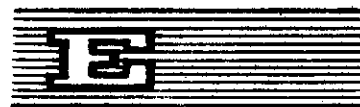




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Conference of African Planners
Seventh session

Addis Ababa, 11-18 December 1978

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON DECISIONS RELATING TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (IDEP)
TAKEN SINCE THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS HELD
AT ADDIS ABABA 21 to 29 OCTOBER 1976

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON DECISIONS RELATING TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (IDEP) TAKEN SINCE THE SIXTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS HELD AT ADDIS ABABA
21 to 29 OCTOBER 1976

At its sixth session held in Addis Ababa in October 1976, the Conference of African Planners considered, and endorsed with some amendments, the new draft statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) proposed by the Kaya mission, taking into account the amendments already made by the Governing Council of IDEP, as indicated in document GC/IDEP/SEM.4.

2. The new draft statute, as modified by resolution 320 (XIII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers, was submitted together with the 1976/1977 annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa to the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in Geneva in July/August 1977, during which the Council adopted decision 249 (LXIII) whereby the annual report and its recommendations and resolutions were noted without any specific consideration of the statute as such.

3. The statute was considered by the thirty-second session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly held in September/December 1977, as a result of which the following reservations and recommendations were made:

"The statute has administrative implications within the meaning of financial regulation 13.1 and it has organizational aspects and elements which affect the financial and staff regulations. the Secretary-General has therefore reviewed the statute and herewith submits his comments in accordance with financial regulation 13.1 and in the light of the implications of the

"statute for the financial regulations and staff regulations.

The Secretary-General further suggests that the General Assembly may wish to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that, at its organizational session for 1978, it instruct the Conference of Ministers of ECA to modify certain elements of the statute which are in contradiction to the financial regulations or staff regulations or which concern the organizational status of the Institute and require clarification."

The statute was therefore revised in the light of the changes proposed by the Fifth Committee and submitted under cover of ECA's Report on IDEP, for the consideration of the Executive Committee of the ECA Conference of Ministers at its eighteenth meeting held in Khartoum (Sudan) from 1 to 4 May 1978. The ECA Report on IDEP as well as the text of the revised statute, are at Annex I of this document.

4. Following consideration of the revised statute, the Executive Committee adopted resolution ECO (XVIII)/Res.1 endorsing the proposed revision and recommending, inter alia, that Article IV.2(d) of the statute which provides for an annual report to be submitted by the Governing Council of IDEP, should be amended to read as follows:

"2. The Governing Council shall:

- (d) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute including a complete audited report in respect of all income and expenditures at the appropriate meetings of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa or the Conference of Ministers.

In the same resolution, the Executive Committee also:

"Calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit to member states, within three months of the adoption of this resolution, an audited report in respect of all income and expenditures of the Institute for the past three years".

A full text of the resolution is at Annex II of this document.

5. In response to the Executive Committee's resolution ECO (XVIII)/Res.I, United Nations Headquarters was requested by the ECA secretariat to commission a team of three auditors of the United Nations Internal Audit Service to conduct an examination in respect of the following:

- a) accounts and records, both at Headquarters and in the field, pertaining to all funds handled by or otherwise involving IDEP during the three-year period 1975-1977;
- b) Records and procedures relating to agreements entered into and implemented by IDEP, particularly during the above period, for the receipt and use by IDEP of various trust funds and for the provision by IDEP of re-imbursable services to various organizations; and
- c) other accounting and administrative records and procedures and other supporting evidence as considered necessary in the circumstances.

6. In undertaking this latest audit exercise, account was also taken of previous audit examinations in respect of IDEP which had already been undertaken by the United Nations Internal Audit service in August/November, 1974; August 1975; May/June 1976, March 1977 and October/November 1977. A copy of the latest report No. R.39/78, which has been prepared in response to the Executive Committee's resolution ECO (XVIII)/Res.1, is at Annex III of this document.

7. Furthermore, it may be necessary to mention that, as a result of earlier consultations among official representatives of United Nations Headquarters, UNDP Headquarters, the ECA secretariat and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, it was agreed that, with effect from 1 January 1978, the executing agency responsibility for IDEP should be decentralized from the Department of Technical

Co-operation for Development (DTCD) at United Nations Headquarters, New York, to the secretariat of Economic Commission for Africa. Shortly following this decentralization, a further meeting was held at ECA Headquarters at which the administrative, financial management and other problems of IDEP were examined, under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of ECA, by a selected group comprising, the UNDP Resident Representative in Senegal; the Head, UNDP Liaison Office with ECA and OAU in Addis Ababa; the Director of IDEP; the Chief, Administrative and Finance Officer at IDEP; and appropriate senior officials of the ECA secretariat. A significant result of this meeting was the formulation by the ECA secretariat of well-defined "Administrative Instructions establishing procedures for regulating and monitoring the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa as executing agency". A copy of the Administrative Instructions is at Annex IV of this document.