



46783
E

Distr.
LIMITED

ECA/NRD/MAR/1/94
31 March 1994

Original: ENGLISH

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Regional Leadership Seminar on
Marine/Ocean Affairs in Africa**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
28 March - 2 April 1994**

R E P O R T

I. OPENING OF THE SEMINAR

1. The Regional Leadership Seminar on Marine/Ocean Affairs in Africa, the first of its kind ever organized by the United Nations Economic Commission For Africa, took place at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 March to 2 April 1994.
2. The Seminar was organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the International Ocean Institute (IOI).
3. The Seminar was opened by Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA. Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Chairman of the International Ocean Institute also made a statement at the opening ceremony which was chaired by Hon. Joseph Warioba, former Prime Minister of Tanzania.
4. Mr. Layashi Yaker welcomed all participants and pointed out that the ECA took pride in taking a lead-role in convening and organizing such a seminar in Africa. The organization of this forum, he added, was a testimony to the commitment and determination of the UNECA to assist the African countries to enhance their capacities in the field of ocean affairs for the benefit of their people.
5. The UNECA Executive Secretary expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent cooperation, collaboration and substantive contribution from the Headquarters of the International Ocean Institute and from its operation centres at Dakar and Halifax. He particularly thanked Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Chairman of IOI, for her special interest, initiative, drive and substantive support which greatly contributed to the successful organization of the seminar. He also expressed his gratitude to all the UN Agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for sending representatives to the seminar. He thanked the invited resources persons who in spite of their busy schedule, had accepted the UNECA invitation to attend the seminar.

6. Mr. Yaker noted that the timing of the seminar was very crucial because there was a worldwide recognition and increasing awareness of the potential contribution of ocean resources toward poverty alleviation at the global level in general, and in Africa in particular. The seminar was also timely because of the importance attributed to the ocean sector by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio in 1992 as reflected in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, which inter alia, stressed the rational use and development of ocean resources. He further added that the seminar was timely in view of the imminent entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in November this year and the likely establishment of the International Seabed Authority as well as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

7. Focusing on Africa, the ECA Executive Secretary mentioned that the continent was surrounded by oceans and seas, with abundant resources both living and non-living, the development of which required scientific knowledge, technological capacity and management skills. But the African countries, lacking these elements, and more particularly capability for surveillance of their exclusive economic zones, were not able to exploit these resources for their own benefit and as a result, these resources were being plundered.

8. Speaking about the role of the UNECA in the field of marine affairs, Mr. Yaker indicated that for a period over ten years, the ECA in collaboration with other UN agencies managed to carry out an appreciable amount of activities, despite lack of adequate resources. These activities were largely aimed at interpreting the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and at enhancing the awareness of the opportunities, challenges and benefits offered by the said Convention. But, because of limited staff and financial resources of the Commission in the Ocean sector, the impact of these activities was limited.

9. The ECA Executive Secretary further noted that the Commission has been able to create an enhanced awareness among the African countries about their legitimate rights and about the opportunities, challenges and the benefits that the Convention offered them in the exploration and exploitation of their ocean resources. Out of 61 countries, which had so far ratified the Convention, 27 were from Africa, which one can say, has been instrumental in the Convention

coming into force, in November 1994. Mr. Layashi Yaker added that the ECA on its part actively promoted the Convention among the African countries.

10. Finally, the ECA Executive Secretary cited the objectives of the seminar and pointed out that he expected this seminar to be a spring-board or a launching platform for setting in motion the process of ocean resources development in Africa. The seminar, he went on, should set clear guidelines for policies and strategies for the development of these resources in Africa. He emphasized that the seminar must formulate a programme of action for ocean development in Africa. He concluded his statement by mentioning that it was imperative for Africa to develop its capabilities for exploration, optimum exploitation, sustainable development and management of the ocean resources for the benefit of its people. Regarding the management capacity, he added that there was a pressing need for member states to cooperate in this field, and urged developed countries and the United Nations Agencies to assist the African countries in developing their ocean resources by actively providing them with scientific research information and other support.

11. Professor Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Chairman of IOI, thanked Mr. Layashi Yaker for his excellent introduction and for underlining the importance of the issues under consideration. She congratulated the UNECA which according to her, was the first among the United Nations Regional Commissions to seriously consider the development of potential of the ocean resources.

12. The Chairman of IOI further added that the seminar should be action-oriented and should produce a programme of action for Africa for the development of its ocean resources.

II. ATTENDANCE

13. The seminar was attended by representatives from the following 26 countries: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

14. The following international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were represented at the seminar: OAU, League of Arab States, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNICEF, IOI and Yokohama City University in Japan.

15. The list of participants is provided at Annex III to this Report:

III. SEMINAR PROGRAMME

16. The seminar considered the following issues. The detailed account of proceedings under each issue is provided in Annex II of the Report.

Introduction to UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea - Innovation and Change;

Post-UNCLOS developments; The Preparatory Commission, the Secretary-Generals' informal consultations;

Scientific/technological requirements; National Infrastructure - Regional cooperation;

UNCLOS, UNCED and the restructuring of the United Nations System;

Legislative requirements; inter-sectoral Integration; harmonisation with international law;

Institutional requirements; National infrastructure; Regional cooperation;

Managerial implications of the Law of the Sea Convention;

Integrating development and environment concerns; New economic theories;

Parameters of integrated ocean policy;

Agenda 21; cost-benefit analysis;

Manpower requirements;

African Island states and ocean development; Case Study: Cape Verde;

African land-locked states and regional cooperation. Case study: Uganda;

African coastal states; Case Study: Tanzania;

African coastal states; Case Study: Ghana;

IOMAC and Indian Ocean Commission: critical analysis. Options for Africa;

West African cooperation: critical analysis;

The African Regional Seas Programmes: Next phase;
Guidelines for African Ocean Policy: regional and subregional;

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17. After a thorough consideration and analysis of these issues, the seminar agreed upon a strategy and programme of actions for integrated development and management of marine/ocean affairs in Africa. This strategy and programme of actions is included at Annex I.