in respect not only of regional projects - as is already the case - but also, on a selected basis, of country projects;

(d) The provision of adequate information on the progress of implementation of projects, as well as participation in the various task forces and evaluation teams;

(e) Closer contacts and better continuing liaison between the secretariats of the regional economic commissions, on the one hand, and UNDP resident representatives, inter-regional advisers and other key technical co-operation personnel on the other."

62. In 1968, a Joint Inspection Unit was created with its seat in Geneva. That Unit had already visited ECA headquarters and the sub-regional office in Lusaka. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit was also to be submitted to the General Assembly. Those reports should be of special interest to member States of ECA, because they proposed lines along which United Nations institutions including the regional commissions should evolve. The proposals affected the structure, functions and manning of those institutions. The Secretary-General had to operate on the basis of those principles, and so the problems of the Africanization of the ECA secretariat and the equitable geographical distribution of staff within it had to be approached with due regard to the legislative limitations established by the General Assembly and reflected in the reports.

63. The UNDP also had been aware of the increasing volume and complexity of requests addressed to it. To cope with that problem and to increase its effectiveness, the Governing Council of UNDP appointed Sir Robert Jackson to study its capacity. Because UNDP was now the principal source of funds for the activities of all the Specialized and Operating Agencies, that study had naturally developed into a general investigation of the capacity of all the economic and social agencies of the United Nations system.

64. That posed special problems for the regional commissions: (a) because of the multiplicity of agencies, every project recommended by a regional commission could be argued as falling within the exclusive competence of some other United Nations institution; (b) for the execution of projects the UNDP normally chose one of the Specialized and Operating Agencies without reference to regional commissions even if the project had been originally identified and formulated by a Commission, and even where the agency had been hostile or indifferent to the project; (c) it seemed that the secretariat of the UNDP reserved to itself the right to decide which projects it would reject and which it would submit to the Governing Council for consideration.

65. Moreover, since the regional members of the Governing Council were selected as individuals or representatives of single countries they did not normally have the multinational or regional background to enable them to assess the overall impact of the projects submitted to them for approval. The problem posed by that arrangement was of special concern to Africa where most of the viable economic developments depended on sub-regional and multinational co-operation.

66. The UNDP system, as it operated today, had no place for regional commissions. For the developing countries the rectification of that situation would, probably be the most important aspect of the debate on the Capacity Study when submitted to the UNDP Governing Council or the General Assembly.

67. It was agreed: (a) that the secretariat should analyze the Capacity Study as soon as it was ready and submit its conclusions first to the members of the Executive Committee, and then to all member States of ECA for their guidance; (b) that the record of the proceedings of the Executive Committee be made available to all African members of the UNDP Governing Council and ECOSOC; (c) a detailed examination of the formal relations between ECA and UNDP to promote a more effective use of joint resources for the benefit of the region should be prepared by ECA for consideration by the Committee.

UNCTAD

68. The relations with UNCTAD were carried on two levels, a governmental level and a secretariat level. On the governmental level ECA and the OAU held joint meetings of trade and development experts to consider in particular subjects which were discussed in the various UNCTAD bodies and on which it was desirable to harmonize African positions. The joint ECA/OAU meetings worked particularly closely with the African Group in Geneva, which consisted of African missions accredited to the international organizations in Geneva and UNCTAD.

69. The Third Joint ECA/OAU Meeting took place in January of this year. That meeting drew up a new African strategy for trade and development following the Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The recommendations of the third meeting were endorsed by the ninth session of ECA, and the session of the OAU Council of Ministers. Preparations were now well under way for the Fourth Joint Meeting, which would take place immediately preceding the ninth session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

70. Co-operation between UNCTAD and ECA on the secretariat level had been close for a number of years, particularly in the fields of trade promotion and economic co-operation. The decision to make UNCTAD a participating and executing agency of UNDP had brought in elements which might not benefit the African region. That decision, for which the African

countries fought hard for a number of years in the Trade and Development Board as members of the Group of 77, meant that projects in trade promotion which previously were submitted to OTC for approval now had to be submitted to UNCTAD. The main difference was that the OTC in most cases recognized the right of ECA to set its own priorities, and was mainly concerned with the financial aspects of any project submitted to it for approval. The decision to transfer the approval authority to UNCTAD meant that the setting of priorities in one of the Commission's fields of competence would pass to the hands of a non-African agency. Instead of being decentralized, operational activities would become even further centralized in global agencies, clearly contrary to the intent of the ninth session, and surely also contrary to the intent of the African members of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board when they secured for the organization a place as participating and executing agency of UNDP.

71. The first example of that new state of affairs had been the decision to transfer to UNCTAD the right of approval or disapproval for the ECA/GATT courses. Those courses had been run jointly by ECA and GATT since 1962, subject to financial approval by OTC which had never been denied. UNCTAD had approved the running of those courses in 1969. It might approve it also in coming years, but it should be recognized that UNCTAD naturally had to set its own priorities in the light of its own global responsibilities. A situation could therefore easily be envisaged where a decision would be taken to run only one training course in trade promotion, for one language group only, in Africa, because the funds would be needed for trade promotion activities in another developing region. The Committee recommended that the principle of giving courses in both languages should be maintained.

72. Following a decision of the Second UNCTAD, a special unit had been set up in the UNCTAD secretariat to deal with trade expansion and economic integration among developing countries. In a number of instances that unit had, with the financial backing of UNDP, been formulating and implementing multinational projects in Africa without informing the

secretariat of ECA of its activities. In many cases the knowledge of those projects had been brought to the notice of ECA by incidental information found in newspapers, periodicals and often documents.

73. The Executive Committee recommended that the joint ECA/OAU meeting which was established, should make known to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD the strong desire of African countries to make African bodies, and in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, more operational in the fields of trade promotion and economic co-operation.

Decentralization of Technical Assistance

74. The technical assistance activities of the Commission fell under two heads:

- (a) Regional activities financed from UNDP Technical Assistance sources;
- (b) The Regular United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance.

75. Under (a) finance was provided by UNDP for the organization of meetings, seminars, training courses, working parties. The administrative responsibility for those activities was until recently exercised from United Nations Headquarters, which still had financial control. Frequent reference had to be made to Headquarters for budgetary approval and changes in the order of priorities.

76. Under (b) an allocation was made as part of the United Nations Regular Budget to finance the activities of regional advisers, who by definition constitute a mobile core of international experts who respond to urgent and unforeseen requests from member States for assistance. ECA had 28 regional advisers at post in 1968 out of an approved establishment of 37. Owing to the distances to be covered by regional advisers the present provisions which allocated a sum of \$2,000 to every regional adviser for purposes of travel should be reviewed. More flexible arrangements were necessary to enable regional advisers to travel more extensively in response to the increasing number of requests from member States.

77. The Committee agreed that more flexible arrangements were needed to allow the secretariat of the Commission to undertake direct recruitment of regional advisers. It was suggested that such a flexible system would enable the secretariat to make use of the services of African experts and university and research workers for relatively short periods. On the other hand, it was felt that the contractual period for regional advisers which was at present one year needed to be extended to two years, in order to enable non-African technical experts to familiarize themselves with African conditions and to give them a sense of security.

78. The Committee agreed to request the UNDP Governing Council and ECOSOC to:

- (a) Designate ECA as an "executing agency" for certain Special Fund activities in which the Commission had accumulated specialized knowledge of the material and human problems of the African region;
- (b) Involve the secretariat of the Commission in the preparation and drafting of plans of operation of Special Fund Projects, for which the secretariat had already accumulated necessary material, as a result of surveys, research and studies undertaken in relation to specific development problems of the countries of the region;
- (c) Increase the Commission secretariat's involvement in the development or promotion of sub-regional or regional training institutions, which were established with Special Fund assistance;
- (d) Grant the ECA secretariat an active role in the programming and planning of United Nations technical assistance and programmes of specialized agencies ;
- (e) Grant the Commission secretariat full operational control of the UNDP/TA regional programme, and delegate financial responsibility to the secretariat of the Commission.

FAO

79. The need to establish close working relations with FAO had been realized since 1959. Economic development in a predominantly agrarian region was obviously dependent on progress in agriculture. For those reasons, a joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division was set up on the basis of an agreement which required FAO to appoint the Director, and ECA and FAO to provide the professional staff, and agree upon the work programme annually.

80. Co-operation between FAO has had many vicissitudes and had not always been entirely satisfactory. The Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director-General of FAO agreed in 1968 that it was appropriate to establish a single United Nations programme for agricultural development in Africa. That proposal was submitted to the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which now constituted the sole forum for the discussion of agricultural programmes. The joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division submitted its work programme to FAO Headquarters, and all interested FAO Divisions examined and approved the ECA proposals and included them in the FAO programme submitted to the Kampala meeting in November 1968. The joint Division's proposed projects and FAO's five priority areas were unanimously accepted by the Kampala meeting and later endorsed by the ninth session of ECA.

81. Important structural reorganization was taking place within FAO which would place special emphasis on the needs of individual countries and regions in the developing areas. That reorganization included the creation of a Development Department, the stationing of FAO representatives in individual countries or groups of countries and the strengthening of the Africa Regional Office to enable it to give effective help to individual countries in carrying out operational projects. Already direct liaison had been established between the joint ECA/FAO Division and the Office. It was pointed out that jointly FAO and ECA were promoting the establishment of a West Africa rice project. That was to be the first of such projects which would help to strengthen research

programmes and facilities, and the application of the result of research to production. Already IITA in Ibadan provided another example of the recognition of the need to resuscitate research organizations or to create new ones.

82. The Committee expressed its satisfaction at the establishment of a single United Nations programme for agricultural development in Africa.

UNIDO

83. ECA and UNIDO did not yet have a single programme or approach to the fostering of industrialization in Africa, but a number of encouraging developments had taken place.

84. In that connexion, attention was drawn to the agreement between the two organizations which had resulted from discussions between Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Abdel Rahman last November, and it was noted that ECA staff members had participated as observers at the Industrial Development Board Meeting in April/May of this year. In addition, the first two, of five, industrial field advisers had now been designated (Addis Ababa and Kinshasa). It was expected that a continuous exchange of information between ECA and UNIDO on work programme could be established partly through the liaison thus effected. Finally, the expected co-operation between the organizations in the area of investment project implementation was defined, with UNIDO's probable emphasis on infrastructure development.

85. The following were cited as practical examples of co-operation: the fact that ECA would be consulted when the applicants for industrial field adviser posts were being screened, and participate in the annual meetings planned for the field adviser group, the intention being to exchange views and to co-ordinate activities; the ECA/UNIDO meeting planned for this fall, when ECA would be given the opportunity to comment on, and perhaps influence, UNIDO's work programme for 1971, similar facilities being extended to UNIDO by ECA. The object would be closer co-ordination. In that context, reference was made to the intention to form a joint OAU/ECA/UNIDO Committee.

86. Other examples of specific project co-operation were cited. They included the work planned in strengthening national industrial promotion centres (now involving work in 5-6 countries); the intention ECA had of soliciting UNIDO assistance on development of multinational investment centres; the co-operation intended in the area of regional seminars on major sectors of industry; and the probability of joint action in founding sub-regional centres concerned with the manufacturing and utilization aspects of agricultural equipment; finally, the broad area of co-operation hoped for in the field of small-scale industry.

UNESCO

87. ECA was particularly interested in the economics of education, the contribution of education to economic progress, and arrangements among African universities for a rational pattern for the distribution of technological faculties, which were costly to institute and run. It was also interested in the reorganization of teaching, to make it possible for students to acquire a background of practical experience to supplement the theoretical education they received. In the cultural and scientific fields, ECA was concerned with adapting modern science and technology to the natural resource endowment and the physical and social environment of African economic activity. It was making an effort to solve problems of organization of demand for science and technology for application to the development process.

88. The mandate of UNESCO was admittedly much wider. From 1959, ECA and UNESCO had attempted to establish a pattern for co-operating and supplementing each other's efforts. On several occasions, a Liaison Officer from UNESCO had been attached to the ECA secretariat, but that arrangement had not been productive. In 1967 UNESCO/ECA agreed to hold joint meetings to identify projects of common interest. On the basis of that arrangement, meetings were held in Paris in May 1967 and Addis Ababa in July/August 1968. The visit of the Director-General of UNESCO in 1968 provided an opportunity to define specific areas of co-operation:

- (a) A survey of African students studying and training abroad which had been initiated in 1967, needed follow-up action;
- (b) The report on the first phase of the UNESCO Study of university facilities in Africa would be forwarded to ECA as a basis for further work in the field of manpower planning;
- (c) In pursuance of a resolution taken by the Nairobi Conference of 1968, UNESCO and ECA agreed on a joint effort to revise the Addis Ababa education targets;
- (d) They agreed to join forces in running the ECA technical meeting on the application of science and technology and the UNESCO ministerial meeting on the same subject.

89. The joint promotion of an African centre for educational research and technology, recommended by the Commission in resolution 173(VIII) was still under consideration. Until there was a definite improvement in the relations between ECA and UNESCO, it would be necessary for the secretariat to carry out single-handed the mandate entrusted to it by the sessions of the Commission.

90. The Committee agreed that the attention of member States should be drawn to that situation to ensure, that in supporting UNESCO global programmes, they made certain that Africa's special and immediate interests were not overlooked.

ILO

91. The Commission's co-operation with ILO had been developing gradually. The conventional activities of the ILO in Africa, namely, suppressing forced labour and securing the ratification and enforcement of labour codes, had been extended to include training and trade-testing; management training; advice on small-scale industries and on problems of youth and school-leavers.

92. The mandate of ECA required action to be taken to deal with the social implications of economic development. In 1961 ECA published a document on the Economic Implications of Racial Discrimination in Southern Africa. The Commission had also been concerned with re-settlement of displaced persons as a result of river-basin developments, and in its attempts to work out an approach to integrated rural development, it had collaborated closely with ILO, WHO and FAO officials.

93. In consultation with the ECA secretariat, ILO decided in 1965 to establish its Africa regional headquarters in Addis Ababa, and its sub-regional offices had also been located to facilitate co-operation with ECA sub-regional offices.

94. ECA had close working relations with ILO in the following fields: manpower planning and training; integrated rural development; promotion of small-scale industry; vocational training of youth, and the analysis of the impact of educational policies on the manpower situation. Arrangements had also been made for keeping the ECA secretariat in close contact with the ILO, in its formulation of the African aspects of a world employment plan.

Proposed semi-operational activities
of ECA during the second United Nations Development

Decade

Agenda item 5(b)

95. During consideration of the proposed semi-operational activities of ECA for the second United Nations Development Decade, the secretariat drew the attention of members of the Executive Committee to the proposals contained in paragraphs 5 to 9 of document E/CN.14/ECO/6 dealing with the question of decentralization. It was agreed that the proposals made in paragraph 9 of the document should serve as the basis for the submission of concrete recommendations to the appropriate United Nations bodies for consideration, in regard to those fields of United Nations operations in Africa which the ECA secretariat and its sub-regional offices could undertake more efficiently and economically during the second United Nations Development Decade.

96. It was also agreed that, as it was not the intention that all United Nations operations in Africa should be decentralized to the Commission, the semi-operational activities of ECA envisaged during the forthcoming development decade should include:

- (a) Areas of activities which were, so far, not adequately catered for by various United Nations operations in Africa;
- (b) Activities which the ECA secretariat considered it could economically and efficiently undertake by virtue of its specialized knowledge of the material and human problems of the African region;
- (c) Projects relating to sub-regional and other multinational co-operation for economic and social development in Africa;
- (d) Planning and execution of projects in co-operation with other United Nations bodies operating in Africa.

The second Development Decade
and its implications for the regional economic commissions

Agenda item 6

97. The meeting had already noted that as far as Africa was concerned the second Development Decade would be the first since, owing partly to political issues and partly to the need for the recently independent African States to consolidate their independence, it had not been possible for Africa to concentrate on development during the first Development Decade. The meeting took note of the fact that CDPPE in New York was the United Nations body primarily concerned with drawing up a development programme for Development Decades. Another United Nations body intimately connected with Development Decades was the Preparatory Committee. The CDPPE and the Preparatory Committee, naturally enough, tended to view development from a global rather than a regional or country angle. The meeting therefore, decided that ECA should be the body to focus attention on the African region and to help draw up programmes for development throughout the continent. A member of the Executive Committee who had several opportunities to serve on a number

of international bodies dealing with development, spoke on the subject under discussion, and drew the attention of the meeting to certain pertinent issues. In the light of the debate that ensued the meeting agreed on the following.

98. ECA should be the principal United Nations organ through which African development should be approached. To enable the secretariat to handle the second Development Decade issue properly the Executive Secretary was requested to establish a unit within the secretariat to collect relevant material on all aspects of the subject, and to make that material available to the Executive Committee. That unit would make a special study of the reasons why the first Decade was a failure, as far as Africa was concerned. The Executive Committee undertook to ensure that after the necessary documentation and data had been collected, maximum use would be made of them.

99. The Committee emphasized the principle of self-reliance which had been very much stressed during the debate at the ninth session. The need for self-reliance was especially important for the following reasons: (a) the African countries realized that external aid (bilateral or multi-lateral) had not produced the desired results for African development; (b) external aid tended to diminish and sometimes conflicted with the interests and priorities of individual countries; (c) the African countries generally admitted that aid should be a complement to, and not a substitute for, effort at the national level; (d) the industrialized countries which provided aid might not necessarily regard Africa as a region particularly deserving of attention, and might even disagree with the African countries as to what constituted genuine obstacles to accelerated development. Some of those countries thought it their duty to make demographic growth the factor of prime importance in any policy of economic development. While recognizing the importance of demographic factors in certain regions, the Committee was of the opinion that the population bulge had not yet become an acute problem for Africa. However, it did not rule out the need for a certain degree of vigilance in this field in a more distant future, since over-population might well be an obstacle to Africa's economic and social growth in the long run.

100. A member of the Executive Committee who had had several opportunities to serve on a number of international bodies dealing with development, spoke on the subject under discussion, and drew the attention of the meeting to certain pertinent issues. In the light of the debate that ensued the meeting agreed on the following:

- (a) A request should be made to the United Nations Preparatory Committee to invite the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU to attend such meetings;
- (b) While conceding the point that development philosophies and emphasis were bound to differ from country to country, the Committee realized a clear need for an overall continental strategy during the second Development Decade, using as its guidelines common objectives of self-reliance, integration, investment financing, and the basic problems common to most of the African countries: communications, transport, intra-African trade, economic co-operation and methods of halting the deterioration in the terms of trade with the industrialized countries etc. Continental strategy should aim at removing the bottlenecks that impeded development, so as to provide the necessary impetus for sustained economic and social growth;
- (c) The Committee thought it opportune to resume discussion of that important problem at its next meeting.

Collection of information and publicizing the activities of ECA

Agenda item 7

101. ECA had no properly developed information service of its own. The present section was composed of one staff member from Headquarters and two from the ECA payroll. The Information Unit had, until now, been part of the United Nations Office of Public Information. Reports of meetings were cabled to New York for distribution to the world radio and press agencies. Radio scripts were handled in the same way. Information about ECA thus reached African countries second-hand, compressed, and as one item included among a number of others. A year ago, however, the

secretariat started publicizing its own quarterly news bulletin entitled "African Target". That innovation added to the number of newsletters - on Trade, Statistics, Planning, Natural Resources, etc. - most of which had been in circulation for five years or more. All ECA publications were channelled to member States through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or External Affairs or a designated ministry.

102. In spite of the "Target", newsletters, press releases and the very large number of substantive documents published and released by ECA to African States and institutions, very little was still known about ECA, and it was not unusual for persons in responsible positions in African countries to express ignorance of the nature and functions of ECA. Newsmen complained that newsreleases (which might take up to a fortnight to reach them because of the state of the postal services) arrived too late to be of use. ECA staff could not recall coming across ECA publications in the waiting rooms of ministers or officials even of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and, in consequence, United Nations institutions established much later, such as UNIDO and UNCTAD, were becoming known in Africa than ECA.

103. It was suggested that ECA might distribute more frequently feature material for African radio services such as:

- (a) Round-Table discussion by meeting participants;
- (b) Expert discussion of specific developments;
- (c) Discussions of UNDP projects by ECA, specialized and operating agencies;
- (d) ECA discussion with donor countries of what individual donors were doing in African countries.

That would, however, involve the reproduction of at least forty-one copies of the tape if every member State was to receive a copy. It was stressed that, wherever possible, features should be such that member States could use them whenever they received them, or several times over if found sufficiently interesting.

104. It was suggested that the distribution list for the "African Target" should be revised, and that circulation should not be restricted to the channel of Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Educational institutions, appropriate societies and recognized national organizations interested in economic development might be put on the mailing list.

105. The Committee agreed that an attempt should be made to send by telex news items from ECA to selected African countries for radio broadcast. That would follow very closely the arrangements made by the Voice of America for example or the BBC relay stations. The Committee was to give consideration to the number of countries to be selected for that purpose, as well as their location and facilities for performing such functions. The secretariat undertook to examine telex facilities at its disposal as well as the financial implications of such an arrangement.

106. It was suggested that one of the most effective ways of catching the imagination of the public was by the use of films. The secretariat pointed out that it had no funds for the production of films, and that filming was assigned to the Office of Public Information in New York. It was inevitable that suitable films on African matters should be infrequent under those arrangements. The secretariat, however, had tried to provide from facilities, occasionally made available by donor countries with production facilities. The ninth session had been filmed by USIS and, at present, a German filming unit was planning to include ECA in its programme of a survey of economic development and activities in Africa. The secretariat was co-operating fully with that group.

107. The Committee welcomed the idea of visits by members of the ECA film units to countries selected on a sub-regional basis. The purpose of such visits would be to:

- (a) Collect information about national development;
- (b) Publicize the activities of ECA;
- (c) Hold or arrange public discussions on African development.

108. It was agreed that the secretariat should provide a comprehensive review with detailed proposals on that subject for the Committee's consideration.

Date and place of the next meeting

Agenda item 8

109. The Executive Committee having already agreed to hold all its future meetings in Addis Ababa, decided that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would take place from Monday 27 October, to Friday 31 October 1969. Factors taken into consideration in deciding the date for the next meeting were:

- (a) The OAU Summit scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa in September 1969.
- (b) The FAO meeting scheduled to take place in Rome from 29 October to 27 November 1969.

Adoption of the report of the meeting

Agenda item 9

110. The meeting having considered the report of the present session and having made the necessary changes adopted it.

111. While considering the report, the meeting decided to interrupt its business and listen to a short address from the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU who had come to inform the meeting formally that the Assistant Administrative Secretary-General, Mr. Pognon, charged with the responsibility of effecting liaison with ECA, would in future participate in the deliberations of the Executive Committee. It had not been possible for Mr. Pognon to attend the Executive Committee meeting from the beginning, because he was attending a meeting in Europe.

112. The Administrative Secretary-General of OAU assured the Executive Committee of OAU's full support for the work of the Executive Committee, pointing out that the decision of the Commission at its ninth session to establish the Executive Committee, which was to concern itself with policy matters for ECA, and to see that the resolutions adopted at ECA

sessions were properly implemented, was perhaps the most important job of work undertaken by ECA in recent years. That was important because African States had realized that the time for rhetoric was over. If Africa was to achieve any effective development, ECA should embark on action. OAU was also of the same opinion. That was why it had pledged its full support both to the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee, for the realization of the objectives of the African States as far as ECA was concerned. OAU had demonstrated its interest in the present session of the Executive Committee by:

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- (a) The attendance in person of the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU at the opening session;
 - (b) By delegating a senior official from the Economic and Social Council of OAU to attend all sessions of the Executive Committee with definite instructions to intervene on behalf of OAU whenever the occasion arose;
 - (c) By asking the Assistant Administrative Secretary-General, Mr. Pognon, who only returned to Addis Ababa from Europe yesterday, to sit with the meeting and make his contributions to its deliberations on behalf of OAU.

113. Another fact which demonstrated the support of OAU for the Commemorative resolutions adopted at the ninth session, was the manner in which the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, the Governor of ADB and the Executive Secretary of ECA got together immediately after the ninth session, to outline a strategy for the implementation of the resolutions passed at the session.

114. After the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU had spoken, the Chairman of the ninth session thanked him for pledging OAU's full support for ECA, and expressed the hope that such co-operation between the two important African institutions would help Africa forward along the road to economic, social and political development.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. (a) Chairman's report on meeting with United Nations Secretary-General in New York on 18 March 1969.
- (b) Interpretation and implementation of the resolutions of the ninth session and tenth anniversary of the Commission.
2. (a) Arrangements and procedure for establishing working relations or effective contact between the Executive Committee and the following:
 - (i) The ECA secretariat;
 - (ii) Governments and member States of ECA;
 - (iii) Sub-regional and multinational institutions;
 - (iv) Subsidiary bodies of the Commission (i.e. Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians, Working Group on Manpower and Training, Working Party on Intra-African Trade, the Advisory Committee on Staff Recruitment and Training);
 - (v) African members of various United Nations specialized and other agencies;
 - (vi) African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations;
 - (vii) (a) The various organs of the OAU (i.e. the OAU secretariat, the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU);
 - (b) Arrangements and procedure for regular presentation of reports on the activities of ECA for the consideration of African Heads of State and Government before sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, in order that the Commission could be given the necessary political support;
 - (c) Arrangements and procedure for briefing African members of the Economic and Social Council and African Governments on the activities of the Commission before sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations;

- (d) Arrangements and procedure for receiving reports from the Technical Committee of Experts and for submission of reports to the ECA Conference of Ministers biennially.
- 3. (a) Review of structure and composition of the following sub-regional groupings and associated problems:
 - (i) North Africa;
 - (ii) East Africa;
 - (iii) Central Africa;
 - (iv) West Africa;
 - (v) Southern Africa.
- (b) Problems in the sub-regions relating to:
 - (i) Contact with governments and involvement in sub-regional development planning and economic co-operation;
 - (ii) Multinational decision-making process;
 - (iii) Development of sub-regional offices.
- (c) Specific problems of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea called Portuguese Guinea and Namibia.
- 4. (a) Re-organization, structure and functions of the secretariat.
- (b) Requirements and availability of resources, namely:
 - (i) Personnel;
 - (ii) Consultants;
 - (iii) Travel.
- 5. (a) International developments within the United Nations system and their effects on ECA in relation to the following:
 - (i) UNDP Capacity Study;
 - (ii) UNCTAD;
 - (iii) Decentralization of Technical Assistance;
 - (iv) FAO;

5. (a) Continued
 - (v) UNIDO;
 - (vi) UNESCO;
 - (vii) ILO.
- (b) Proposed semi-operational activities of ECA during the second Development Decade.
6. The second Development Decade and its implications for the regional economic commissions.
7. Collection of information and publicizing the activities of the Commission.
8. Date and place of the next meeting.
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(A) Sub-regions

Central Africa

Professor P. Lissouba
Chairman of the Commission (Congo-Brazzaville)

Mr. César Mopolo-Dadet
Minister Plenipotentiary
Diplomatic adviser in the
Prime Minister's Office (Congo-Brazzaville)

H.E. Mr. F. Ngoie-Tshilombo
Vice Minister for Economic Affairs,
responsible for industry (Democratic Republic
of the Congo)

H.E. Mr. Joseph Kabemba
Ambassador to Ethiopia
(Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Mr. André Nyembwe,
Director-general of the National Institute
of Planning
(Democratic Republic of the Congo)

H.E. Mr. Abdullahi El Hassan
Ambassador to Ethiopia (Sudan)

H.E. Mr. Harkett Abderrahim
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