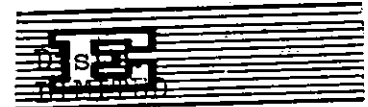


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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Executive Committee
Nineteenth meeting
Arusha, 23-25 October 1978

**THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

1. Established in accordance with United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 671A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, in pursuance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 1155(XII) of 26 November 1957, the Economic Commission for Africa will be twenty-one years old in 1979.
2. At the time of its establishment, the Commission contained only eight member States. Today, it has 49. A long road has thus been travelled and the time seems to have come to prepare a review of the activities of the Commission.
3. The secretariat feels that the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission in 1979 might offer the best opportunity to make such a review.
4. It should first be noted that the Commission has so far celebrated only its tenth anniversary.
5. It is also interesting to note that many events have occurred to alter the political, diplomatic and economic map of Africa and the world.
6. The Commission itself has passed through several phases since its establishment:
 - the first phase was that of gestation and the organization of the secretariat;
 - the second represented the accumulation of economic and social data on the African region, at the same time as the organization of seminars and working groups;

- the third essentially involved the encouragement of economic integration and co-operation;

finally, the current phase, the fourth, is the phase during which, at the request of member States, the Commission is embarking on concrete achievements. This is the operational phase.

7. Concerning the programme of activities to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission, the Executive Committee decided at its eighteenth session held at Khartoum from 2 to 4 May 1978 that:

(a) The participants should consult their Governments and communicate to the secretariat their suggestions on ways and means to improve the programme and, as appropriate, indicate their willingness to host some of the meetings that have been planned, in particular the Conference of Ministers of Transport and Communications and the Regional Symposium on Industrialization;

(b) The question of the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission should be included in the agenda of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU to be held at Khartoum so that the programme finally adopted should have the necessary political support.

8. In accordance with the above decision, the secretariat, in its letter No.160/2 of June 1978, wrote to all member States asking them to communicate their suggestions. As no reply has yet been received by the secretariat, it is hoped that proposals will be made during the current session.

9. Moreover, the secretariat, in collaboration with the general administrative secretariat of OAU, submitted the question of the twenty-first anniversary to the Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU at its session held at Khartoum.

10. After taking note of document M78-1640 containing the programme of activities to mark the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary, the Conference of Heads of State and Government adopted resolution CM/874(XXXI) Add.1 annexed hereto.

11. It should be noted that the Conference on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles scheduled for the beginning of 1979 at Algiers has been postponed at the request of the Government of Algeria.

12. On the other hand, the following dates have been proposed by the secretariat to the Government of Morocco concerning the meetings to be held at Rabat:

12-16 March 1979

Seventh meeting of the Technical
Committee of Experts

14-16 March 1979

- Meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

15 (afternoon) -
16 March 1979

- Meeting of high level officials of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations with special responsibility for development programme in the African region

19-20 (morning) March 1979

- Meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions

20 (afternoon) -
28 March 1979

- Formal opening of the fourteenth session of the Commission and the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers by His Majesty the King of Morocco and the United Nations Secretary-General

29-30 March 1979

- Second ECA Pledging Conference

13. The second Pledging Conference of African Governments in support of the work programme of ECA will represent the closure of the Rabat meetings. The secretariat of the Commission hopes that this second Pledging Conference for voluntary contributions will achieve better results than the first one held at Lagos in April 1977.

14. As a part of the United Nations Decade for Transport and Communications in Africa, two important meetings are scheduled:

- A Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications which will consider the programmes and projects proposed for the Decade, especially for the first two years;

- A Conference of Donors which is to be convened by the Secretary-General to mobilize the resources required for the implementation of the programmes and projects approved for the Decade.

15. In the field of industrialization, it is planned to organize two other important meetings in 1979:

- The Regional Symposium on Industrialization, approved at the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry which was held last year in Kaduna, Nigeria;

- The fifth Conference of African Ministers of Industry which, following the kind invitation of the Government of Uganda, is to be held in Kampala in August 1979 to prepare for the third General Conference of UNIDO scheduled for 1980 at New Delhi.

16. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 2062(LXII) of 12 May 1977 on the preparations for the 1980 World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, a regional conference will be held in 1979 in Lusaka, Zambia. It will offer an excellent opportunity for a comprehensive examination of the role of women in development activities.

17. Information activities will also need to be organized. During 1979, a campaign to create awareness among African opinion concerning the need to encourage economic interdependence and collective self-reliance in Africa is to be undertaken among all the press and information bodies of member States. A documentary film on the activities of ECA in the past 20 years is at present being produced and will be shown in Africa and elsewhere. The secretariat also plans to publish a number of brochures, including a commemorative edition of the Economic and Social Bulletin for Africa. It is also hoped that it will also be possible to issue a commemorative stamp.

18. In addition, during the Rabat conference, the secretariat will organize an exhibition on science and technology for development.

19. To conclude this revised and updated paper, the secretariat would like:

- (a) The nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, the last before the Conference of Ministers at Rabat, to make all possible suggestions to enhance the programme of activities adopted to mark the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission;
- (b) Member States to indicate their readiness to host some of the meetings provided for in the programme;
- (c) Member States to indicate what measures they intend to take at the national or subregional level to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission.

ANNEX

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF ECA (1979)
AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA (1978-1988)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its thirty-first ordinary session in Khartoum, the Sudan, from July 7 to 15, 1978,

Having received and considered the report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the forthcoming twenty-first anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),

Having in particular examined ECA's document E/CN.14/ECO/141, which gives a summary account of how the Commission proposes to celebrate its 21st birthday,

Cognizant of the valuable contribution which the Commission has made and continues to make to the development of Africa in the economic and social fields,

Cognizant also of the imperative need for OAU and ECA to co-operate in promoting Africa's development,

Bearing in mind the co-operation Agreement between OAU and ECA and the determination, many times reiterated, of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa to co-operate closely in order to place their complementary vocations and their experience at the service of the greater socio-economic well-being of the peoples of Africa,

Recalling:

(a) The Charter of OAU, article II, paragraph 2(b) of which provides that member States will co-ordinate and harmonize their general policies, in particular in the field of the economy, transport and communications,

(b) The African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence adopted at Addis Ababa on 25 May 1973 by the African Heads of State and Government and particularly chapters II and IV thereof,

(c) ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 291(XIII) of 26 February 1977 which recommends that the international community should proclaim a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

(d) United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2097(LXIII) of 29 July 1977 by which the United Nations General Assembly was recommended to proclaim the Decade,

Noting General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 endorsing the recommendations made in Conference of Ministers resolution 291(XIII) proclaiming a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for 1978 to 1988,

Aware of the prime importance of transport and communications for the socio-economic development of the African region,

Recalling further resolution ECA(XVIII)/Res.2 1/ of the ECA Executive Committee of 4 March 1978 requesting, inter alia, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take the necessary steps, in collaboration with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to bring the matter of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade before the next meeting of the Organization of African Unity,

A

1. Congratulates ECA on its attainment of the age of 21;
2. Approves the programme of activities contained in the document on the commemoration of the twenty-first anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and in particular:
 - (a) The theme of reflection on "economic interdependence and collective self-reliance in Africa";
 - (b) The holding of a conference on the various possible development systems and life styles for the African region;
 - (c) The organization of a publicity campaign through the press, radio and television in each member State and in co-operation with the ministries of information in order to make all social strata aware of the problems of socio-economic development;
3. MANDATES the Administrative Secretary-General to intensify the co-operation between OAU and ECA both in organizing and servicing the meetings scheduled by ECA in its document E/CN.14/ECO/141 and in other projects intended to promote economic and social development of Africa;
4. URGES all OAU/ECA member States to participate fully in the meetings being organized by the Commission to mark its twenty-first anniversary;
5. COMMANDS both the report of the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU and the report of the Executive Secretary of ECA on this question to the attention of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its fifteenth ordinary session.

1. APPEALS to all member States to:

- (a) Proclaim the Decade at the national and subregional levels so as to make African States aware of its goals;
- (b) Assume an active role in the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

- (c) Join their efforts to mobilize international resources for the implementation of various transportation and communications projects with a view to opening up the various regions of African countries completely, due attention being paid to the special case of the semi-land-locked and land-locked countries, and to facilitate the strengthening of intra-African co-operation;

2. URGES member States to support the Decade in terms both of financial contributions and of the political support which the Economic Commission for Africa would need to pursue its negotiations with the various sources of financing;

3. APPEALS to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the convening of a meeting of donor countries and other institutions as soon as possible for the purpose of mobilizing the resources required for implementing the work programme for the Decade;

4. APPEALS FURTHER to all African regional and intergovernmental organizations, as well as African financing institutions, such as ADB, BADEA, as well as other United Nations institutions to provide every assistance needed for the implementation of the work programme for the Decade;

5. REQUESTS the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to convene jointly by early 1979, a meeting of African ministers concerned with matters relating to transport and communications work and planning to define Africa's global strategy for the development of transport and communications including telecommunications, in the region and to prepare a detailed programme of action for the implementation of the Decade;

6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take all necessary measures to secure the most effective support for the success of the Decade;

7. INVITES the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit annually to the Conference of Heads of State a progress report on the implementation of the Decade.