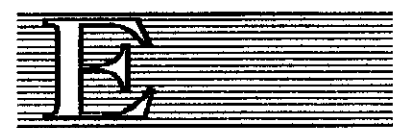


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Conference of African Ministers Responsible
for Trade, Regional Cooperation,
Integration and Tourism**

First Session

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
14-16 February 1996**

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE, REGIONAL COOPERATION,
INTEGRATION AND TOURISM**

(ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 14-16 FEBRUARY 1996)

A. Opening Ceremony (agenda item 1)

1. The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, integration and Tourism held its first session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-16 February 1996. The Conference was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
2. The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Kassu Yilala, Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Opening statements were also made by Mr. R. Ricupero, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Ambassador Vijay S. Makhani, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and Mr. Samba Jack, Officer-in-Charge of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). A statement was also made by H.E. Skaheddine Ben M'Barek, the Minister of Trade of Tunisia, Chairman of the outgoing Bureau of the 12th Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade.
3. Addressing the Conference, His Excellency Dr. Kassu Yilala welcomed participants to Addis Ababa and expressed his pleasure in hosting the Conference. The first session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, Integration and Tourism was taking place against the backdrop of important changes in the world economy. A new world trading system was emerging with the signing of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round Agreements and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). A clear understanding of these emerging trends and resolve to adapt to them was the first step the continent needed to build a competitive economy.
4. With Africa's exports stagnating, official development assistance decreasing and a worsening external debt, the challenges facing Africa should not be underestimated. Under the circumstances, he laid strong emphasis on the need to adopt new strategies and put in place new policies to cope-up with the challenge.
5. The signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements was a milestone and a significant breakthrough in the area of multilateral trade negotiations as it was expected to boost international trade. However, even the most optimistic scenarios depicted Africa as a net loser as a result of implementing the Agreements. Nevertheless, this first session of the Conference would map out ways and means for addressing the diverse issues facing the region.
6. The overdependence of African economies on a limited range of commodities was also another major area of concern, in view of the unfavourable trend in international prices. To this end, the Conference was called upon to move a step forward in making good use of the Action Plan prepared by the First Session of the Technical Committee of Experts of the ECA.

7. As the world was moving towards increased globalization and liberalization, the Conference was urged to seize the unique opportunity offered by UNCTAD IX to voice the concerns and expectations of the region and to prepare for meaningful negotiations. Urgent efforts should also be made to promote and strengthen the integration process in order to prepare Africa to benefit from the globalized and liberalized trading system.

8. Though tourism had a large potential in contributing resources for development, many African countries had not been able to take full advantage of this sector. The Conference would therefore adopt guidelines for enhancing intra-regional cooperation in tourism.

9. In drawing his statement to a conclusion, His Excellency Dr. Kassu thanked the Technical Committee of Experts for the commendable work it accomplished in synthesizing the diverse issues of concern for the deliberation of the Conference.

10. Mr. Samba Jack welcomed the participants to the first session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, Integration and Tourism on behalf of Mr. K.Y. Amoako, the Executive Secretary of ECA. The Conference was informed that the promotion of regional integration had been at the heart of ECA's work and would continue to be an integral part of the revamped programme of activities.

11. With reference to UNCTAD IX, the session must adopt strategies and policies aimed at promoting balanced growth and sustainable development in an increasingly globalizing and liberalizing world economy. To this end, the Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX set out a clear position outlining the challenges facing Africa, charting what the region should do for itself, and set down what Africa expects from its partners. It would constitute a basis for future negotiations between Africa and its partners at UNCTAD IX.

12. Mr. Samba Jack reaffirmed the region's commitment to the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. However, the countries were fully aware of the implications, including the loss of trade preferences under the Lome Convention and GSP Arrangements. This was of great concern if we consider the poor performance of Africa's trade sector and the declining share of Africa in international trade, which has degenerated from 4.9 per cent in 1980 to 2.49 per cent in 1994. This happened despite aggressive promotional campaigns, restructured marketing forces, liberalized commodity sectors and liberalized economies under the structural adjustment programmes.

13. To take part in world economy, it was suggested that Africa must work towards broadening the production base through horizontal and vertical diversification programmes so as to reduce its overdependence on few commodities.

14. The strengthening of human and infrastructural capacities was also considered as an area of immediate focus for Africa's economic development programmes. This coupled with the solution for environmental issues on regional economic cooperation and integration, would serve as the first step towards the establishment of the African Economic Community.

15. Ambassador S. Makhan, Assistant Secretary-General of the OAU, stated that the timing of this Conference was critical since the Abuja Treaty has entered into force; the World Trade Organization was established; and UNCTAD IX was to be held just ten weeks hence. To this end, he appreciated and paid tribute to the joint OAU/ECA Secretariat, colleagues from UNCTAD and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts for their innovative thinking and hard work in identifying plausible solutions to some of the pressing economic problems in a global condition characterized by rapid changes.

16. The region should expand its share of the world market by diversifying its economy, both vertically and horizontally, within the framework of the issues addressed in the Cairo Agenda for action adopted by the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU, if the economies of Africa were to move forward at an acceptable pace.

17. To improve Africa's trading position, urgent attention had to be given to the issues of trade promotion, trade information, trade facilitation and efficiency. The issue of trade promotion should be addressed with the necessary trade related services and infrastructures as well as the trade facilitating services.

18. The region had relied heavily on external financial support to complement domestic financial resources for development. In spite of the global increase in private flows and foreign direct investment in recent years, Africa had attracted only a small percentage. A collective effort was required to reverse the situation in order to increase or at least maintain official development assistance in real terms. In addition to the problem of diminishing external financial flows, Africa's external debt continued to be the single most important obstacle to the region's development efforts.

19. As regards economic cooperation and integration, special attention should be given to the harmonization and rationalization of subregional economic communities with a view to proceed as fast as possible towards an African Common Market.

20. With specific reference to the forthcoming UNCTAD IX Session, member States were called upon to lend full and unreserved support to the Republic of South Africa so as to bring the Session to a successful conclusion. African countries should resist moves by some developed countries to dismantle UNCTAD. If anything, current developments had confirmed UNCTAD's viability to continue addressing issues of concern to the developing countries.

21. In his concluding remarks, His Excellency Ambassador S. Makhan thanked the people and Government of South Africa for offering to host UNCTAD IX and appealed to member States to participate actively in the Conference.

22. Mr. R. Ricupero, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) expressed his gratitude to the Executive Secretary of the ECA for inviting him to participate in the Conference.

23. Referring to UNCTAD IX, he mentioned that its major task would be to identify ways of maximizing the developmental impact of globalization and liberalization, while minimizing the dangers of instability and marginalization. The latter was particularly serious as some developing countries especially the least developed countries (LDCs) and structurally weaker economies had been unable to benefit from and meaningfully participate in the globalization process.

24. The completion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations was a major step to expand the rule-based international trading system and advance liberalization in international trade. The challenge was to assist developing countries to benefit fully from the trading opportunities arising from the agreements.

25. The second issue concerned measures to alleviate transitional costs. The acceptance by the international community of the need to assist those countries to face the challenge - in particular to adjust to possible increase in process of imported food - constituted a significant gap. Commitment should be translated into concrete action and this Conference should contribute to the process.

26. With the support of the international community, trade efficiency capacities should be enhanced through improvements in trade - related service infrastructures such as transport systems, ports and telecommunication as well as through trade facilitation practices. In this connection, UNCTAD had identified three areas where action should be undertaken as a matter of priority: establishing a Trade Efficiency Review Mechanism (TERM); providing the emerging Global Information Infrastructure (GII) with a development dimension; and creating GII subregional node to serve the structurally weakest economies.

27. Pertaining to the policy measures needed to address the negative consequences of commodity dependence, action were required in three areas: reduction of the instability and risks faced by the commodity-export-dependent developing countries; promotion of commodity diversification; and promotion of efficiency management of natural resources.

28. In connection with small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), UNCTAD was planning a major parallel event "Africa connect", an international business conference aimed at identifying and realizing greater flows of international, cross-country investments and trade transaction in Africa.

29. Efforts were being made to define the work of UNCTAD against the backdrop of international crisis and what may be termed as UNCTAD's identity crisis. Towards that end, UNCTAD had redesigned its role and machinery in order to better respond to the requirements of the age, and put forward the new notion of partnership and cooperation for development.

30. Analytical work in UNCTAD had to be action-oriented in two complementary directions. First was to contribute from a development perspective to the preparation of a multilateral agenda for future negotiations. The second would focus on practical tools to

enhance the capacity of developing countries with a view to seizing opportunities for growth and development and integrate in the world economy.

31. The financial crisis affecting the United Nations had profound implications on the future activities of UNCTAD. UNCTAD would therefore focus on a limited set of clear priority areas of critical importance to the developing countries particularly the weaker ones. The emergence of a range of non-governmental actors should also be considered in future works of the Secretariat.

32. In conclusion, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD reiterated that while globalization rendered deprivation intolerable, it might, for the first time, show that the problem was mature for a lasting solution.

33. Mr. Skahedine Ben M'Barek, Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Tunisia, who chaired the opening ceremony, said that African countries were confronted with a number of challenges on various fronts. Thus, the region should endeavour to make the most of the current trend towards globalization in the international economic environment in order to participate fully in the ongoing transformations, by maximizing the benefits and minimizing the costs.

34. He concluded his intervention as the outgoing Chairman of the 12th Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade by recalling the various initiatives and actions that Tunisia had set in motion under the guidance of President Zine el Abiddine Ben Ali. In connection with the promotion of trade and industry in Africa, Mr. Skahedine Ben M'Barek gave an account of the results of the measures Tunisia had taken within the scope of the mandate conferred by African Ministers responsible for trade in the context of an overall programme of technical assistance. The latter focused on efforts to facilitate the adaptation of Africa's structural and regulatory frameworks to the Uruguay Round Agreements and to the objectives of WTO.

B. Attendance

35. The Conference was attended by the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroun, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

36. The following countries and institutions attended as observers: Belgium, China, Germany, Holy See, Japan, African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), African Development Bank (ADB), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organization (AATPO), African International Trade Centre (AITC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Communauté économique des Pays des grands Lacs (CEPGL), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), International Trade Centre (ITC), Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (UEMOA), United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank (IBRD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

C. Election of the Bureau (agenda item 2)

37. The Conference elected the following countries to constitute its Bureau:

Chairman:	Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman:	South Africa
Second Vice-Chairman:	Togo
Third Vice-Chairman:	Rwanda
Rapporteur:	Algeria

**D. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
(agenda item 3)**

38. The Conference adopted its organization of work and the following agenda:

1. Formal opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Consideration of the report of the Technical Committee of Experts
5. Discussion forum on UNCTAD IX theme "Promoting growth and sustainable development in a globalizing and liberalizing world economy"
6. Any other business
7. Adoption of the report of the Conference and closure of the meeting.

Consideration of the Report of the Technical Committee of Experts (Agenda Item 4)

39. The Chairman of the Technical Committee of Experts, presented Document E/ECA/TRADE/CMT/TCE/EXP/2 "Report of the Technical Committee of Experts".

40. Following his presentation the Conference discussed at length the following sections of the report: (i) Regionalism, the Uruguay Round Agreements and their Implications for the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Agenda Item 4(a)i); (ii) Africa's Participation in Future Multilateral Trade Negotiations within the Framework of the

World Trade Organization (Agenda Item 4(a)ii) and (iii); The Impact of the Uruguay Round on Trade Preferences: Toward a Forward-Looking Trade Agenda for African Countries (Agenda Item 4(a)iii). The following observations and remarks were consequently made.

41. With reference to paragraph 35, the Swaziland delegation suggested that in view of the fact that not all African countries were represented in Geneva, the OAU which had an office in Geneva should serve as a focal liaison/backstopping office by collecting, processing and disseminating information.

42. Regarding the in-depth assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on African economies called for in paragraph 40 of the report, the Ugandan delegation expressed concern on the timeframe, resources and expertise to carry out an assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreement on the African countries before June 1996. It was replied that the International Conference held at Tunis on the implications of the Uruguay Round for African countries had set up an Inter-Agency Task Force which could conduct such a study; it was therefore suggested that African countries should table a request to that effect to be considered within the framework of specific programmes developed by WTO and ITC for which funds had been pledged by some donors, notably the European Union.

43. The Conference was informed about the Committee on Regional Agreements created by the WTO negotiations on Trade/Integration Agreements. The African countries were called upon to ensure the effective participation in the WTO Singapore Meeting in December 1996.

44. In view of apparent difficulties encountered by the Organizations concerned in carrying out the in-depth assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements which would be helpful in defining Africa's strategy for the ongoing and future negotiations, clarification was sought by the Senegalese delegation as to who was coordinating the study on that assessment. It was replied that the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force had been so far effectively coordinated by Tunisia. However, resources required for such an undertaking could only come from specific programmes such as those developed by the WTO and the ITC.

45. The Deputy Director General of the WTO indicated that though conducted with the greatest care, the assessment of the impact was "not an exercise amenable to precise estimates" as some important developments were likely to take place outside the mechanisms of the Uruguay Round Agreements and could affect world trade. This assessment would bring about little gain in terms of knowledge of the magnitude of the impact. African countries should rather focus on identifying trade opportunities and market access which could benefit their exports. In this respect, the mandate given by the Tunis Conference was to provide assistance to African countries, notably in the institutional area, to enable them take advantage of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements. He concluded by giving details on funding received from the European Union and Norway which would cover the cost of subregional seminars and assistance to LDCs respectively.

46. The representative of the ITC informed the meeting that his Organization was participating in the relevant technical assistance activities to African countries through a specific inter-regional programme. Besides this programme, another one made up of 7 modules and scheduled for last five years had been formulated to help African business communities adapt their operations to the requirements of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements. This second programme which was meant only for Africa would focus on trade information, trade efficiency, trade data bases, investment data bases and government bids. Contacts would be made soon with potential donors for the funding of the latter programme. He concluded by stating that the ITC would not take part in the in-depth evaluation of the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements' on African economies.

47. In view of the importance of the proposed in-depth assessment, the Conference mandated the ECA and OAU Secretariats to mobilize the necessary resources to carry it out within a reasonable timeframe.

48. The meeting considered and adopted the four Resolutions on: (i) the Organization of a meeting on ECDC/TCDC; (ii) Implementation of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community: Strengthening Regional Economic Communities, Rationalization and Harmonization of the activities of Regional and Subregional Communities; (iii) the Eight Year Inter-African Trade Development Action Plan; and (iv) the Development of Tourism in Africa. These Resolutions are attached to this report.

Consideration of the Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX

49. The Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Drafting Committee of the Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX introduced the "Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX adopted by the Committee of Experts. Following his presentation, the Conference adopted the Declaration after making the following amendments:

50. Under paragraph 7, an amendment was suggested to the effect that the multilateral financial institutions, in particular the IMF, should oversee the coordination of macro-economic policies and the regulation of the monetary and financial markets of individual countries in order to reduce exchange and interest rate instability, while also promoting growth and employment.

51. On page 3, it was suggested that the section on "resource flows and debt" should precede the one on "environment and sustainable development".

52. In paragraph 27, it was pointed out that the goals of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) were far from being achieved mainly due to lack of resources. Noting the importance of UN-NADAF for African countries, the Conference called upon UN agencies to participate effectively in its mid-term review exercise scheduled to take place in New York in September 1996. Developed countries were invited to abide by their commitments and provide additional resources to African countries to speed-up the implementation of UN-NADAF.

53. In connection with paragraph 30, the issue of the elimination of subsidies on food products and its impact on the stability of prices on basic food items was raised. In this regard, the need to have a mechanism to monitor the prices of certain basic food products (notably wheat and milk) was expressed with a view to stabilizing their prices.

54. Paragraph 35 was completely amended to highlight the pertinent issues regarding the establishment of trade points in Africa. In this regard, the following revised text was agreed upon. "Notwithstanding efforts that have been made in a number of African countries with the support of UNCTAD, to establish trade points since the Ohio Symposium on Trade Efficiency, many of these points are still in their formative stages due to lack of expertise and financial resources. Accordingly, UNCTAD, in collaboration with ITC, subregional and regional Organizations, should look into ways and means of extending further technical and financial support in order to make these points fully operational and effective. Furthermore, UNCTAD should assist in setting up new trade points in interested countries."

55. A new paragraph was introduced under chapter "D", page 13, to highlight the need for strengthening, partially or fully, local processing of primary commodities produced by the region in order to mitigate the adverse impact of substantial fluctuations in commodity prices on African economies.

56. Paragraph 69 was amended to reflect the need for ECA to complement current efforts in examining the impact of the proposed multilateral investment framework on the development of African countries.

57. Within paragraph 70, UNCTAD was urged to establish a special mechanism to facilitate and monitor the transfer of technology to African countries.

58. A query was raised whether or not there had been any comparative study concerning the incompatibility between the Abuja Treaty and the Uruguay Round Agreements. In reply, the Conference was informed that two studies entitled "The Uruguay Round Agreements and its Possible Impact on Regional Economic Integration in Africa in the Light of the Abuja Treaty" and "Regionalism, the Uruguay Round Agreements and their Implications for the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community" had already been undertaken.

59. Following queries and discussions the Conference decided to include tourism in the list of African priorities in paragraph 75 of the Declaration as item xi: Development of the services sector, including tourism.

60. In paragraph 76 the word "negotiations" was replaced by "discussions" to reinforce the mandate of the Geneva African Groups and to call for an output-oriented UNCTAD.

61. Finally, UNCTAD in collaboration with ITC and WTO indicated their readiness to provide all necessary support to assist member States in facing up to the challenges emanating from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

Discussion Forum on UNCTAD IX Theme "Promoting Growth and Sustainable Development in a Globalizing and Liberalizing World Economy"
(Agenda item 5)

62. The First Vice Chairman of the Conference, The Honourable Minister of Trade of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Trevor Manuel, Chaired the Discussion Forum. The Chairman emphasized the critical nature of the debate on UNCTAD's future and stressed the fact that there were pressures on the organization, including that of the resource constraints in the overall UN system. He pointed out that UNCTAD is "our organization" and that the future was open to us to contribute to its revitalization through the discussions to take place under UNCTAD IX. The Chairman then introduced the distinguished personalities who were invited in their personal capacity to stimulate and enrich the debate.

63. The first presentation was made by the Deputy Director General of WTO, Mr. Jesus Seade. In his remarks, he said that the Ministers were meeting to consider a new spirit of realism and forward-looking reform on some of the most pressing problems of Africa. He stated that Africa's regional integration and cooperation efforts are increasingly becoming productive and promising.

64. The representative of World Trade Organization (WTO) alluded to the statement of the WTO Director General delivered in Kenya in 1996 on the need to assist African countries so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by post-Uruguay Round trading environment whereby they can improve their trading performance and participate more effectively in the world trading system.

65. He noted that his organization and UNCTAD are working closely with ITC with a view to coordinating their efforts and to take advantage of multiplier effects and synergies amongst their respective competencies and resources for the benefit of the African region.

66. He referred to the concerns of African countries regarding their exports which could be adversely affected in the short-run by preference erosion resulting from MFN tariff reductions. However, on closer look, he stated that the effect of preference erosion on traditional exports of African countries had to be set against the broad coverage of concessions made by major importers, on a kind of greater value-added products where Africa future export success must lie.

67. A similar situation with respect to tariff changes arises in agriculture, granting greater access to processed products. The potential problems that might be faced by net food importing countries were addressed in the Uruguay Round Agreement through provisions relating to food aid, supply of basic foodstuffs in full grant form, and aid for agricultural development, as well as the possibility of assistance for the short term financing of commercial food imports.

68. The Conference was informed that WTO had organized 17 technical cooperation missions in several African countries in 1995 with a view to strengthening institutional and

capacity building, including integrating African countries to the world trading system. In this regard, WTO is looking at pre-and post Uruguay Round tariffs and broader market access conditions for agricultural and non-agricultural products of current export interest to developing countries.

69. The plight of the LDCs and Africa were a major pre-occupation of WTO and its Director-General. The overriding objectives for WTO were inter alia: to provide assistance to African countries, so that they could fully grasp the agreed international trading rules and to use these rules successfully while abiding by them.

70. In support of their concern for the LDCs, WTO had created a fund for Technical Assistance that was being financed by a generous special contribution from the Government of Norway. The fund was intended to help build human and institutional resources and expertise, so that LDCs could fully participate in the international trading system.

71. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, Mr. Boubacar Ba, stated that UNCTAD was paying a price for success. UNCTAD needed to adjust to the new international scene in which: (i) the WTO was now posed to take centre stage i.e. while the GATT forum had not been universal, the new WTO could now claim a more universal membership. In a nutshell, he indicated that the domain of trade had now been taken by the WTO as a major player; (ii) the development aspect of UNCTAD work was no longer the concern of major countries and was left for developing countries; and (iii) the diverging interests among G77 Groups with Latin America emphasizing competitiveness, Asian market access while Africa had basic development concern. In the past, the G77 had been the "war horse" of UNCTAD. However, due to its lack of homogeneity, it had been very difficult to agree on common platforms, with each region pulling for their own concerns. The fault lines dividing the regional groups were now clear.

72. There have been radical changes in the nature of the problems facing developing countries. The international debt crisis, for example, was now considered only a "problem." International institutions have now incorporated many of the issues of concern for developing countries, based on the proposals of UNCTAD. The triumph of liberalism had changed the paradigm of economic development, limiting the role of the state and placing a heavier responsibility on the private sector.

73. While trade in services had now become an integral part of the WTO, developing countries were asked to liberalize at the risk of having foreign investors take over in that area, as Africa had little to offer.

74. He concluded by proposing some lines of research for the future work of UNCTAD. These included:

1. A paramount role to play in poverty alleviation to ensure that the impoverishment of Africa is halted. However, this role would require a reallocation of resources, which might be resented by other regional groups.

2. A role of defender of the poor against rampant liberalism, by assisting LDC develop their negotiating positions.
3. To be an advocate of a "half-way house" between liberalism and interventionism, with a view to support development that is all-inclusive.

75. Mr. Dirar of the OAU said that African countries were typically more inclined to listen to international organizations and bodies. Numerous programs and initiatives were taken either by Africans or on behalf of Africans which have not been implemented. The question of why, inspite of all these programs, the region was worse off now than thirty years ago was raised.

76. The current world fatigue of Africa's Problems was stressed by the speaker. In this new competitive world, help comes to those who were committed to helping themselves. This was the message conveyed through the OAU CAIRO Declaration. To that effect, what Africa needed was a national consensus on a long term vision for development. The experience of the South-East Asian Countries showed the importance of such national consensus.

77. UNCTAD was a special institution because world trade needed a neutral party. Thus, UNCTAD should be a watch dog for the WTO. The importance of not undermining the solidarity of G77 countries was underlined.

78. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mr. Ruben Ricupero, began by stating the basic question before the Ministers, which was the future of UNCTAD. He further asked the Ministers to question whether UNCTAD could be relevant to the LDC's in general and Africa in particular; whether the world would be better with or without UNCTAD; and the reasons why those questions were being raised now. The world could not survive in a house divided between rich and poor. In spite of the success stories in South East Asia and Latin America, the divide between the "have's" and the "have not's" was not closed.

79. Regardless of the recent tendencies of diminishing ODA and increasing FDI flows, the latter could not replace or offset the former, as FDI, while necessary and welcomed, carried its own problems. The Secretary-General, appreciated the criticism the Organization had received but drew a significant line between "justified" and "ideological" criticism. The latter was due to opposition by some countries of the advice given by UNCTAD on issues such as the GSP; the concept of debt forgiveness; and the issue of technology transfer.

80. He urged African Ministers never to be oblivious about "power relationships" in politics, economics or trade matters. This was a key concept and should not be forgotten because the shift of issues from UNCTAD to other fora was due precisely to "power relationships." He called on Ministers to think of UNCTAD's future on four interrelated aspects:

1. Partnership, by concentrating on what could unite Africa, consensus building and development;

2. The future, by focusing in the large task facing the region in the new world environment;
3. Pragmatism, by concentrating in providing the region's own inputs on trade, investment, debt, monetary and financial flows, the creation of an early warning system to prevent financial crisis. (In all of these areas UNCTAD will not only provide analytical assistance but also do that in an action oriented way);
4. Private sector, by inviting the private sector to work with UNCTAD, as in this new era of globalization there is the need for clear rules and "referees" as well as organization to help set those rules.

81. The representative of the "Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine", Mr. Yaovi Adodo, expressed his regret that Africa failed to take advantage of its thirty years of development experience to put in place economic structures that could ensure the continent's economic development. African countries and their development partners were called upon to initiate appropriate actions so as to transform their economies in order to make them more responsive to market opportunities such as those arising from international multilateral trade negotiations.

82. At the international level, the very existence of a number of milestones was threatened by the current changes occurring in international economic relations which would no doubt have an adverse impact on African countries. UNCTAD was one of them and Africa had responsibility in ensuring that this institution was preserved. To this end, for UNCTAD to justify its existence, it is recommended that it should reorient its activities towards actions which were more focused on the real needs of developing countries, particularly African countries. He, however, deplored the fact that the latter had not been closely involved in UNCTAD's programmes and activities and called upon these countries to establish and maintain closer links with UNCTAD. This would help them derive maximum advantage from the opportunities offered by this institution.

83. In this connection, the importance of UNCTAD for African countries as a stepping stone for future negotiations in the field of trade and economic development was underscored. Africa needed UNCTAD's experience and expertise in building, among others, a solid and competitive private sector capable of rising to the challenges posed by the current globalizing and liberalizing world.

84. The distinguished representative of Uganda, stressed two issues, namely, Africa's contribution to a globalizing and liberalizing world economy; and the future of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). On the issue of Africa's position in a globalized world economy, he stated that the continent's contribution to the world economy remains minimal as reflected in its share of world trade. Unless the continent was able to put its house in order, it would not be able to adapt to the rapid changes taking place in the world economy. In this respect, peace and stability were necessary prerequisites for the continent to move towards sustainable development. Furthermore, in order for the

economies of the continent to effectively participate in a globalized and liberalized world economy, there was urgent need for African countries to adapt the action-oriented development strategies and policies and to be more focused in such policies. While providing an enabling environment was essential for development, it might not be enough to dynamize an economy towards long-term sustainable development. In this respect, African countries needed to pay particular attention to putting in place development strategies and policies that reinvigorate the private sector; enhance the process of domestic resource mobilization in order to support the private sector; and reduce the continent's heavy dependency on external assistance. Development strategies and programmes that were premised on the assumption of additional flows of Official Development Assistance (ODA) were misplaced, as future trends of such assistance indicated significant decline in flows of such resources to African countries. Effective participation of African countries in a globalized trading environment would invariably require that they strengthen their production and export bases in order to broaden the range of products exported. Africa, with its huge natural and human resources, had the capacity to take-off onto a path of sustainable development and that what was needed was for the continent to put its house in order. Accelerating the process of economic and monetary integration on the continent would help to broaden the continent's economic space. Small markets, as provided by individual countries, tended to limit the benefits that emanate from economies of scale provided by larger economic groupings. "Innovative approaches" to Africa's development process was called for.

85. On the future role of UNCTAD, UNCTAD remained a relevant and important Organization to developing countries in general, and Africa in particular. The Organization had the intellectual capacity to be able to assist African countries to adjust to the post-Uruguay economic and trading environment and for the continent to be effectively integrated into the global economy. Accordingly, Uganda, like other African countries, strongly supported UNCTAD's future role. The Organization would need to play a more proactive role in assisting African countries to diversify their economies, in mobilizing resource flows to Africa, and in enhancing the role of the private sector in the development process.

86. The distinguished representative of Zambia outlined a number of important areas which he considered that UNCTAD should cover in its future activities. These were: the processing and marketing of commodities, the transfer of technology, in particular appropriate technology; information network connecting all the sub-regional economic groupings; the development of human resources; negotiations on Africa's products; and the dynamic relationship that should exist between the public and the private sectors in Africa's development process.

87. The distinguished representative of the Sudan stressed the need for African countries to support the Secretary General of UNCTAD in his efforts to accomplish the goals of UNCTAD. The Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX could significantly contribute to strengthening the position of African countries in the forthcoming UNCTAD IX negotiations. African countries needed to develop appropriate follow-up mechanisms for implementing the decisions to be adopted at UNCTAD IX, both at the sub-regional and the national levels.

88. In his intervention, the distinguished representative of Senegal pointed out to the danger that African countries would have to face as a result of the global liberalization of trade emerging from the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements. In view of their structural, technological and financial deficiencies, African countries appeared not prepared and capable of meeting the challenge of global competition resulting from the influx of relatively cheaper and better products on their domestic markets. In order to face up to this challenge, African countries needed to speed up their integration process in order to develop larger and better productive capacities and markets. On the future of UNCTAD, a call was made to strengthen UNCTAD as a framework where rules would be respected by all concerned in the spirit of mutually beneficial partnership and interdependence.

89. The distinguished representative of Kenya mentioned that Africa's share in world trade had been declining and currently accounts for only about 2% of world trade. In order to improve this condition, African economies should concentrate on the development of sectors such as Agriculture, textiles and services, by according them high priority in Government policy formulations.

90. African countries could only make an impact on the world economy if they formed a common trading area of sufficient size. In this regard, Kenya had usually supported the existence and strengthening of the various economic groupings in Africa. Kenya saw these as the building blocks for the larger economic integration initiative of the African Economic Community.

91. The importance of commodities and the excessive dependency on one or two commodities for the generation of income and foreign exchange were underlined. There was need to come up with concrete proposals and a plan of action which in future should cushion countries against adverse effects on their economies.

92. Tourism was a fast growing industry and was closely linked to sustainable development. African Governments and the private sector were called upon to work jointly to improve the infrastructure and provide all the necessary support services to promote this industry.

93. He endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of Experts Meeting, which were very relevant to the position of UNCTAD and its future role. Kenya expected UNCTAD to take an enhanced economic development of trade mutually beneficial to both developing and developed countries. The need for an "African Position" to be developed and articulated in UNCTAD IX deliberations was emphasized.

94. The following included the issues that UNCTAD should be requested to address:

- trade and investment
- trade and competitiveness
- trade liberalization vis-a-vis industrialization
- vertical and horizontal integration of the commodity sector
- trade and environment

- development of the services sector, especially tourism etc.
- regional integration and co-operation

95. To enable UNCTAD to carry out the above functions, there was need to support the Organization financially and morally. In this regard, its activities should be seen as complementing and not contradicting the role of the World Trade Organization in promoting world trade.

96. In his contribution to the African position on a globalizing and liberalizing world economy, the distinguished representative of South Africa stated that the implications of this process of globalization and deepening interdependence of the world economy was the possible loss of policy autonomy; and in more broad terms, a loss of national sovereignty. This could undermine and weaken individual countries capabilities to design and implement national development strategies. It was, therefore, imperative that UNCTAD, in its general strategic approach, should begin to help identify existing or potential levers at national, regional and global levels that would be able to foster development.

97. The Conference expressed strong support to UNCTAD and stressed for the Organization to be strengthened into an efficient and output oriented institution and called on African countries to massively participate in UNCTAD IX and confirm their participation as a matter of urgency.

Any other Business (agenda item 6)

98. The distinguished Minister of Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco informed the Conference of policy reforms and efforts being made by his country to adjust to the emerging globalizing and liberalizing World.

Adoption of the Report of the Conference and Closure of the Meeting (agenda item 7)

99. The Ministers adopted their Report and four resolutions with minimal amendments as well as the Addis Ababa Declaration on UNCTAD IX.

100. The distinguished representative of Nigeria briefed the Conference on preparations for the Seventh all Africa Trade Fair scheduled to be held in Lagos, Nigeria. The Conference was informed that the Fair would be held at the Lagos International Trade Fair Complex from 9 to 17 November 1996. Nigeria was ready to welcome delegates and participants to the Seventh All-Africa Trade Fair.

101. As regards nomination of five African Vice-Presidents for the Ninth Session of UNCTAD IX, the Conference decided to mandate the Geneva Group of African Ambassadors to consult on the nominations. East African countries, however, resolved to nominate the United Republic of Tanzania to serve as one of the five Vice-Presidents for UNCTAD IX representing the African continent.

102. The distinguished Minister of Trade of the Republic of South Africa, called upon countries wishing to participate in the ninth session of UNCTAD IX to be held in Midrand, South Africa to make early hotel reservations. All African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, Integration and Tourism were invited to participate in the deliberations of UNCTAD IX. The Conference was informed that the preparatory Committee for UNCTAD IX would meet during the following dates: 26 to 29 February 1996; 11 to 15 March 1996; and 15-25 March 1996.

**RESOLUTION ON
THE ORGANIZATION OF A MEETING ON ECDC/TCDC**

The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, Integration and Tourism,

Recalling the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade which met in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 December 1990 and adopted the Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and beyond;

Recalling the UN general Assembly resolution 47/183 on UNCTAD VIII;

Reaffirming the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on TCDC of September 1978, the Caracas Action Plan on ECDC of the Group of 77 of May 1981, the Teheran Declaration of the Group of 77 of November 1991, the Cartagena Commitment of February 1992, the Declaration of the 16th Annual Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 of October 1992. The Joint Communiqué of the Third Meeting of the Summit Level Group for South-South Consultations and Cooperations of November 1992;

Referring to the 12th Session of the African Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Tunis from 22-24 October 1993;

Mindful of the importance of South-South Trade and Cooperation;

Further Convinced that with the internalization of production and financial markets, the rapid evolution of technology in global production and trade the developing countries have no alternative to ECDC/TCDC to effectively participate in the new international trading system;

Noting that the developing countries have successfully established institutional arrangements to foster their economic cooperation;

Bearing in mind that many pronouncements in the past regarding institutional arrangements and meetings on ECDC/TCDC have so far failed to bring about the expected momentum in ECDC;

Mindful that the lack of coordination between development institutions, government agencies, the Regional Economic Communities, subregional business organizations and the private economic operators from developing countries in the mobilization of locally available resources especially at a time resources from developed countries are driven away from Africa.

Convinced that identification and implementation of substantial and concrete ECDC/TCDC programmes for development can meaningfully contribute to expansion of trade among developing countries:

1. **Welcomes** the ECA proposal to organize a meeting bringing together United Nations Regional Commissions and relevant specialized agencies, development banks of developing countries, subregional economic communities and countries which are not yet member of any subregional economic community, business organizations, African regional and subregional specialized institutions, centres of excellence on South-South Cooperation, research and scientific centres and other organizations and personalities concerned with ECDC/TCDC with a view to providing a framework of action and to identifying and formulating specific ECDC/TCDC projects as a significant break through in the history of South-South cooperation and the best way foreword to get out of the quagmire;
2. **Requests** the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to precede with the organization of the Conference within a thoroughly worked out framework;
3. **Further requests** the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to act as focal point and take lead in drawing work programme, associate other UN Regional Commissions, the Secretary General of the OAU, the President of the ADB as well as the Secretary General of UNCTAD in implementing this Proposal;
4. **Calls upon** the Executive Secretary of ECA to carefully work-out programme of action; including seminars, and workshops so as to sensitize African Officials on ECDC/TCDC programmes;
5. **Invites** the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), multilateral and bilateral donors to favourably consider financing the Conference and related programmes;
6. **Calls upon** member states to fully participate in the launching of the proposed conference.

**RESOLUTION ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMUNITIES; RATIONALIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF THE
ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Economic Cooperation, Integration and Tourism,

Considering the entry into force on 12 May 1994 of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community;

Further considering the urgent need for accelerating the integration process given the development challenges facing the continent in the context of the globalization of the world economy, the establishment and consolidation of regional and subregional economic blocks in the developed countries and the prospects provided by the outcome of the Uruguay Round Negotiations;

Recalling that the first Phase of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty concerns the strengthening of the regional communities, considered as the building blocks and instruments for achieving the objectives of the African Economic Community;

Considering also that there is the need for rationalization of economic cooperation and integration in the subregional economic spaces as defined under the Abuja Treaty, and mindful of the inadequacy of financial resources required for the achievement of their objectives;

Noting the poor results so far realized by the process of rationalizing the institutional mechanisms of those economic cooperation and integration organizations;

Considering the need to remove the obstacles caused by the existence of several treaties within the same region, particularly in the area of trade liberalization,

Aware of the limitation of the system of direct contributions from the national budgets of members States as a means of financing the integration process, and of the need to render the integration process more credible and irreversible,

1. **Stresses** the necessity for every African country to become a member of a regional or sub-regional community;

2. **Requests** member States, the regional and subregional communities:

(a) urgently institute a programme for the rationalization and harmonization of community trade policies through the unification of trade liberalization instruments within each regional space in particular those relating to:

- (i) the elimination of tariff barriers;
- (ii) rules of origin;
- (iii) certificates of origin;
- (iv) compensation mechanisms; and
- (v) tariff and statistical nomenclatures.

(b) to sustain and strengthen the regional integration process by adopting appropriate measures for the institution of common external tariffs, domestic taxation and pricing policies susceptible of providing African products a competitive edge in their own markets;

(c) to promote and encourage the participation of the private sector in the integration process;

(d) to design and implement self-financing mechanisms that will enable the regional and subregional communities to secure adequate and regular financing of the African economic integration process;

(e) further requests member States and the regional and subregional communities to design and implement appropriate activities for the harmonization of other sectoral integration policies;

3. **Invites** the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank to assist the regional and subregional communities in the implementation of the programme for the rationalization and the design of self-financing mechanisms for the integration process, in particular through the conduct of the required substantive studies;

4. **Requests** the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donors and funding agencies to contribute to the financing of studies and activities identified for the implementation of this programme;

5. **Welcomes** the progress made by some regional communities in the implementation of their programmes and exhort them to speed up the integration process;

6. **Invites** the joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat to do its utmost to provide a dynamic catalyst for and proper coordination of the activities of the regional and subregional economic communities.

RESOLUTION ON THE EIGHT YEAR INTER-AFRICAN TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

The Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation,
Integration and Tourism

Recalling the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade which met in Addis Ababa from 14-17 December 1990 and adopted the strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and beyond;

Recalling the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991;

Noting with concern the low level of intra African-Trade;

Aware of the importance of intra-African Trade in regional economic integration and of its role as the mainstay of Africa's development;

Further aware of the need for production and market diversification through increased investment levels and the building and utilization of adequate human, institutional and infrastructural capacities;

1. **Endorses** the Plan of Action for the development of intra-African Trade as proposed by ECA;

2. **Calls upon** African countries to fully support and implement the Eight Year Action Plan for the development of intra-African Trade;

3. **Further calls upon** the Chief Executives of Regional Business Organizations: ECA, AATPO, AEC, ITC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, Subregional Economic Groupings, World Tourism Organizations, World Bank, National Investment and Trade Development Centres and ADB to cooperate and coordinate efforts in the implementation of the Plan.

4. **Calls upon** UNDP, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to support the plan and provide resources for the funding of related programmes.

RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN AFRICA

The Conference of African responsible for Trade, Regional Cooperation, Integration and Tourism;

Considering issues regarding the development of tourism in Africa at regional and sub-regional levels;

Considering also the growing importance of tourism in socio-economic and cultural development as well as in the regional integration process;

Adopted the following arrangements to facilitate the rational and effective utilization of tourism resources in Africa:

A. AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

- (i) establishment of tourism development poles based on the setting up of a base of concentration, interlinking and tourism flow dispatching intended for a sub-region;
- (ii) within the context of the 1987 Kinshasa Declaration on African Tourism, grouping, within an African Regional Federation / African Tourism Organisation (Pan African promotion body), of sub-regional mechanisms within the purview of joint promotion of destination Africa and the establishment of Inter-State and Inter-African circuits by taking into account the complementarity of products and African cooperation and integration structures;
- (iii) establishment of tertiary infrastructures on the tourism sites and centres of interest and encouraging integration and participation of the people by making a significant consumption of the cultural and natural resources of the sites;
- (iv) establishment of tourism products based, indeed, on tested traditional components but also diversify them by integrating new components such as thematic tourism and eco-tourism and based on the attributes and unique resources of the different countries;
- (v) facilitation, through legislation, of the emergence of a motivated and competent African private sector constituting the privileged partner of National Tourism Administrations in the definition of policies and playing a vanguard role in the promotional and tourism products management activities. The government authorities will also take measures enabling

the participation of foreign investors and users within the framework of partnership policies between them and the users of tourism resources;

- (vi) establishment of systems for the development of human resources for tourism trades and conducive to the emergence of tourism conception and management cadres;
- (vii) development of policies associating closely tourism exploitation, conservation, development and use/management of national and human environments; and
- (viii) marketing based on a sound knowledge of tourism development objectives for the country, a sharp knowledge of the aspirations of the national, African and foreign consumers and taking into account the socio-cultural and environmental effects.
- ix) ECA is requested to convene a meeting of Ministers of Tourism, Transport, Aviation including concerned international, national organisations and associations in view to enhancing the contribution of air transport to the promotion and development of tourism in Africa.
- x) ratification and implementation by member States, of various Conventions, treaties and procoles related to free movements of people and services in view to enhance the development of intra-african and interregional tourism in Africa;
- xi) improvement of air transport services between the different countries of the sub-region, including the granting of extended rights for scheduled flights and charter flights; and

B. AT THE SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

NORTHERN REGION

- i) the reactivation of sub-regional cooperation in tourism and the priority establishment of a mechanism either within AMU or autonomously: a Sub-regional Tourism Cooperation and Integration Structure. Pursuant to the directives of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism, the ECA proposes the establishment/reactivation of the "Regional Organization of North African Tourism" grouping Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and the Sudan;
- ii) the establishment, within the framework of that Organization, of a mechanism for cooperation between the Vocational Training Centre and the recognition of diplomas issued by the training institutions of the sub-region;

- iii) the establishment of Maghreb and North African inter-State tourism circuits aimed at enhancing cooperation and promoting intra-African tourism and free movement of nationals of these countries and other African countries;
- iv) establishment of "North Africa" stands during marketing activities in external markets and organization of meetings between tourism professionals of the sub-region; and
- v) measures to facilitate tourist travels and stay including immigration, national currencies, transport and communications.

WESTERN REGION

- i) the improvement of tourism research and promotion tools through the organization, on a sub-regional basis, of seminars on tourism statistical data;
- ii) the establishment of Inter-State circuits encompassing the products of coastal and landlocked countries. The marketing programmes will be carried out jointly with a preponderant participation of operators. The Changing the International Handicraft Exhibition of Ouagadougou (SIAO) into the "International Handicraft and Hotel Equipment Exhibition of Ouagadougou (SIAHO)" as recommended at the Seminar on Tourism and Handicraft organized by SIAO 94.
- iii) Establishment of a permanent ECOWAS Tourism and leisure fair as decided by the ECOWAS Council of ministers at its session of 3 July 1991;
- iv) promotion of small and medium scale tourism enterprises with technical assistance for vocational training and laying down of concrete incentives for the emergence of African operators and their foreign partners;
- v) improvement of air transport services between the different countries of the sub-region, including the granting of extended rights for scheduled flights and charter flights; and
- vi) enhancement of Inter-State cooperation for the harmonization and integration of tourism development policies and programmes with a view to establishing a single space.
- vii) Implementation of the measures at the Community level:

- a) promotion of community projects in training, accommodation promotion and marketing of tourism products and the promotion of national and youth tourism,
- b) harmonizing the classification standards for hotels and other types of accommodation, harmonizing facilitating measures, harmonizing travel and tourism statistical methods and concepts.

CENTRAL REGION

- i) prepare the post conflict period, for some countries, by rehabilitating, in the urban centres and as far as possible, the reception infrastructures. These establishments will be the basis for the recovery of the industry and in the meantime will offer reception centres for investors and visitors within the framework of general restaurant operations;
- ii) promotion of Small and Medium scale Tourism Enterprise including incentives, training and technical assistance given to the professionals of the sectors;
- iii) establishment of cooperation and joint promotion mechanisms at the sub-regional level like the Tourism Organisation in Central Africa. The sub-regional organizations for cooperation and integration could provide a provisional basis for the establishment of such a structure;
- iv) promotion of inter-State circuits by facilitating joint ventures; and
- v) concrete measures to improve the movement of persons in the sub-region and the other parts of Africa: more flights linking the landlocked countries to the best connected countries, facilitation of travels and stays.

EASTERN REGION

- (i) to strengthen cooperation among states of the sub-region, and institutions working towards development cooperation and integration including the formulation of common programmes for the harnessing of resources, development of facilitation measures, exchange of expertise, joint promotion and the establishment of inter-state circuits;
- (ii) to strengthen at national level, community participation in the development and management of national level community participation including the elaboration of concrete measures for the exploitation of wild life;
- (iii) to diversify products with more attention being focused on cultural resources and social environment while maintaining control of the negative impact that might accrue therefrom;

- (iv) to establish in the northern region a tourism cooperation and integration mechanism and a network of inter-state circuits;
- (v) to enlist the active participation of promotion of tourism in formulating measures to facilitate tourism with a view to promoting intra-African tourism; and
- (vi) to create a common tourism destination pole enhancing insular and continental products.

SOUTHERN REGION

- i. to strengthen sub-regional cooperation as a step towards Pan-African integration. The regional organization of tourism in Southern Africa should be considered as a milestone towards the establishment of vaster entities as defined in the Abuja Treaty;
- ii. to develop intra-African tourism by facilitating the free movement of goods and persons and the establishment of small and medium business;
- iii. to develop human resources and horizontal cooperation;
- iv. to diversify tourism products and create inter-state circuits;
- v. to develop and manage natural resources (wild life and nature) and cultural and social heritage for a sustainable and sustained development of tourism and for an active participation of the local populations; and
- vi. to promote small and medium national businesses.

C. TOURISM AND AFRICAN INTEGRATION

Measures for strengthening Integration

- 1. Promotion of Intra-African Tourism
- 2. Promotion of Inter-State Circuits
- 3. Establishment of tourism products inspired by African cultural and natural heritage
- 4. Establishment of cooperation mechanisms at the level of policies and development activities including cooperation between professionals
- 5. Joint promotion of African tourism products and the establishment of attractive African travel destinations

6. Measures for facilitation of tourism travels and stays in Africa including the free movement of persons and goods in Africa
7. Implementation of the UNESCO/WTO Slave Route Project Declaration adopted by the eleventh (11th) session of the World Tourism Organization in Cairo, Egypt, October 1995 with the view to promoting tourism in Africa as being done by the former Eastern European countries together with some of the Western European nations with the "silk route project".
8. Pooling of resources available for tourism development including the establishment of Professional training institutions and recognition of diplomas issued in the National Tourism Training Institutions which will accept to enter the system.
9. Elaboration of a protocol on the development of the tourism sector in Africa as an annex to the Abuja Treat. Member States are requested to participate in the preparation of this document by conveying their suggestions to the ECA secretariat at the Earliest opportunity.
10. Organization of the African Tourism Fair: The Secretariats of the OAU and the ECA are mandated to constitute the organising committee to be composed of technical experts from the Tourism Divisions of the African Regional Economic Communities in accordance with the principle of geographical balance to plan and organise the second African Tourism Fair in collaboration with the EU, the World Tourism Organisation and other internationally identified bodies.

D. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The establishment, where this is not already the case, of autonomous government departments concerned specifically with the tourism sector;
2. Strengthening of ECA's tourism unit to enhance its effectiveness in addressing the increasing needs of member Stats in the area of technical assistance;
3. Allocation by governments of credit lines on the national budgets to speed up the development of tourism. The African Development Bank (ADB) should include loans for tourism development in its lending portfolio. This would minimize the dependence eon external sources of funding for tourism development programmes;

4. ECA is requested to carry out:

- i) a study in cooperation with the World Trade Organization, on the implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS/AGCS) on tourism development in Africa;
- ii) and in cooperation with the European Union, a concertation in view of harmonising the contractual relations between the European tourism operators and their African partners mainly regarding the business relation for tourism services.

E. FOLLOW UP

ECA is requested to make all the necessary efforts, within its mandate, to facilitate the implementation of these arrangements, and to extend the necessary technical assistance to member States, subregional organizations as well as the relevant professional bodies and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of programmes connected with those arrangements. The ECA secretariat will, on a regular basis, make a report thereon to the governing bodies the Commission.