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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of the Conference of African
Least Developed Countries

Accra, Ghana, 25 and 26 April 1983

DRAFT REPORT

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The third meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries was held in Addis Ababa, Socialist Ethiopia, on 25 and 26 April 1983. The meeting was opened by Comrade Addis Tedla, COME Executive Committee member, PFAC Standing Committee member and Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council. An opening address was also delivered by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Alebayo Adedeji.
2. The meeting was attended by ministers and representatives of the following African least developed countries: Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania and Upper Volta.
3. The meeting was also attended by representatives from Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the People's Republic of China. The following Organizations were also represented: the Organization of African Unity (OAU); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank (IBRD); the International Trade Centre (ITC); the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); the World Health Organization (WHO); the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO); and the Pan African Congress of Azania (PAC).
4. The Conference elected Comrade Wollie Chekol, Minister of Foreign Trade of Socialist Ethiopia, Chairman, H.E. Mr. Ambroise Mulindangalo, Minister of Planning of Rwanda, Vice-Chairman and H.E. Mr. Francis E. Karemo, Ambassador of Sierra Leone in Ethiopia, Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

5. The meeting adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Statement by the Executive Secretary
 3. Election of Officers
 4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

6. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries on:

- (i) admission of new members as LDCs;
- (ii) review of socio-economic conditions, major problems and policies in African least developed countries;
- (iii) implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African LDCs;
- (iv) measures for effective mobilization of domestic resources in African LDCs;
- (v) review of ECA activities 1982-1983 and work programme 1984-1985 for African least developed countries;
- (vi) adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening Addresses

7. The Chairman briefly referred to the United Nations Conference of Least Developed Countries which was held in Paris in September 1981 and adopted the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the 1980s. He pointed out that since then, there has been a deterioration in international resource flow to the least developed countries and invited the Conference to critically review the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within the spirit of the Paris Conference.

8. In his opening statement, Comrade Adúis Tedla welcomed all the participants on behalf of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia, noting that the meeting which was being held on the eve of the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the Commission was of particular importance.

9. He recalled that when the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s (SNPA) was adopted in 1981, there were promises of special treatment in commodity trade, aid flows, transfer of technology and other measures including short-term and long-term measures that would help accelerate the development of the least developed countries. Specifically some donor countries had agreed to devote

0.15 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance to least developed countries while others committed themselves to doubling their official development assistance. However, the record of the implementations of the SNPA after more than 18 months since its adoption showed a dismal picture. The prospects for any increase in official development assistance were bleak and aid modalities had hardened. He also pointed out that since the IDCs have to devote substantial resources and time in the preparations of review meetings, donor countries should show the necessary political will to honour their commitments made in Paris during the adoption of the SNPA.

10. He further expressed concern with regard to the fact that although the SNPA was already approaching the medium-term of its planned life, no practical steps had yet been made to implement the programme. He, therefore, called upon the participants to devote attention to the need for the mobilization and effective utilization of domestic resources for development so that, in line with the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the African least developed countries could rescue themselves through their own efforts and in co-operation with one another.

11. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary Mr. Adebayo Adedeji welcomed the participants to the meeting and to the various activities organized on the occasion of the official celebration of the Silver Jubilee to be attended by a number of African Heads of State and Government. Mr. Adebayo Adedeji then welcomed the five new African least developed countries, namely, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo. He expressed the hope that these new IDCs would be provided with necessary financial and technical assistance to supplement their respective efforts in overcoming their socio-economic problems and laying down the foundation for self-sustained growth. He however, added that the fact that by now over 50 per cent of the total membership of the Commission was classified as IDCs was a manifestation of the worsening social and economic conditions in African countries.

12. He pointed out to the meeting that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries held in Addis Ababa from 11 to 13 April 1983 had done an excellent work in preparing the report and resolutions for the consideration of the meeting. He further expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by country officials in devising policies to stabilize and/or improve on the economic growth of the respective African least developed

countries. He noted that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts had emphasized the need for intensifying the short-term and long-term adjustment policies. He however expressed concern regarding the increasing evidence that the commitments made during the Paris Conference in September 1981 were not being fully honoured since the volume of aid was decreasing along with a hardening of aid conditionality.

13. Turning to the review meetings, the Executive Secretary referred the material and indirect costs involved in the preparation of these meetings. He then drew the attention of the meeting to the many problems that could result from the likely concentration of the remaining review meetings of 20 African IDCs in the second half of 1983. He therefore reiterated the recommendation of the Committee of Experts for the holding of high level consultations to space out the review meetings and to re-examine the issue of their completion by 1983 as provided for in paragraphs 110 to 116 of the SNPA. He also pointed out that the issue of national and regional follow-up mechanisms needed to be examined.

14. After taking note of the present international economic situation and its implications for the least developed countries, the Executive Secretary turned to the effective mobilization of domestic resources. In this regard, he noted that the Committee of Experts had touched on many important areas such as (i) an equitable distribution of the burden of development between the rural and urban sector; (ii) the plugging of the leakages of foreign exchanges; (iii) the optimum mobilization of internal resources; and (iv) the ensuring of better and more efficient management of the economies of African IDCs.

15. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting of the work of the Commission's secretariat in favour of African IDCs during 1982 including in particular the provisions of technical assistance on the request of countries. He noted that while it was the primary responsibility of the secretariat to provide such assistance, its resources were limited. It was, therefore, important to renew the call for the UNDP Special Measures Fund for IDCs to be adequately supplied with resources to enable the entire United Nations system, including ECA, to carry out its responsibilities with respect to the IDCs. Finally, he informed the meeting that the 1984-1985 programme of work on the least developed countries had also been submitted for the meeting's approval.

16. The Acting Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP addressed the meeting. He appraised the meeting on the developments that had taken place since the Second meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African IDCs. In this regard, he first referred to the five new African IDCs and informed the meeting that the UNDP Administrator and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had sent a joint note verbale to the Governments of the new IDCs requesting information on the designated national focal points as well as their preliminary views regarding the establishment of a consultative mechanism at the country level. UNDP had also allocated resources for these countries through the Special Measures Fund for IDCs. For the other African IDCs, UNDP had participated actively in the preparation of round tables for Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Mali and Rwanda.

17. The Acting Assistant Administrator, further emphasized the fact that it is up to the government to make an assessment of the need for, the cost of and likely benefits that may follow from a review meeting. Further, the position of UNDP was that it was the responsibility of the government concerned to decide whether or not any particular round table was a success. Generally, the main objectives of the round tables include:

- (i) making better known the overall economic situation and development problems of the country, as well as the development policy and needs of the Government so that the country might be better assisted;
- (ii) enlisting the support of the donor community for the Government's assistance requirements and for mobilizing resources to meet the implementation of the Government's development policies and programme;
- (iii) enlarging the number of donor countries and organizations that are willing to assist the country by also involving non-traditional donors;
- (iv) providing a framework for better co-ordination at the country level, both among donors and between donors and the recipient Governments.

18. He noted that in the light of the public statements of Governments that have already had review meetings, UNDP believed that the results so far obtained have been encouraging. However, a very important stage was that of the follow-up. He also pointed out that UNDP shared the concern that it would be impossible to

effectively organize the remaining review meetings if the current 1983 deadline were to stand.

19. The Acting Assistant Administrator touched briefly on the problems of resources that UNDP had experienced. He however indicated that with further improvement in the management, by all partners, of such resources as were available coupled with the effective mobilization of domestic resources, progress would be made towards self-reliance. Finally, he reviewed UNDP's standing undertaking to work closely with ECA and OAU in assisting the African IDCs.

20. The representative of UNCTAD expressed appreciation and satisfaction over the excellent co-operation existing between ECA and UNCTAD in fulfilling their mandate of follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the SNPA for the 1980s for the least developed countries. He said that at a time when the world economy was passing through severe constraints, the vulnerability of the developing countries had necessitated retrenchment actions and concentration on adjustment programmes instead of implementing their development programmes as envisaged in the SNPA. Their GDP per capita which had increased only slightly in 1980, had declined by 0.6 per cent in 1981. He stated that whereas the estimates of the external financing requirements of the LDCs envisaged an increase of 85 per cent during the first half of the 1980s as compared to the second half of the 1970s, UNCTAD's estimate of the commitments made at the Paris Conference showed an increase of only 30 per cent in real terms by 1985, compared to the 1980 level. This estimate of resource flow is even considered optimistic in view of the decline in ODA of 3.5 per cent in real terms in 1980 and a further decline in 1981, with no indication of the reversal of the trend in 1982.

21. He called upon the LDCs and their development partners to fully and urgently implement the provision of the SNPA with respect to financial assistance, international commercial policy measures and economic co-operation among developing countries and that donors should honour their commitments made in Paris and at country review meetings, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the SNPA during the 1980s. He said that UNCTAD was ready, within its resources and competence, to help in the preparation and follow-up of the country review meetings as called for in paragraph 112 of the SNPA. On the global monitoring arrangements, he indicated that the UNCTAD secretariat in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system, would prepare up-to-date information on the

prevailing situation in the LDCs as a whole as well as in-depth analysis of the progress achieved in the implementation of the SPT, drawing upon the results of the country review meeting.

Consideration of report and draft resolutions of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries (Item 5)

22. Under this Agenda item, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, Mr. Mersie Ejigu, presented the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries, Addis Ababa, 11-13 April 1983, which was contained in document E/ECA/LDCs.3/6.

23. In introducing the report, he stated that the Committee had considered the following substantive items: (i) review of socio-economic conditions, major problems and policies in African LDCs dealing with the overall performance and country specific economic conditions, domestic problems and policies; (ii) implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action under which were the issues of the preparation and organization of country review meetings, trends and prospects in aid flows and aid modalities and measures for the implementation of the SNPA at the national, regional and global levels; (iii) measures for the effective mobilization of domestic resources in African least developed countries; and (iv) a review of ECA activities in 1982 and 1983 and the work programme for the biennium 1984-1985 in favour of African LDCs. He further stated that before the consideration of these substantive items, the Committee of Experts had welcomed the five African least developed countries who were admitted to the list of LDCs by the 37th Session of United Nations General Assembly, namely, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo.

24. On the review of the socio-economic conditions, major problems and policies in African least developed countries, the Chairman said that the survey had indicated a near stagnation in the overall growth performance of the group, with a modest increase in the average annual growth rate of GDP from 3.2 per cent in 1970s to 3.6 per cent in 1981/1982. While the agricultural sector had registered an overall annual rate of growth of 2.3 per cent, there was a considerable decline in manufacturing output due mainly to the lack of foreign exchange to import essential inputs including spare parts which had worsened the maintenance problems of industrial plants leading to increased underutilization of capacities of existing industries. The volume and value of the exports of African LDCs had

declined substantially due to a reduction in world demand and prices for primary commodities, while imports continued to grow steadily at an annual rate of over 5 per cent, which worsened the balance of payments situation in these countries.

25. The Chairman expressed the agreement of the Committee with the assessments of the survey and highlighted such critical areas as the development of adequate transport and communication infrastructure for the enhancement of trade; the utilization of appropriate fiscal and monetary tools and other domestic policies aimed at improving the budgetary and balance of payments situation in African IDCs. He also stated the recommendation of the Committee of Experts with respect to carrying out in-depth country-specific socio-economic studies of each African least developed country by the LCA secretariat.

26. On the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action, the Chairman stated that the Committee had identified a number of major problems associated with the implementation process of the programme which were (i) the vagueness of the roundtable communiqués with respect to pledges; (ii) the need to establish appropriate national follow-up mechanisms to country review meetings in order to ascertain that commitments are honoured; (iii) the need to lay greater emphasis on the sub-regional impact and the inter-country implications of national projects; (iv) the risk of having an overconcentration of country review meetings in the second half of 1983 which will have a negative impact on the results of the meetings; (v) the declining trend in aid flows and the hardening of the terms and conditions of aid; and (vi) the need for African IDCs to reappraise their programmes with a view to making sure that the funding of priority projects depended mainly on domestic resources.

27. The Chairman noted that it was the general consensus of the Committee of Experts that although the results of the country review meetings organized so far were encouraging, yet the commitments of donor countries and institutions have not totally met the expectations of the IDCs as envisaged in the SNPA and that the declining trend in aid flows and the hardened terms and conditions of aid deterred the implementation of development plans which were drawn up with heavy reliance on external resources. He then stated the recommendations of Committee of Experts which were (i) that the participants in third meeting of the Conference of Ministers should hold high level consultations amongst themselves and with the lead agencies on the possibility of re-arranging the timing

of future review meetings to ensure competent representation; (ii) that in view of the increasing number of requests to the ECA to provide assistance in the substantive preparation of country review meetings, additional resources should be made available to the secretariat in order to fulfill this role effectively; and (iii) that the ECA, in collaboration with the lead Agencies, should assist the African LDCs in establishing national follow-up mechanisms to the country review meetings as well as undertake studies on the flow of external resources to African LDCs. Also, the Committee recommended that the Libreville declaration of the African Ministers of Trade and Finance of February 1983 and the Buenos Aires recommendation of the Group of 77 of March 1983 should become part of the African LDCs position at UNCTAD VI in June 1983.

28. With respect to the item on measures for the effective mobilization of domestic resources in African LDCs, the Chairman reported that the Committee of Experts was in agreement with the analysis and recommendations of the secretariat's study which included (i) the broadening of the tax base through taxation of wealth, property, capital gains, gifts, estates, inheritances, etc.; (ii) re-investment of the profits of public enterprises to develop and/or expand productive capabilities; (iii) the establishment of development financing institutions such as agricultural, industrial and savings banks; (iv) the establishment of national technological institutions to be responsible for the formulation of policies in technology, evaluation and negotiation of contracts, selection, unpackaging and adaptation of imported technology; (v) the establishment of project development institutions to systematically identify, prepare and appraise development programmes and projects; (vi) the establishment of multinational joint ventures in the development and exploitation of natural resources; and (vii) the plugging of foreign exchange leakages.

29. The Chairman then outlined the recommendations of the Committee of Experts which were (i) that in view of the bleak prospects in international resource flow to African LDCs, governments should prepare development plans based essentially on available national resources in order to ensure effective plan implementation; (ii) that reform in the administration of aid should be undertaken by donors and recipient countries in order to overcome the conflicts that arises between identified national priorities and the terms, conditions and interest of donors when providing assistance; and (iii) that the ECA secretariat in collaboration with the lead agencies, should undertake studies on the

mobilization and utilization of domestic resources in each African least developed country.

30. The Chairman stated that the Committee of Experts was satisfied with the activities of the ECA secretariat in 1982 and 1983 on behalf of the African IDCs and, therefore, recommended that the programme of work during the biennium 1984-1985 should be approved by the Conference of Ministers. In conclusion, he submitted two draft resolutions on accelerating the implementation of the SNPA in African IDCs and on the first round of country review meetings in African IDCs, for the consideration and approval of the Conference of Ministers.

31. The Chairman thanked Comrade Mersie Ejigu for his clear and elaborate presentation of the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts. These would help the Conference of Ministers of African IDCs in considering the report of the Committees. He then invited the Conference to take such item of the agenda as discussed by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

32. After welcoming the five new member of the group of African least developed countries, namely, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Togo, the Conference took note of the discussion of the Committee on the review of socio-economic conditions, problems and policies in African least developed countries. In this regard, it was pointed out that paragraph 21 of the report of the Committee should be expanded in order to reflect the types of consequences brought about by the measures advocated by the IMF and the World Bank in the context of their structural adjustment programmes. It was particularly mentioned that such measures do not take into account the socio-economic conditions and realities of least developed countries and had adverse social, economic and financial effects.

33. The Conference then considered and endorsed the report and recommendations of the Committee on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African least developed countries. On the item dealing with measures for effective mobilization of domestic resources in African IDCs, it was noted that the recommendation related to the increasing taxation of agricultural surplus in IDCs might have the opposite effect of not generating such surpluses. Actually, it was stressed that since most African IDCs were agricultural deficit countries, the objective should be to increase agricultural production through various incentives. Consequently, the Conference decided that the recommendation should

be deleted from paragraph 41 of the report of the Committee. It was further emphasized that the broadening of the tax base should be mainly focussed on the urban area as the rural area had so far supported the burden of development financing.

34. In discussing the issue of external resources placed at the disposal of the IDCs, the Conference agreed that emphasis should be put on the allocation and effective utilization of such resources rather on their management which is often under the control of the donor country or institution. Reference was made in this regard to the Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) of the UNDP. Consequently, the Conference decided that paragraph 46 of the report of the Committee should be amended accordingly. Similarly, the Conference requested that paragraph 48 of the report of the Committee should be amended to reflect the fact that African IDCs should not only mobilize their own resources but also utilize such resources effectively and efficiently in order to strengthen their credibility.

35. The Conference concluded the consideration of the report by endorsing the deliberations and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on the activities in 1982-1983 and work programme 1984-1985 of the ECA secretariat for African least developed countries. The Conference then endorsed and adopted the report of the Committee of Experts as amended above (annexed to the present report (E/ECA/LDCs.3/6/Rev.1)).

36. Finally, the Conference considered the two draft resolutions submitted by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and made the necessary amendments. The resolutions were then adopted for submission to the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA. The Conference also agreed to hold high-level consultations as recommended by the Committee of Experts and invited those countries that had completed their review meetings to attend the consultations so as to give their experiences.

ANNEX I

Draft Resolution on measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling ECA resolution 397(XV) of 12 April 1980 entrusting the Conference of Ministers of African least developed countries with the responsibility of ensuring the co-ordination of efforts, establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981 endorsing the Substantial New Programme of Action for least developed countries adopted by the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1981;

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

Expressing deep concern at the disappointing results of the second meeting of bilateral and multilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with least developed countries in October 1982 in Geneva;

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

Recalling to that effect General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 which inter-alia calls upon donor countries and institutions to implement their commitments, as contained in paragraph 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve substantial increase in resources for the development of least developed countries;

Taking note of the reports of the ECA and UNCTAD secretariats respectively on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in least developed countries, which underline the fact that there was no substantial increase in aid flows to African least developed countries in 1981-1982:

Further taking note of the Libreville declaration of February 1983 by the African Ministers of Trade on the Implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in least developed countries, further endorsed by the preparatory meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires in March 1983,

Bearing in mind the ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 457(XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within the framework of national and collective self-reliance,

1. Reaffirms that the primary responsibility of development rests with the African least developed countries themselves and that external aid is only complementary to domestic efforts for the implementation of the SNPA and not a permanent source of support;
2. Calls upon African least developed countries to intensify their efforts in devising practical measures for mobilizing domestic resources for development and better economic management,
3. Strongly urges developed countries and those developing countries in a position to do so, multilateral development and financing institutions, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations System to take immediate and concrete action to accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for 1980s for the least developed countries,
4. Calls particularly upon donor countries and institutions to implement their commitments with respect to aid flows especially the target of 0.15 per cent of GNP of donor countries for assistance to least developed countries and the doubling of resource flows to least developed countries by 1985,
5. Calls upon donor countries and institutions to take concrete actions to honour their respective commitments made during the country review meetings so far organized and those to be made in future review meetings in order to enable the countries concerned to implement their programmes in the most effective and expeditious ways.

6. Also calls upon donor countries and multilateral development and financial institutions to urgently improve the **quality** and effectiveness of aid to African least developed countries with a view to enabling them to use more effectively and expeditiously the resources made available to them,

7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue to provide assistance to African least developed countries, in collaboration with the lead Agencies, in all aspects of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and in particular to assist (a) in undertaking, upon request by Governments, studies aimed at enabling the African LDCs to mobilize domestic resources for development; (b) in establishing national follow-up mechanisms to the review meetings and monitoring of the implementation of the SNPA; and in general, to **assist** the LDCs attain a self-reliant and self-sustained economic growth and development,

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA to bring to the attention of the sixth session of UNCTAD the contents of this resolution.

ANNEX II

Draft Resolution on the First Round of Review Meetings for the African least developed Countries

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling paragraphs 110 to 116 of the SNPA and General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 recommending strongly that the first round of review meetings at the country level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action should be completed by 1983.

Considering the experience that has so far been obtained from the review meetings that have been completed by six African least developed countries;

Aware that with the additional new five African countries that were admitted to the group of least developed countries in General Assembly resolution 37/133 there are still 20 African least developed countries that have to organize review meetings;

Further aware that the clustering of review meetings to comply with the 1983 deadline will negatively affect their final results;

Noting with concern that the present declining trend in official development assistance to least developed countries is incompatible with the commitments undertaken in the Substantial New Programme of Action;

Convinced that review meeting should serve as a mechanism for reaching concrete decisions between the recipient least developed countries and the donor countries and agencies and not merely a forum for exchanging views on the development needs of individual LDCs, particularly because of the importance which the LDCs attach to these review meetings and the cost incurred in holding them;

1. Calls upon all the African least developed countries that still have to organize review meetings to urgently hold high level consultations among themselves and with the lead agencies with a view to rescheduling and appropriately spacing their individual review meetings if necessary up to the end of 1984 but in any case before the 1985 mid-term review;

2. Calls upon the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider the possibility of making special allowance for African least developed countries to organize their first round of review meetings beyond the time frame recommended in paragraph 114 of the SNPA and in General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 in the light of the outcome of the high level consultations;
3. Requests the African least developed countries to ensure the establishment of an effective follow-up mechanism to the review meetings;
4. Urges the UN system to effectively co-ordinate activities for assisting African least developed countries in preparing review meetings so as to utilize fully the available resources of the various organizations of the UN system;
5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, in collaboration with the lead agencies, to undertake periodically an assessment of the results and effectiveness of review meetings sometimes after they have taken place, and to undertake an overall assessment upon completion of the first round of review meetings;
6. Calls upon member States to ensure during the organization of their individual country review meetings the availability of well-identified projects wherever possible, and to take into effective consideration the regional dimensions of their programmes as provided for in the SNPA;
7. Further calls upon the donor countries, organizations and institutions to ensure effective representation at the country review meetings so that concrete commitments and final decisions could be made;
8. Appeals to other developing countries in a position to do so to participate at appropriate levels at the country review meetings in conformity with the principles and objectives of TCDC and ECDC;
9. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to draw the attention of UNCTAD VI to the contents of this resolution during the discussion of agenda item 12.