

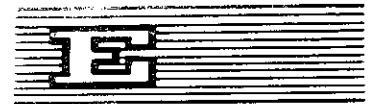


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REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS
(Addis Ababa, 11-16 December 1978)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK - - - - -		1
Opening of the session - - - - -	1 - 13	1
Attendance - - - - -	14 - 17	3
Election of officers - - - - -	18 - 19	3
B. AGENDA - - - - -	20	3
C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS - - - - -	-	4
The indigenization of African economies (Agenda item 5)	21 - 32	4
The search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the work being undertaken in the ECA secretariat in that context (Agenda item 6) - - -	33 - 49	7
Planning for environmentally sound development (Agenda item 7) - - - - -	50 - 56	10
A proposal for an interregional action programme by ECA and ECLA for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Latin America and Africa (Agenda item 8) - - - - -	57 - 65	12
Follow up to decisions taken in the sixth session of the Conference (Agenda item 9) - - - - -	66	14
Some institutional aspects of development planning (Agenda item 10) - - - - -	67	14
(a) ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres - a progress report - - - - -	68 - 78	14
(b) United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning - - - - -	79 - 84	16

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont'd.)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
(c) Review of ECA activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies 1977-1978 and proposed work programme for 1979-1983 - - - - -	85 - 90	18
Agenda for the eighth session of the Conference of African Planners in 1980 (Agenda item 11) - - -	91	19
Other business (Agenda item 12) - - - - -	92	19
Adoption of the report and closure of the session	93	19
Resolution 1 (VII) - - - - -	-	20-21
Resolution 2 (VII) - - - - -	-	22

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Opening of the session

1. The seventh session of the Conference of African Planners was held at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa from 11 to 16 December 1978. The session was opened by Mr. Simon M. Mbilinyi, United Republic of Tanzania, who had been Chairman of the Conference at its sixth session.
2. After the formal opening of the Conference, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA pointed out that the agenda of the seventh session was both heavy and important in that it included several new topics over and above the normal agenda items. However, some of the studies which the secretariat had hoped to undertake in line with the recommendations of the sixth session had not been carried out because of insufficient time and resources.
3. The indigenization of African economies, he said, was a challenge for African developing countries, as political independence was meaningless without economic independence. To be meaningful, the indigenization of an economy should comprise three basic elements - indigenization of personnel, indigenization of ownership and indigenization of control including technology. Indigenization should be a means of increasing production in order to improve the quantity, quality and distribution of output. It was also a means of achieving self-reliance and self-sustained growth and greater efficiency in the use of domestic resources.
4. While some progress had been made in the Africanization of the civil service, it was in the indigenization of control, including in particular technology, that developing Africa had made rather limited progress. It seemed that the indigenization of control was sometimes confused with nationalization and in fact some African countries had unintentionally pursued a form of indigenization that actually perpetuated dependence.
5. A strategy for indigenization should aim at restructuring the economy. Full indigenization could not be achieved merely by making changes in the pattern of ownership while leaving certain structural features of an economy, such as its outward orientation and poor internal linkages, intact.
6. Turning to the document on the search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.14/CAP.7/3), he outlined some of the shortcomings of the present strategy. In particular, he stressed the vagueness of some of the objectives and the insufficiency of policy instruments and political commitments. There was need for new insight into the nature of Africa's development not only for determining desirable models but also for establishing coherent policy instruments. As a first step towards that goal, the secretariat had designed a macro projection model to be adapted to individual countries and simulated under alternative sets of scenarios. The model had been tested in eight African countries, and participants were asked to give the secretariat guidance in that connexion.

7. The Executive Secretary stated that the item on planning for environmentally sound development had been included in the agenda at the request of the secretariat of UNEP. He paid tribute to the work of UNEP and felt that the information presented helped to clarify the relationship between environment and development.

8. With regard to the interregional action programme between ECA and ECLA, the time had come for African countries to initiate efforts to expand meaningful technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America.

9. The Executive Secretary referred to developments in the five MULPOCs which functioned under the aegis of the ECA and paid tribute to UNDP for its generous financial contributions.

10. With regard to the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), he reminded participants that the statute governing the operation of the Institute had been revised by the ECA Executive Committee at its eighteenth meeting held in Khartoum in May 1978 and now specified that the annual report should include an audited statement covering all income and expenditure. ECA was now the executing agency for the Institute, and a well defined set of administrative instructions had been drawn up.

11. In conclusion, he referred to an OAU/ECA seminar on perspectives of development and economic growth up to the year 2000 scheduled to take place in Monrovia, Liberia, from 12 to 16 February 1979, to an ECA/UNEP seminar on alternative patterns of development and life styles in Africa scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979 and to the ECA twenty-first anniversary celebrations to be held in the first quarter of 1979.

12. The Executive Secretary of ECLA greeted the Conference of African Planners on behalf of the Conference of Planners of Latin America and stressed that his visit to ECA provided an exceptional opportunity to continue the dialogue and pursue the horizontal co-operation which were essential between regional bodies such as ECA and ECLA since they led to co-ordination of efforts and to mutual development and helped to overcome some of the limitations now handicapping development. There was need to create institutions designed to further horizontal co-operation and the ECLA secretariat had already formulated some proposals regarding co-operation between Latin America and both Asia and Africa. In that connexion he felt that some restructuring of the United Nations regional organizations was needed to make them better able to tackle the tasks facing them. He was very favourably impressed by the approaches to indigenization and the new development strategy reflected in the two papers presented to the Conference on those subjects.

13. New elements had been introduced into planning in Latin America to make it more relevant. Market forces failed to take account of social requirements. There were still tremendous social imbalances in Latin American countries and, despite the high economic growth rate recorded, one third of the region's population was still living in poverty. Planning must necessarily include the restructuring of State institutions and should not be considered in terms of a fixed scenario. The international economy was in a state of recession and that fact had also to be taken into account.

Attendance

14. The Conference was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta and Zaire.

15. Observers were present from Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

16. The following United Nations bodies were also represented by observers: The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank.

17. The following intergovernmental organisations were also represented: the African Development Bank (ADB), the Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the European Economic Community (EEC), the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), the Mano River Union, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Common African and Mauritian Organization (OCAM), Planning and Development of Kagera River Basin and the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC).

Election of officers

18. The Conference elected Mr. Gilbert Chikelu (Nigeria) as Chairman and Mr. Rugaravu Apollinaire (Rwanda) as Vice-Chairman.

19. It also set up a drafting committee comprising the representatives of Algeria, Gabon, Nigeria (Chairman) and Uganda.

B. AGENDA

20. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

- 1) Opening of the session
- 2) Statement by the Executive Secretary
- 3) Election of officers
- 4) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the Conference

- 5) The indigenization of African economies (E/CN.14/CAP.7/2)
- 6) The search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and work being undertaken in the ECA secretariat in that context (E/CN.14/CAP.7/3)
- 7) Planning for environmentally sound development (E/CN.14/CAP.7/4)
- 8) A proposal for an Interregional Action Programme of ECA and ECLA for the promotion of Technical and Economic Co-operation between Latin America and Africa (E/CN.14/CAP.7/6)
- 9) Follow up to decisions taken at the sixth session of the Conference held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 29 October 1976 (E/CN.14/CAP.7/8)
- 10) Some institutional aspects of development planning
- 11) Agenda for the eighth session of the Conference of African Planners in 1980
- 12) Other business
- 13) Adoption of the report

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

The indigenization of African economies (Agenda item 5)

21. The representative of the secretariat briefly summarized document (E/CN.14/CAP.7/2) which formed the basis of agenda item 5. A large number of participants commended the secretariat on the high quality of the document and its comprehensive coverage of indigenization policies.

22. It was generally agreed that planning for indigenization represented a challenge for African developing countries since political independence was meaningless without economic independence. Policies should cover not only the Africanization of personnel but also that of ownership and control including technology. Indigenization was considered not as an end in itself but as a means by which productivity could be increased and the quality, quantity and distribution of output from existing and potential factor inputs improved. It was a practical means by which self-reliance and self-sustained growth could be achieved. Indigenization was interpreted as part and parcel of an over-all national development strategy designed to ensure self-reliance and self-sustainment through the efficient utilization of domestic resources, both human and material as well as social equity. In essence, such a strategy should therefore aim at the restructuring of the economy to ensure participative development and sectoral integration.

23. It was observed that, while the document covered four case studies, reference was also made to the experience gained in many other African member States. Nevertheless, it was felt that more country case studies should be undertaken subject to resource availability. It was further noted that the term indigenization as defined in the document simply meant indigenization in a country sense for example Sudanization in the case of the Sudan, Kenyanization in the case of Kenya, Nigerianization in the case of Nigeria, etc.; in short, localization of ownership of enterprises and localization of jobs. Some representatives suggested that the term indigenization should be widened to include the replacement of foreign interests by African ones. Other representatives stated that in fact that suggestion broadened the term indigenization beyond what was currently implied in national legislation. However, it was agreed that it was necessary to study what measures were needed to foster collective self-reliance and regional co-operation among African countries in order to widen markets to promote greater efficiency among African enterprises.

24. It was generally agreed that policies for the indigenization or Africanization of economies should not be viewed in isolation from national development strategies, as stressed in the document, and that they should form part and parcel of over-all economic development strategies. Many participants felt that indigenization should not merely be confined to specific sectors but should embrace all types of economic activity and all economic sectors. It was felt that the political backing and commitment of Governments were crucial if an indigenization strategy was to be effective and that an effective strategy should encompass not only short-term, but also medium- and long-term development objectives. In that connexion it was pointed out that in-depth studies were essential for identifying possible bottlenecks and problems in the indigenization process.

25. It had been noted by some participants that while there could be an initial decline in productivity following indigenization, such policies did not necessarily lead in the long run to a decline in the rate of economic growth. Others pointed out that, in the case of their own countries, their economies had experienced a slight drop in production and as a result short-term sacrifices had been necessary. The expansion of domestic markets to increase effective demand was considered to be essential to enhance the effectiveness of the indigenization process. Some representatives questioned the premise that the decline in productivity was not necessarily an obstacle to the indigenization process. The fear of a decline in productivity in the particular country was, in fact, the real hindrance to the effective implementation of the localization process.

26. As regards the financing of indigeneous enterprises, it was pointed out that financial institutions were generally reluctant to meet the credit needs of nationals and created effective barriers thereto by imposing stringent conditions. Some representatives pointed out that the financing of indigeneous enterprises certainly created considerable difficulties in the initial stages. It was generally agreed that financing indigenization was sometimes a costly exercise. Individual countries should indicate specifically which types of enterprise affected by indigenization policies should be given priority in the allocation of funds.

27. It was pointed out that, in general, the quality of goods produced in Africa was not of a high enough standard for exports to be possible. Standards must be raised and in that regard the manpower training aspect of indigenization was crucial. Since most African markets were small and highly fragmented and since there was only very limited intra-African trade, the economic impact of which was very uneven, more effective economic co-operation among African countries was vital to ensure that indigenization at the subregional and regional levels became more effective.

28. It was considered that the Africanization of factors of production, though crucial, was not the only issue which should be considered. Productivity should certainly be raised, as should the level of industrialization. It should be remembered that total sectoral integration of the economy would help to reduce those inescapable costs of indigenization and also allow the benefits of increased production to reach the masses, many of whom still lived in poverty.

29. There was a general consensus that, to be effective, an indigenization strategy must try to influence the way of life of all the people of the country concerned. Ideas, beliefs and traditions would have to be fundamentally affected in such a way as to ensure full and effective popular participation in the development process. Without such popular participation growth was possible but there could be not self-sustained development or social justice.

30. The representative of WHO emphasized that the approach of his organization was localization, decentralization and regionalization. An attempt was being made to spread the network of health development centres for training, research and services. In the development of locally produced inputs in the health and social fields, emphasis was being placed on intermediate or, more specifically, appropriate technology making use of local raw materials and skills. He gave numerous illustrations of how through appropriate technology indigeneous local materials and techniques could be used in water supply, medicines, energy, etc., all to the benefit of the health and wealth of the community concerned.

31. A member of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/CAP.7/10 which evaluated some manpower development policies and strategies applied in various African countries. On the basis of what still remained to be Africanized the paper suggested a number of proposals for consideration at the national and intra-African levels to help to indigenize or Africanize the remaining expatriate-held posts in African economies. The paper was noted with interest and appreciation.

32. The observer from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that his delegation considered the training of national personnel to be one of the most important elements in the indigenization of African economies and that Soviet organizations were prepared to continue their constructive co-operation with African bodies concerned with training African specialists in planning and other disciplines. Such co-operation could be effected on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, the multilateral co-operation being effected through the Economic Commission for Africa.

The search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the work being undertaken in the ECA secretariat in that context (Agenda item 6)

33. The representative of the secretariat briefly summarized document E/CN.14/CAP.7/3 which formed the basis for the discussions on agenda item 6. The document was divided into two parts. Part I summarized the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade as an introduction to its critique and then briefly reviewed trends in thinking within and outside the United Nations system during the 1970s. Part II covered the work completed or in progress in that context in the ECA secretariat. An annex to the paper gave a mathematical representation of the econometric model being developed in the secretariat.
34. Participants congratulated the secretariat on the document and the work undertaken in the secretariat to date in the field of forecasting and projections. They commended the clear and lucid identification of the crucial issues involved in the search for an effective African contribution to the elaboration of an international development strategy for the 1980s.
35. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the starting point for Africa in the preparations for the formulation of a development strategy had been the adoption of the African Strategy for the next decade and beyond by the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa at an extraordinary meeting held at Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 February 1976 (document E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3).
36. The Conference also reiterated that the principal elements in the strategy to achieve those objectives were the promotion of agricultural production, rural transformation and basic industrialization, enlargement of markets through close economic co-operation or integration among African States and the restructuring of trade between Africa and the outside world.
37. Participants referred to the shortcomings of the Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. It was questioned whether the assumption of continued asymmetrical dependence of developing countries on the developed ones and the hoped-for improvement in the general international economic situation would raise the growth rate in the developing countries and lead to a trickle-down effect, raising incomes of those below the poverty lines in such countries. Such a process had not materialized. The international economic situation had deteriorated, a world recession had begun in 1973/1974 and little progress had been achieved in the concerted action required to increase the involvement of the developing countries in international trade.

38. A number of participants referred to the aspirational character of the Strategy, the lack of any contractual obligations and of any provisions for contingencies and unforeseen circumstances. There had also been a lack of appropriate measures to assist certain groups of countries and there was also a general vagueness about some of the objectives of the Strategy. The emphasis in the Strategy on externally-oriented rather than inward-looking development in the developing countries was also stressed. The example of the utilization of agricultural land for export rather than for food production was observed as one factor behind the poor growth rate in the agricultural sector.

39. The work of the secretariat in response to General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX) and subsequent Economic and Social Council resolutions was highly appreciated by participants. The work was designed to help to provide a starting point for the formulation of the new international development strategy. The preliminary specifications of a projection model to be adapted to the conditions and structures of individual member States of the ECA was discussed, together with the trial results of projections and forecasts for a sample of eight African countries. The results of the forecasts and projections were considered satisfactory. However, a number of suggestions were made on the model to assist the secretariat in refining and improving it for future work.

40. While it was noted the model was basically sound and useful, it was felt that attempts should be made to incorporate social objectives into the model subject to the availability of quantitative information. In addition it was hoped that the model would be further adapted to the specific characteristics and problems of individual African countries. More specifically it was suggested that:-

(a) the Harrod-Domar production function should be re-examined in the light of the importance of agriculture in the economic structure of most African countries and also of skilled labour;

(b) further disaggregation into sectoral variables might be necessary provided data were available;

(c) agricultural output should be examined more exhaustively; and

(d) the problem of an appropriate base year should be looked into again bearing in mind the need to have a common base for aggregation at the regional level but at the same time taking account of the particular events in certain countries which might make certain years unrepresentative.

41. It was noted that Africa's strategy for the 1980s and beyond emphasized the very important objectives of promoting self-reliance, accelerating internally located and autonomous processes of growth, regional co-operation and the progressive eradication of mass poverty and unemployment. All those important objectives had been taken into consideration in the projection scenarios proposed by the secretariat. Human resource development must however be given proper emphasis. Along with the basic elements required to attain the objectives of Africa's strategy, specific recommendations were required to cover the identification and use of national resources, control of trans-national corporations, and the need to change the structure of economies.

42. It was agreed that the work should be extended to other countries and that the eighth session of the Conference should be held early in 1980 inter alia to discuss and evaluate the findings of the projection work in connexion with the search for an international strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

43. The representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs stressed the usefulness and significance of the deliberations in the Conference, the African regional strategy and the valuable work carried out by ECA in response to the requests and recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX). He pointed out that the work done by the ECA, together with that of other regional commissions, were component parts of the co-ordinated effort of the United Nations system. It was noted that a new strategy would no doubt emphasize the acceleration of economic growth, the expansion of agricultural and industrial production, the diversification of economic structures, the improvement in the terms of trade, a steady and assured transfer of resources to the developing countries, equitable distribution of income and the improvement of living conditions for the majority of the population. All these elements ran parallel to the African strategy for the 1980s and beyond.

44. It was further noted that a new structure was needed to govern the trade of developing countries in primary products; that concerted effort was also required by both the developing and the developed countries to achieve the Lima target for industrialization and to bring about a new framework of international financial co-operation, and that the impact of those measures on the developing countries would be enhanced when the concept of collective self-reliance took its rightful place in the new international economic order.

45. With regard to the preparatory work for a new international development strategy, the representative of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs stated that the Committee for Development Planning, in its report on its fourteenth session, had included preliminary thoughts on the strategy and had agreed on a programme of work for its coming session in March 1979. Meanwhile, a joint programme of research had already been discussed and agreed upon by all the organization within the United Nations system. Accordingly, those organizations had taken the necessary steps towards pooling their expertise, the preparation of sectoral and global long-term studies, the adoption of common working assumptions and the elaboration of a common framework for their specific contributions to the Strategy. He also stated that the framework of that effort had already been discussed and approved at the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Finally, he reported that work was already under way and, as soon as the results became available, they would be submitted to the relevant bodies for their deliberation.

46. The representative of WHO outlined the programme of his organization between now and 1981 to develop a health strategy for the next development decade. That strategy would be part of the effort leading to the attainment of health for all by the year 2000 in order that all might lead socially and economically productive lives. The targets in the 1980s would be a full range of vaccinations to all children by the year 1990, better water and sanitation facilities for all by year 1990 and adequate nutrition services to children and mothers; greater availability of essential drugs was also aimed for. The UNICEF representative drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the year 1979 had been designated as the International Year of the Child.

47. While noting the need for aggregative projection models, the representative of UNEP emphasized the importance of formulating a strategy designed to improve the quality of life of the masses on a sustainable and environmentally sound basis. Targets should be set for both developed and developing countries and, wherever possible, for groups of countries; there should also be a mechanism for monitoring the achievement of the targets during the implementation of the strategy. While the next strategy should provide for rapid industrialization in Africa, environmental factors should also be taken into account in the process of industrial development in order to avoid the emergence of serious environmental problems.

48. The observer of the Soviet Union stressed that the Strategy should be aimed at securing the fundamental long-term interests of developing countries and must define, with due regard to specific national conditions, policy guidelines in the areas of planning, industrialization, agricultural development and the social and economic reforms required. The tasks of economic growth should not be separated from the social aspects of development.

49. The representative of ILO discussed the concept of a basic needs strategy for development. The concept of basic needs was not new covering as it did the satisfaction of certain minimum requirements for a family such as adequate food, shelter, clothing, etc. and the provision of essential services by and for the community at large such as safe drinking water, sanitation, health, educational facilities and public transport. Provision of employment was one of its important constituents. There was no conflict between the concept of basic needs and growth. The concept of basic needs was a growth-oriented approach attaching special importance to the product-mix and to distribution. However the fruits of growth needed to be shared equitably by all. The basic needs approach emphasized the development of agriculture and the need to increase investment in rural areas. Industrialization in that context emphasized the adoption of appropriate technology. It would result in a faster rate of industrialization by stimulating the production of mass consumer goods and using domestic resources. Planners were urged to give serious consideration to the basic needs approach and endeavour to incorporate its elements in their development strategies.

Planning for environmentally sound development (Agenda item 7)

50. In discussing the relationship between environment and development, the UNEP representative pointed out that the paper presented by his organization entitled "Environment and development including irrational and wasteful use of natural resources and eco-development" (UNEP/GC/102) was the outcome of UNEP's efforts to clarify the relationship between environment and development and also to move towards guidelines for the more rational use of natural resources to meet the goals of development. He stressed that the protection and improvement of the human environment must be regarded as an important aspect of development and of the current efforts to enhance the quality of life.

51. Protection of the environment should be one of the development objectives of any society. Development was designed to improve the quality of life of man, and the deterioration in man's environment must be seen as detracting from the objectives of development. Similarly, development which destroyed environment could not be sustained in the long run. UNEP believed that developmental and environmental objectives were compatible and that the guiding principle in designing development plans should be "development without destruction", a concept which was particularly important in Africa with its variety of natural resources. There was need to exploit those resources rationally to raise living standards, for there was a difference between rational exploitation and exploitation which destroyed the environment.

52. In its continuing search for advice on environmentally sound development strategies UNEP intended to work with the regional commissions in organizing seminars on alternative patterns of development and life styles. The findings of such seminars would form part of UNEP's contribution to the special session of the General Assembly on development scheduled to be held in 1980 and to the new international development strategy.

53. In an effort to inject the environmental dimension into development planning, an agreement had recently been concluded between UNEP and ECA, under which provision was made for the two bodies to co-operate in a programme to introduce environmental factors into the activities of ECA.

54. Many of the participants commended UNEP for preparing document UNEP/GC/102 and the other two documents submitted along with it (UNEP/IG.4/3 and UNEP/IG.4/4). The contents of all those documents would be useful to Governments in formulating development plans and policies. It was felt that special emphasis should be laid on efforts to protect the environment in developing countries of Africa, whose environmental problems included those related to the provision of water and sanitation. There was also a great need to promote awareness of the ecological consequences of development programmes among those responsible for selecting projects and deciding on the location of industries. Such decisions were too frequently based on political considerations rather than on economic and environmental factors. Training was also important for a better understanding of environmental hazards, and countries should co-operate in such training. Some participants felt that there was need for UNEP to identify priority environmental issues in the African context. In particular, stress was laid on the advantages of environmental protection in preventing some of the diseases which were common in Africa, and it was pointed out that the prevention of such diseases would result in sizable savings on medical expenses.

55. The importance of including environmental programmes in the planning process was stressed, and the view was expressed that environmental management and development planning should not be seen as separate exercises. In that respect it was noted that environmental problems were not only due to growth as in the developed countries but were also closely related to the underdevelopment inherited by African countries. Planners should take due recognition of those problems in

allocating development resources. Moreover, contiguous countries should co-operate in protecting their common environment and in minimizing cross frontier pollution.

56. The observer from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted the urgent need to plan for the conservation and rational use of natural resources, and to give priority to measures aimed at enabling African countries to control the exploitation of their natural resources more effectively. Appropriate legislation in the field of environmental protection, control over the exploitation on mineral resources and the rational location of industrial and other enterprises were of particular importance. He assured participants that Soviet organizations were prepared to help African countries in the environmental aspects of planning.

A proposal for an Interregional Action Programme by ECA and ECLA for the Promotion of Technical and Economic Co-operation between Latin America and Africa (Agenda item 8)

57. Agenda item 8 was introduced by the Executive Secretary of ECLA who explained that the paper before the Conference (E/CN.14/CAP.7/6) was a summary of the discussions held during the visit of the Executive Secretary of ECA to the headquarters of ECLA. The proposals contained in the paper had been considered at a meeting of representatives of African and Latin American countries at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires in September 1978. The paper mentioned the need to strengthen existing arrangements for co-operation between Africa and Latin America in economic and technical fields, in particular through the compilation of an inventory of the requirements and potential for co-operation between the countries of the two regions. Such co-operation would be effected through appropriate institutions in both regions. It was felt that it would be best to start with a relatively modest programme and that priority should be accorded in the first instance to three key sectors, namely, trade promotion, manpower development and science and technology. However, those were merely suggestions, which the Conference was free to change or modify as it deemed necessary.

58. In the ensuing debate, participants welcomed the proposals contained in the paper before them and congratulated the two Executive Secretaries on their initiative in formulating them. They welcomed in particular the presence at the Conference, the Executive Secretary of ECLA as it served to under-score the spirit of co-operation between the two secretariats and the importance that both of them attached to the item under discussion.

59. Many of the participants emphasized the need for planners in the two regions to learn from each other's experiences by attending each other's conferences, exchanging published or unpublished information on a systematic basis and organizing multipurpose missions. Considerable stress was also laid on the need

to develop co-operation with respect to an exchange of information regarding research and engineering capacity, and the legal and institutional machinery governing the transfer of technology.

60. The need to exchange multipurpose Missions between countries of the two regions on a bilateral basis and between multinational intergovernmental organizations was also emphasized. The formation of bilateral joint commissions between African and Latin American countries was also proposed. The two secretariats were called upon to assist in implementing agreements and programmes established by such commissions.

61. The Conference decided that co-operation between ECA and ECLA should include cultural co-operation and further that the two secretariats, when requested, should do everything possible within the limits of their resources to assist in the implementation of bilateral technical co-operation agreements between African and Latin American States.

62. On the question of financing, one participant voiced the fear that to consider voluntary contributions from developed countries to be a possible source of financing might perpetuate undesirable dependency relationships. However, it was explained that funds from developed countries would be accepted only if they were contributed voluntarily and for purposes of implementing projects decided upon by the recipient Governments themselves. It was pointed out that both African and Latin American Governments had, in the past, benefited from trilateral financing, in which a disinterested voluntary donor made it possible for missions to visit both regions in furtherance of closer co-operation.

63. The UNDP representative supported those proposals made in the paper which fell within the purview of his organization. He also invited African planners to study a pertinent document prepared recently by UNDP on possibilities for co-operation between Brazil and African countries. Copies of that report could be obtained from the office of the UNDP Resident Representative in the respective African countries.

64. The Executive Secretary of ECA, thanked the Conference for responding so positively to the paper submitted to it. The proposals contained in that document were aimed at giving concrete content to the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries and he reminded the participants that the ECA secretariat had been mandated by the Conference of Ministers which had met in Kinshasa in February-March 1977 to co-operate with the other regional commissions. He also said that UNDP had worked with ECA and ECLA in producing the proposals contained in the document and was prepared to provide the "seed money" for the programme on the understanding that African and Latin American States would themselves assume financial responsibility for it in the long run in a spirit of collective self-reliance.

65. The Conference subsequently adopted a resolution 1(VII) on co-operation between ECA and ECLA.

Follow up to decisions taken at the sixth session of the Conference (Agenda item 9)

66. Reports on the follow up to decisions taken at the sixth session of the Conference (E/CN.14/CAP.7/8) were introduced by a member of the secretariat. The Conference noted that, in view of staff and resource shortages and because of the need to carry out urgent work on projections in preparation for the Third Development Decade in the 1980s, it had not been possible for the secretariat to cover all the work programme proposed at the sixth session of the Conference of African Planners.

Some institutional aspects of development planning (Agenda item 10)

67. Under this agenda item the Conference discussed (a) the activities and problems of the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) (E/CN.14/CAP.7/5); (b) the activities of the United Nations Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) (E/CN.14/CAP.7/7); and (c) the Proposed work programme of the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division (E/CN.14/CAP.7/9).

(a) ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres - a progress report

68. The sub-item was introduced by a member of the secretariat who gave some background information concerning the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) and the decisions which had led to their creation. He referred to the revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order in Africa which had been approved at the fourth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, in Kinshasa, endorsed at the eleventh session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and accepted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The gist of the revised framework was that economic co-operation was indispensable to African countries, that the optimum development of each country was part of a multinational process and that each country should include economic co-operation with other African countries in its national development plan. On the basis of the report of the ECA/UNDP Evaluation Mission of the United Nations Development Advisory Teams (UNDATs) and of the ECA subregional offices, the sixth session of the Conference of African Planners had adopted a resolution recommending that MULPOCs should be established to replace both the UNDATs and the ECA subregional offices. The ECA Conference of Ministers meeting at Kinshasa in February March 1977 had endorsed that recommendation by adopting resolution 311(XIII).

69. Since then, the Executive Secretary of ECA had taken steps to implement the resolution, and the following five MULPOCs had been inaugurated:

- (a) One based in Lusaka for the 17 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- (b) The second based in Gisenyi for the three countries in the Economic Community of the Great Lakes;
- (c) The third based in Yaoundé for the eight countries in Central Africa;
- (d) The fourth based in Niamey for the 16 countries members of ECOWAS;
- (e) The fifth based in Tangiers for the six North African countries.

70. In establishing the MULPOCs and their work programmes and policy organs, ECA had had to take an approach which took into account the similarities of the development problems facing African countries in general and the unique problems facing each individual subregion. The result was a work programme which reflected the development priorities of the Governments and which was now being fully integrated into the work programme of the ECA secretariat.
71. Some of the projects selected for most of the MULPOCs had been calculated to foster rapid progress towards the establishment of subregional and regional common markets. The only MULPOC which had not taken that approach had been the West African MULPOC, whose work programme specifically required study of the work programmes of 16 existing intergovernmental organizations in West Africa with a view to assisting them to harmonize and co-ordinate their activities and hence avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
72. With regard to the financial and manpower resources for the MULPOC programme, gratitude was expressed for the generous support given to the MULPOC programme by UNDP and for UNDP's willingness to consider increasing its financial contribution for the next three years. However, that support did not extend to the North African MULPOC which still depended wholly on the resources of ECA in the implementation of its programme of work.
73. The Executive Secretary of ECA was doing everything possible to mobilize additional resources for the effective implementation of the MULPOC programme. In addition to the backstopping support provided by the ECA secretariat, staff members from substantive divisions were being seconded to the MULPOCs on short-term assignments as part of the decentralization-integration process of ECA's activities. ECA was also anxious to ensure that the MULPOCs should benefit from the combined wisdom and experience of the entire United Nations family, from whom supplementary resources were being solicited. Finally, African Governments were being asked to increase their pledges to the African Development Trust Fund and to continue providing national short-term consultants on their own account.
74. The participants congratulated the Executive Secretary for the purposeful manner in which he was executing the MULPOC programme and urged the secretariat not to relax its efforts to mobilize all possible resources for the efficient implementation of the MULPOC programme.
75. Some of the participants alluded to the danger of ECA's spreading its scanty resources too thinly in an attempt to become operational over too wide a front and of duplicating the activities of other subregional organizations (particularly in West Africa). One representative complained that the ECA secretariat had not developed sufficient responsibilities to the MULPOC in his subregion and said that the channels of communications between his Government and ECA appeared to bypass the MULPOC.
76. In response, the representative of the secretariat reminded participants that the MULPOCs were only a year old and were therefore still encountering administrative problems. The secretariat was fully aware of those problems and was seeking ways and means of minimizing them.

77. As for the possibility that the MULPOCs might duplicate the work of existing institutions, he informed participants that the entire work programme of MULPOCs was decided by the Governments themselves with the full participation of the subregional intergovernmental organizations. Moreover those same Governments had established appropriate organs at official and political levels to monitor and supervise the implementation of MULPOC projects. Far from duplicating the activities of other subregional bodies, the MULPOCs were, and must remain, a source of support for such subregional bodies and supplement their efforts as needed to achieve fuller and speedier integration of African economies.

78. Reference was made to the participation of the North African MULPOC in the realization of the programme of economic integration between the Sudan and Egypt.

(b) United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

79. The Director of IDEP reported on the discussions and conclusions of the most recent session of the Governing Council of IDEP which had just concluded. In 1977/1978 IDEP had started to implement the decision taken by the Conference of Ministers of ECA at its Kinshasa meeting in February/March 1977 to introduce a two-year training programme leading to the award of diplomas for the courses undertaken. He stated that in 1979 IDEP would simultaneously give courses for the first and second years of the training programme, but because of inadequate financial resources priority would be given to the first year courses. The Kinshasa decision had been taken on the implicit assumption that a total of \$US 1.8 million would be available for IDEP annually, of which \$US 800,000 would be contributed by UNDP annually from 1977 to 1981 and the remainder by ECA member States. However, actual contributions from ECA member States had never amounted to more than \$US 500,000 and had been lower than that in 1977. The Governing Council had decided to appeal again to member States to pay their contributions since the very future of the Institute was at stake. The Council had devoted much time to the fundamental issue of finance and had appointed a subcommittee to deal with that subject, and the general conclusion had been that as many resources as possible should be obtained from other sources, including the United Nations. As for the statute of IDEP, amendments had been made by the United Nations General Assembly, and the statute as amended would be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. At the initiative of the Executive Secretary of ECA, the IDEP Governing Council had decided to hold a special session in Dakar in February 1979. At that meeting it would discuss short and long-term problems, and in particular revise the budget estimates in the light of the amount of resources made available by member States. If such contributions were lower than expected, the budget would have to be cut. One outstanding matter to be solved was the re-election or replacement of the six members of the Governing Council whose term was due to expire on 31 December 1978.

80. The Executive Secretary of ECA then called attention to the over-all situation of IDEP, which was not able to carry out essential programmes because of insufficient financial resources. He made a special appeal to participants and, through them, to the member States to pay to IDEP the contributions they themselves had agreed to. He invited the Conference to elect new members to replace the ones who were about to retire.

81. In the discussion that followed it was agreed that the situation regarding of Government contributions to IDEP was generally unsatisfactory and it was emphasized that every effort should be made to ensure that the payments actually agreed to by Governments were made. It was suggested that other sources of finance, such as bilateral donors, should be explored as well as the possibility of obtaining resources from the regular budget of ECA. One of the problems faced by some countries was their ability to pay, especially in the light of their total commitment to international institutions and the effect which such commitments had on their foreign exchange budgets. However, what was probably of more importance was the lack of will to pay of certain countries. Also the incessant management problems of IDEP probably affected the will to pay of certain Governments which wanted to be assured that the necessary changes had been made in IDEP's management before they paid their contributions. Administrative procedures for collecting the contributions might also be a source of difficulties and that they should be investigated and corrected. There was merit in the proposal for countries to use their UNDP indicative planning figures to finance fellowships to IDEP. That would make it possible to increase the number of students and to enlarge the courses offered.

82. In answer to an intervention by the WHO representative about the necessity to promote greater co-operation between IDEP and the Institute for Health Planning, Programming and Management in Dakar and about the importance of specific studies to be carried out on health demand and related market structures, the Director of IDEP said that although the needs for specialized courses were always borne in mind by the Governing Council, financial limitations made it impossible to offer a variety of courses at the same time. Answering a question about the trend in student enrolment at IDEP, he said that there was room for a maximum of 50 students per course, but the number of students accepted was always less because of the shortage of funds.

83. The Executive Secretary said the Governing Council had spent considerable time examining the reasons why Governments were not making their contributions. The newly approved courses appeared to meet the requirements of the various Governments but it was obvious that, without adequate financial resources, additional courses could not be offered. As the total annual enrolment of IDEP was less than 50 a year, that made it an extremely expensive institution in terms of unit costs. A cost/benefit analysis by a country whose contribution was assessed at \$US 40,000 a year would show that that was a high cost to pay for training only one or two students. It was obvious that the question of financing IDEP other than through the United Nations regular budget should be explored before the meeting of the Governing Council scheduled for February 1979 so that the Council could pass on its recommendations in that connexion to the Conference of Ministers in March 1979. In any case Governments must pay their contributions for 1977 and 1978, or there would be a real possibility of the Institute having to be drastically reduced in size. The Executive Secretary ended by appealing to participants, as senior officials, to use their influence to ensure that members paid their dues, for if all outstanding contributions had been paid IDEP would not now be experiencing financial difficulties.

84. The following members were elected to the IDEP Governing Council as of 1 January 1979:-

<u>North Africa:</u>	Dr. E. Montasser (Egypt)
<u>West Africa:</u>	Mr. A. Diop (Mauritania)
	Mr. G.P.O. Chikelu (Nigeria)

Central Africa: Mr. C. Ngoma-Makaya (Gabon)

Eastern and Mr. G.W. Lutaya-Kanya (Uganda)

Southern Africa: Mr. E. Bhembe (Swaziland)

(c) Review of ECA activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies 1977-1978 and proposed work programme for 1979-1983

85. Under this agenda item a representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/CAP.7/9.

86. In the discussion that followed most participants commended the secretariat for the work it was doing in the field of development planning, projections and policies. However, in view of the resource constraints that the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division was experiencing, the Conference recommended that in implementing the 1979-1983 work programme the following projects should be given a low priority:-

- Studies on the role of small- and medium-scale indigenous businesses in the process of socio-economic transformation and development in Africa (project No. 9.242.09).

- Studies on domestic trade policy measures and their implementation with special reference to the distribution of capital and consumer goods to the agricultural and rural sector in selected developing countries (project No. 9.242.16)

- Seminar on domestic trade policies and institutions (project No. 9.242.27)

- Studies of the role of national development banks as instruments for economic development (project No. 9.245.05)

87. The Conference also recommended that the studies on agricultural development strategies for Africa in the 1980s and on industrialization systems in Africa should be undertaken in close collaboration with the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division and the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division respectively. Those studies, together with project No. 9.242.14 (Africa's problems and perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade), should constitute the main theme of the next session of the Conference of African Planners.

88. Some participants suggested that studies on transportation and communications should be included in the work programme. It was however agreed that, since ECA had already established a programme of action for the Transport Decade in Africa, additional studies on transport by the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division would not be necessary, but the secretariat would keep African planners fully informed of all decisions and progress in implementing the goals and objectives of the Transport Decade.

89. The Conference agreed that the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division was very much under-staffed. It strongly recommended that the staff and financial resources of the Division be substantially increased to enable it to carry out the heavy programme of work approved for it by the Conference.

90. In response to a recommendation for in-depth studies of the problems facing the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa, a joint ECA/UNDP project on in-depth surveys of national economies and national accounts of the least developed and land-locked and island countries of Africa had been prepared and submitted to UNDP for financing. It would initially cover the years 1979 and 1980. It was hoped to cover all least developed and newly independent African countries over a three or four-year period. ECA staff members would take part in missions to be organized for that purpose to individual countries. The Conference strongly recommended that the project be financed by UNDP and took note that UNDP has already in principle accepted to finance the project.

Agenda for the eighth session of the Conference of African Planners in 1980 (agenda item 11)

91. The secretariat introduced the subject in the light of document E/CN.14/CAP.7/9 on the review of ECA activities in the field of development planning, projections and policies where certain proposals were made for the agenda of the Conference of African Planners in 1980. The Conference decided that the main themes for the next Conference of African Planners should be as follows:

(a) African problems and the perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade, including a discussion and evaluation of the findings of the projection work in connexion with the search for a Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

(b) Strategies for agricultural development in Africa in the 1980s.

(c) Systems of industrialization in Africa.

Other business (Agenda item 12)

92. The observer for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front said that his organization welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Conference. The Patriotic Front had a group of experts who were monitoring economic progress in Zimbabwe and were engaged in formulating strategies for the economic development of the country after liberation. He took the opportunity to thank all friendly countries and donor agencies who were providing the movement with financial and material resources. The liberation movement continued to face severe financial problems but in spite of that problem victories were being scored regularly. He was **extremely** hopeful that at the next session of the conference his delegation would be a full participant representing an independent Zimbabwe.

Adoption of the report and closure of the session

93. The Conference of African Planners adopted the present report on 16 December 1978, after which the chairman declared the seventh session of the Conference closed.

CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS

Resolution 1. (VII)

ECA/ECLA Interregional Action Programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America

The Conference of African Planners,

Having examined the proposal submitted jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America for an ECA/ECLA Interregional Action Programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America,

Recognizing that that proposal has been submitted pursuant to resolutions on interregional co-operation adopted by the policy organs of both regional commissions and by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Recognizing further that the joint proposal is in the spirit and within the context of the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, particularly as it relates to interregional co-operation,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa on their initiative;

2. Endorses the joint proposal contained in document E/CN.14/CAP.7/6 and recommends that it be used as a basis for formulation of a joint Interregional Action Programme between Africa and Latin America;

3. Recommends that African and Latin American countries share their planning experience inter alia by

- (a) attending each others' planners' conferences and seminars;
- (b) exchanging information on the institutional and legal machinery for importing technology and on contractual agreements with transnational corporations on the transfer of technology, so that in the long run they can standardize their legislation and increase their collective bargaining power vis-a-vis the transnational corporations;
- (c) exchanging information on research and engineering activities to make it possible to establish a network for collecting and disseminating technological and scientific information;
- (d) concluding bilateral economic and technical co-operation agreements and establishing joint commissions to monitor their implementation;

- (e) formulating specific projects within selected sectors and seeking the necessary financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and/or other appropriate organizations;
- (f) promoting cultural co-operation between the countries of the two regions;

4. Recommends that the present resolution be brought to the attention of the next Conferences of Ministers of two regional commissions with a view to incorporating the proposed ECA/ECLA interregional work programme into their respective work programmes for 1979-1980 and beyond.

CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS

Resolution 2(VII)

Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Conference of African Planners,

Recalling resolution 344(XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and thirteenth session of the Commission held in Kinshasa from 27 February to 2 March 1977,

Having noted and discussed the contents of the progress report on the MULPOCs submitted by the Executive Secretary of ECA,^{1/}

Mindful of the need to consolidate the progress so far made and to enhance subregional multinational co-operation as a step towards regional co-operation and integration,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary of ECA on the progress made in establishing the MULPOCs, their work programmes and policy organs;
2. Notes with satisfaction the steps taken by the Executive Secretary to ensure that these MULPOCs get off the ground;
3. Records its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for its continued and enhanced financial support for the activities of the MULPOCs;
4. Urges other members of the United Nations family and interested international organizations and bilateral donors to give material support to the MULPOCs in order to strengthen further their resources;
5. Urges continued and increased support by member States to the MULPOCs;
6. Recommends that the Executive Secretary of ECA should continue his efforts to increase the effectiveness of the MULPOCs.

1/ E/CN.14/CAP.7/5.