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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION 25 (III)

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION 25(III)

1. The text of Resolution 25(III) International action for commodity price stabilization is as follows:-

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Recognizing that African countries account for a significant share of world trade in certain primary commodities,

Realizing the need to minimize wide fluctuations in the world prices of commodities by national and international action,

Aware of the role already being played by the specialized agencies, as well as by other interested parties, to promote price stabilization,

Further recognizing the need for urgent concerted action by African countries aimed at stabilizing the world prices of these commodities,

Having considered the document entitled "International action for commodity stabilization and the role of Africa" (E/CN.14/68),

1. Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the United Nations bodies and agencies concerned, to call a meeting of African primary producing countries to consider the position of the agricultural commodities of main interest to them and on which action is most urgent, and to place before such a meeting detailed studies on the stabilization of these commodities;

2. Invites such a meeting to consider and recommend further studies and concerted action to the Commission and to the Governments concerned with a view to obtaining greater world price stabilization of these commodities, including provision for such consultations as are necessary with producing countries in other regions and with importing countries.

2. In response to this resolution the following action has so far been taken:

(a) Consultation with United Nations bodies and agencies:

Discussions have been held with United Nations Headquarters on arrangements for the proposed meeting. Documentation is being prepared in New York on mechanisms for the internal stabilization of the prices of agricultural export commodities. Similar consultation has been conducted with the Food and Agriculture Organization and a programme of work initiated on documentation, on stabilization methods and on commodity studies in preparation for the meeting. As an outcome of these consultations which are continuing, the arrangements outlined below have been proposed.

(b) Tentative arrangements for a meeting of African countries:

(i) Countries to be invited: It is proposed to convene a meeting of 15 to 20 African countries which are relatively large exporters of agricultural commodities, which have marketing arrangements for export crops and which depend to a significant extent on one or more agricultural exports.

(ii) Commodities to be considered: It is proposed that discussion be concentrated on the main export crops of Africa for which the region accounts for a significant share of world exports i.e. vegetable oil and oilseeds, long staple cotton, coffee, cocoa and sisal.

(iii) Preliminary agenda: The following items may be included: national measures for the internal stabilization of prices of principal export crops; sub-regional or regional measures that are being carried out or could result from joint action by African countries, and international price stabilization measures including agreements of interest to African countries and action which African countries might take to modify or initiate agreements. The meeting might also wish to propose further meetings on specific commodities.

(iv) Representatives: It is suggested that governments should be represented at the meeting by officials responsible for commodity, stabilization and export policies, including officials concerned with marketing of specific products.

(v) Documentation: Papers are being prepared on the role of marketing boards and other marketing arrangements in internal price stabilization of export crops. Studies have been made on groundnuts and others are being conducted on the other commodities listed under (iii) above. Participating governments would be asked to prepare and submit papers on the practical problems and on the methods they employ.

(vi) Date and duration: It has been tentatively proposed that the meeting be held in June 1962 prior to the meeting of the Economic and Social Council and should last approximately one week.

(vii) Place: The Executive Secretary is negotiating for a suitable site and host government.

3. The proposals outlined above would be an important initial step clearing the way for more specific action in the light of current trends in commodity supplies, prices and markets. Resolution 25(III) makes recommendations for follow-up action of this kind in the form of further studies and concerted action and for consultations with producing and importing countries in other regions.

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