



UNITED NATIONS

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**NOTICE**

Please note that the date and venue of the Fourteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and the Twenty - eighth session of the Commission / Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers have changed from Libreville, Gabon, 12-16 April 1993 and 19-22 April 1993, respectively, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26-30 April and 3-6 May, respectively.



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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Fourteenth meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the  
Whole

Libreville, Gabon  
12-16 April 1993

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

Twenty-eighth session of the Commission/  
nineteenth meeting of the Conference of  
Ministers

Libreville, Gabon  
19-22 April 1993

**RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
SECTORS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA ADOPTED  
BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1992 AND BY  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS  
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

1. The objective of this document is to report to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) and, through it, to the Conference of Ministers on: (a) the actions taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its second regular session held at New York from 29 June to 31 July 1992 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its eighteenth meeting which called for action by the Council; (b) the decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning those resolutions; and (c) other resolutions and decisions in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa of the Council and the General Assembly adopted during their 1992 sessions.

2. The twenty-seventh session of the Commission/eighteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers had adopted sixteen resolutions and six decisions. Two of these resolutions and two of the decisions called for action by ECOSOC. These were resolution 726 (XXVII) on Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s; resolution 728 (XXVII) on Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: Strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions; decision 1 (XXVII) on Industrial Development Decade for Africa and decision 2 (XXVII) on Implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

Resolution 726 (XXVII): Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s

3. The Council adopted this resolution without amendment.

Resolution 728 (XXVII): Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: Strengthening the role and functions of the regional commissions

4. The Council amended the title of the resolution to read "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: Strengthening the role of the Economic Commission for Africa". The resolution was adopted as amended.

Decision 1 (XXVII): Industrial Development Decade for Africa

5. As ECOSOC had also been presented with a similar resolution by the Non-Aligned Movement entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000)". ECOSOC believed that decision 1 (XXVII) on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was a duplication of the resolution presented by the Non- Aligned Movement. It therefore decided to take note of the ECA decision and adopt the resolution of the Non- Aligned Movement (annex I).

Decision 2 (XXVII): Implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

6. The Council amended and adopted the resolution as presented in the annex.

7. It may be recalled that at its twenty-seventh session, the Commission had received an offer by the Government of Zambia to hold the twenty-eighth session of the Commission/nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers at Lusaka, Zambia, in April 1993. As a rule, that offer had to be approved by ECOSOC. Consequently, it was presented to ECOSOC and was approved. Unfortunately because of the drought affecting Zambia, the Government was not in a position to host the Conference in 1993.

8. Other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by ECOSOC at its regular session of 1992 were: 1992/26: World social situation; 1992/33: Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); 1992/37: International Conference on Population and Development; 1992/41: Technical cooperation among developing countries; 1992/45: Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of

Gibraltar; 1992/53: Summit in the economic advancement of rural women; 1992/54: Cooperation in fisheries in Africa; 1992/56: Development of the energy resources of developing countries.

9. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC should also go to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the above-mentioned ECA resolutions, together with the other resolutions of interest to Africa which were adopted by ECOSOC, were transmitted to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

10. Among the resolutions and decisions adopted by the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, together with those adopted by ECOSOC, which are of interest to Africa, were ECA's resolutions and decisions referred to above.

11. In adopting ECOSOC resolution 1992/44 on the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA-II), the General Assembly had decided to adjust the period for the programme to cover the years 1993-2002. There will be no additional resources allocated to the activities of the second IDDA.

12. As for ECOSOC decision 1992/294 on the implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communication Decade in Africa, the General Assembly took note of the report of ECOSOC. No action was taken since in decision 1992/294, ECOSOC had decided to affirm its resolution 1991/83 of July 1991 for which resources had been allocated by the General Assembly in December 1991.

13. The following are some of the other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly: International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola; Assistance to Benin, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Chad, Djibouti; Special assistance to the Front-line States; Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia, Mozambique; Humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia; and Emergency assistance to the Sudan. Also adopted by the General Assembly were resolutions on International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries; Implications of the application of the new criteria for identifying the least developed countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; Privatization in the context of economic restructuring; Economic growth and sustainable development; Specific measures in favour of island developing countries; Net transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries; Food and agriculture; and The international debt crisis and development: Enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries.

Annex1992/43. Strengthening the role of the regional commissionsThe Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 46/145 of 17 December 1991 on regional economic integration among developing countries, and other relevant Assembly resolutions,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, including his views on the role of the regional commissions within the framework of an integrated approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system.

Bearing in mind that regional economic integration is important in expanding trade and investment, particularly in developing countries, and that regional economic integration has the potential to strengthen global economic and social development.

1. Urges the regional commissions to take steps to enable them fully to play their role in assisting their member States, in particular the developing countries, to promote accelerated and sustainable development through an integrated approach;
2. Recommends that, when preparing regional technical cooperation programmes, all relevant bodies of the United Nations development system coordinate their work with the regional commissions with a view to achieving a better and more focused use of available resources, greater coherence of action and, therefore, greater and more concentrated impact;
3. Also recommends that the regional commissions participate fully in the programme budget process at United Nations Headquarters;
4. Urges that priority setting for programming should take fully into account the views of member States;
5. Also urges the regional commissions, at the request of member States, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with the Cartagena commitment, to contribute to the identification, preparation and implementation of specific projects to facilitate economic integration and to submit them to bilateral donors, regional economic integration organizations, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration;
6. Requests each regional commission to study the possibility of assisting member States, as appropriate, to participate fully and effectively at the sessions of the regional commissions;
7. Stresses the role and important contribution of the regional commissions, within their mandates, in the follow-up and implementation of the decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular those contained in Agenda 21;
8. Stresses further the importance of the regional commissions being part of the continued reform process in the economic and social fields, bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/264 and 46/235;
9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council at its substantive session of 1993 on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

1992/44. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1991-2000

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 1991-2000, the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and Assembly decision 46/458 of 20 December 1991 on the programme for the Second Decade,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which identifies the Second Decade as a major programme for African regional economic integration,

Recalling further its resolution 1991/81 of 26 July 1991 on the Second Decade,

Stressing the need to integrate the programme for the Second Decade into the overall framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in particular the commitment of African countries and the international community to promote domestic and foreign direct investment in Africa, as reflected in the relevant paragraphs of the New Agenda,

Recalling the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Considering resolution GC.4/Res.8 of 22 November 1991 of the fourth General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in which the General Conference adopted the programme for the Second Decade as one of the top priority programmes of that organization and recommended its adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992,

Considering also resolution 739 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, in which the Conference of Ministers adopted the programme for the Second Decade, and decision 1 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992, in which the Conference of Ministers recommended the adoption of the programme by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992, and the provision to the Economic Commission for Africa of adequate resources to enable it to support the African countries and subregional organizations in the implementation of their programmes for the Second Decade,

Cognizant of the appeal made by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, in resolution AHG/CM/Res.1399 (LVI) of 1 July 1992, to the General Assembly to adopt, at its forty-seventh session, the programme for the Second Decade, and of the endorsement by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the programme,

1. Endorses the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, including the national, subregional and regional components;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, adopt the programme for the Second Decade;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly adjust the period for the programme for the Second Decade, established in its resolution 44/237, to cover the years 1993-2002;

4. Takes note of the efforts already undertaken in Africa to establish an environment to attract domestic and foreign investment, calls for further efforts in this regard and urges the international

community to take the necessary steps to encourage direct foreign investment and support the policy changes undertaken in African countries;

5. Recommends that the General Assembly urge the African countries, financial institutions and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to adopt an integrated approach to the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, taking full account of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

6. Recommends also that the General Assembly urge the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the institutions and agencies of the United Nations system, the African States and subregional and regional organizations to integrate the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in the implementation of the Second Decade;

7. Appeals to the international community, particularly bilateral and multilateral funding institutions, to increase significantly their contributions to the industrial sector in African countries so as to ensure the successful and sustained implementation of the programme for the Second Decade;

8. Urges international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank, to ensure full support for the programme for the Second Decade and the effective implementation of that programme at the national and subregional levels;

9. Reiterates its recommendations that the General Assembly provide the Economic Commission for Africa with adequate resources to enable it to assist African countries and organizations effectively in the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

1992/51. Strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958, and amended by resolutions 974 D (XXXVI), section I, of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling also the various resolutions that have implications on the mandate and operations of the Commission, including, in particular, General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and Assembly resolutions 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and 44/211 of 21 December 1989,

Recalling further the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1991/302 of 26 July 1991 of resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which it was stated that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and that those regional commissions located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Reiterating the validity of the general orientation of the programme of work of the Commission, as outlined in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, including the identified individual subprogrammes,

Convinced that the many and important changes that are taking place in the member States of the Commission, in the international environment and in the United Nations system as a whole will necessitate new approaches by the Commission in carrying out its mandate and new relationships with its constituency and partners, with a view to increasing its impact,

Having examined the in-depth analysis made by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Commission as contained in the document entitled "The Economic Commission for Africa in the 1990s: a policy and management framework for facing Africa's development challenges",

1. Congratulates the Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for taking the initiative to establish a task force to review and appraise the policy orientation, programmes and management capacity of the Commission and for his excellent analysis of the pertinent issues and the useful and innovative proposals he has made;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure that there is a clear and concrete balance between the research and operational activities of the secretariat of the Commission and to focus all such activities on the specific realities and characteristics of the African region and on individual subregions;

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure that its activities are fully grounded in sound data and information systems, through the strengthening of the Pan-African Information and Documentation System (PADIS) and providing it with adequate financial resources;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to ascertain that the implementation of all subprogrammes contained in the programme of work of the Commission is solidly based on the full attainment of the identified basic indicators of achievement of the objectives of the Commission, namely, strengthening the advisory role of the Commission on socio-economic questions; promoting regional cooperation and integration; enhancing the efficiency of the public sector; promoting private initiatives and entrepreneurship; development, dissemination and utilization of science and technology; ensuring a desirable balance between food supply, population, human settlements and environment; fostering human-centred development; achieving structural transformation and diversification of African economies; and promotion of women in development;

5. Welcomes the process of frequent and close consultations of the secretariat with member States and donors, including with their representatives at Addis Ababa, through regular briefing sessions;

6. Recommends the establishment, within existing resources, of a consultative mechanism that would advise the Executive Secretary on the grouping of conferences along specific themes, including the scheduling and preparation of conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops, taking into account the need to harmonize them with those of the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank to avoid duplication and achieve greater efficiency;

7. Urges the Executive Secretary to explore all possibilities to establish or strengthen the relationships of the Commission with African intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies and non-governmental organizations, including, in particular, the possibility of establishing joint units or special programmes with the specialized agencies, and the creation of a special unit within the secretariat of the Commission to coordinate the increased joint activities of the Commission with non-governmental organizations;

8. Expresses appreciation to the General Assembly for providing additional resources to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and, consequently, recommends that, in conformity with resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on transforming and strengthening the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Commission, the Centres should be further strengthened through the redeployment of resources, should be given specific assignments with respect to technical assistance and advisory services for the execution of joint projects of member States within the framework of the intergovernmental organizations in their respective subregions, and should be enabled to act as the major subregional focal points for collecting and disseminating information on all aspects of economic cooperation and integration;

9. Also expresses its gratitude to the General Assembly for providing the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning with four additional posts for the biennium 1992-1993, thus enabling the Institute to contribute to the process of strengthening the operational capacity of the Commission in meeting the challenges facing Africa in the 1990s, and requests the redeployment of resources which would enable the Institute to assume additional responsibility;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to undertake a thorough examination of the problems and constraints facing the institutions sponsored by the Commission and subsequently make concrete proposals aimed at alleviating the different problems and consider alternative solutions such as merging some of the institutions;

11. Appeals to bilateral and multilateral donors to increase their financial and other forms of assistance to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities to member States in the form of extrabudgetary operational activities;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake, as necessary, reforms in the structure of the secretariat so as to achieve full consistency with the new orientations recommended in the present resolution and attain greater efficiency and increased capacity for the secretariat to serve as an effective organ for the economic and social development of Africa;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its nineteenth meeting.

1992/52. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: strengthening the role and functions of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958, and amended by resolutions 974 D (XXXVI), section I, of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling also its decision 1991/302 of 26 July 1991, in which the Council endorsed Conference of Ministers resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which it was stated that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

and that those regional commissions located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Convinced that the Economic Commission for Africa plays a vital catalytic role in the coordination and execution of intercountry programmes and projects aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and integration, especially by fostering the goals of the African Economic Community,

1. Reaffirms the continuing validity of the role of the regional commissions as important organs of the United Nations for promoting the socio-economic development of their respective regions;

2. Appeals to the Secretary-General that, in the context of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, due recognition is accorded to the vital role of the regional commissions.

1992/292. Venue of the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission

At its forty-second plenary meeting, on 31 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council decided that the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Commission should be held at Lusaka in April 1993.

1992/293. Industrial development in Africa

At its forty-second plenary meeting, on 31 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council took note of decision 1 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on industrial development in Africa.

1992/294. Implementation of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

At its forty-second plenary meeting, on 31 July 1992, the Economic and Social Council, having taken note of the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole as it relates to the progress report on the implementation of the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, decided:

(a) To urge member States to establish national coordination committees and to revitalize their operation where they exist;

(b) To affirm its resolution 1991/83 of 26 July 1991, by which it invited the General Assembly to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the necessary regular budgetary resources to enable it to carry out its responsibilities as the lead agency for the Second Decade effectively and efficiently.