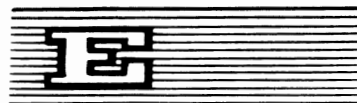




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Intergovernmental Committee of  
Experts for Science and  
Technology Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - 10-15  
March 1980

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Technical  
Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, 3-8 April 1980

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifteenth session of the Commission/  
Sixth Meeting of the Conference of  
Ministers

Addis Ababa, 9-12 April 1980

RESOLUTION ADOPTED  
BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
AT ITS FIFTH MEETING ON  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR AFRICA FOR  
THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE

332 (XIV). Development strategy for Africa for the Third Development Decade

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/123 of 29 January 1979 which affirmed that the new international development strategy should be designed to promote the development of the developing countries within the framework of the new international economic order and especially through the promotion and support of economic and technical co-operation among themselves, specify goals, objectives and policy measures addressed to both developed and developing countries for accelerated development of the developing countries, contribute to the solution of international economic development and support such development on the basis of justice and mutual benefit,

Noting that Africa's participation in the formulation of strategies for United Nations Development Decades has hitherto been extremely marginal,

Conscious of the urgent desire of member States of the continent of Africa to contribute fully to the formulation of the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Desirous that the next international development strategy should facilitate accelerated development on a self-sustaining and self-reliant basis at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting that the continent of Africa is still the least developed of the world's major regions, has displayed a persistent failure to achieve the targets set in the first two United Nations Development Decades, and that now is the time to take urgent and appropriate measures to forestall the obvious and ominous increase in mass poverty, unemployment and external dependence, the risk of natural resource depletion and of environmental degradation as a result of the widespread adoption of patterns of development and life styles imported into the region,

Aware that the African continent is more drastically affected than the other regions of the world by the negative consequences of development strategies adopted by most countries, whose failure has been aggravated by the economic and social crisis which the industrialized countries are currently undergoing, and which stubbornly fail to yield to treatment by conventional policies, strategies and instruments within the familiar structure of international relations,

Aware also that Africa is excessively and chronically dependent on other countries even for food, and that trade and commercial structures are still almost invariably in a North-South direction, a legacy from the past which fosters the law of unequal exchange and its consequences, deteriorating terms of trade, outward oriented production and little domestic processing of raw materials,

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\* See annex B.

Aware of the pressing need for the physical integration of the continent through the development of transport and communications,

Recalling resolutions of the General Assembly, the Conference of Ministers and the United Nations Environment Programme which deal with the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment,

Recalling resolution CM/Plen./Res.11 (XXXII) of the thirty-second ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity which met at Nairobi from 23 February to 4 March 1979 and which among other things takes note of the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia concerning the formulation of a Declaration of Commitment to specific priority projects for the speedy economic development of the continent and urges member States to give serious consideration to the idea of a Declaration of Commitment and to come to the thirty-third session of the Council of Ministers with concrete suggestions for such a Declaration,

1. Adopts the document prepared by the Technical Committee of Experts as amended entitled "Strategy for the African region in the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade" contained in annex A to the present resolution, the reports of the OAU/ECA Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the year 2000 1/ held in Monrovia from 12 to 16 February 1979 and the ECA/UNEP Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region 2/ held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979, as working document to be submitted to the sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

2. Expresses appreciation to the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme for organizing the OAU/ECA Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 and to the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme for organizing the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region;

3. Expresses appreciation to the Government of Liberia for its active support, generosity and facilities for hosting the OAU/ECA Symposium;

4. Recommends to member States for adoption the draft Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective

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1/ E/CN.14/693/Add.2

2/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1

Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order contained in annex B to the present resolution;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary forthwith to transmit the draft Declaration as well as the other working documents to all member States;

6. Invites member States to study the draft Declaration and the strategy statement on the basis of the working documents and submit as soon as possible, but not later than 15 May 1979, such comments and suggestions as they may have on the draft Declaration and strategy statement to the Executive Secretary;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare the final documents embodying the Declaration on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the statement on strategy having regard to the comments and suggestions received pursuant to paragraph 6 above for submission to the sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

8. Further requests the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the final documents as prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with paragraph 6 above are submitted to member States at least thirty days before the thirty-third ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

207th meeting  
27 March 1979

#### ANNEX A

### STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

#### Section I

#### Guiding principles

1. In examining the question of the strategy for the African region in the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and in adopting the following strategy for the African region in the international strategy for the Third Development Decade, the following considerations were taken into account:

- That African participation, for many historic reasons, in the formulation of the strategy for the First and Second United Nations Development Decades respectively was marginal;

- That the African region is known to be the least developed of all developing regions and to contain the largest number of least developed and land-locked countries as well as being the least physically integrated in terms of transport and communications;
- That the present imbalances in the international economic order are largely due to the overwhelming industrial and technological gap among the various groups of the nations of the world, and that the multiplying effects of this industrial and technological gap are increasingly becoming more severe on the international monetary system, trade relations and economic co-operation;
- That the region has displayed a persistent failure to achieve the targets set for the first two United Nations Development Decades;
- That it has in general not significantly succeeded in designing and implementing measures for effecting internal structural changes and improvement of factor inputs on both of which self-reliant and self-sustaining development depends;
- That it has, during the past three years, given considerable thought to the approach to the strategy for the African region in the Third United Nations Development Decade.

2. It was noted that policies, strategies and development programmes in the region continued to be markedly affected by misconception and erroneous strategies which tended to consolidate the region's external dependence for food, skills, technology, capital goods and services, markets and even life-styles and patterns of development and economic growth.

3. The strategies are characterized by a persistent confusion between growth and development and fail to measure advance by appropriate socio-economic indicators or indices of general well-being.

4. The region's external socio-economic relations could be summarized as those of client States and their principals in which relations tended to be prescriptive rather than contractual and Africa was the accidental beneficiary of the progress and welfare of others.

5. Emphasis was placed on outdated concepts of the international division of labour as a result of which member States still lacked sufficient mastery over the technical and financial instruments essential for new types of development appropriate for the creation of a material and cultural system which would be consistent with self-reliance, self-sustainment, the conservation and development of inherited cultural values and the recovery of self-confidence particularly as regards the nurturing of creativity and inventiveness.

6. In more specific terms it was noted that:

(a) It was not longer desirable and feasible to replicate alien life-styles, production patterns and consumption patterns. Efforts to do so in the past had often led to a continuing state of unhealthy dependency, persistence of mass unemployment, poverty, wide and increasing disparities in the distribution of income and wealth and gradual loss of cultural identity. Approaches to planning development had been predominantly based on economic factors such as rate of growth of gross national product, rate of return on capital investment, indiscriminate acquisition of foreign technology, etc.;

(b) Existing life-styles and patterns of economic growth in industrialized countries as well as in several developing countries had led to serious environmental degradation and rapidly increasing social costs, natural resources depletion, technologically-created unemployment, alienation, pathological urbanization, erosion of family and community life, and, in general a deteriorating quality of life;

(c) In the light of increasing social costs, including the costs of alleviating environmental damage, it was doubtful whether the dominant patterns of growth and life-style from the developed countries would be desirable, suitable and/or sustainable over the long run;

(d) The serious structural imbalances in international economic relations between the developed and developing countries had imposed significant constraints, and, in effect, had led to a growing distortion of indigenous development patterns and life-styles, locking developing countries into given patterns, and had made it progressively difficult to realize the declared aims of social progress and to make autonomous choices;

(e) Despite the development experience of several African countries, productivity of labour and other factors of production had remained low. The internal dynamics of growth had not led to self-reliant and self-sustaining economic development in most cases. Moreover, sizable sections of populations, including women and the entire rural population, had been left out of the mainstream of development. There had been a notable persistence of intellectual colonization in many parts of Africa which had weakened efforts to design new development patterns and life-styles rooted in the African situation which were fully consistent with African aspirations. There had been also a notable lack of systematic attempts to utilize and draw on traditional experience and knowledge in the field of socio-economic development.

7. Bearing in mind the document on development process and Africa's problems and perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade; 3/ the report of the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life-Styles for Africa; 4/ the report of the Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000; 5/ and the revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new International Economic Order in Africa; 6/ it was proposed that as far as the African region is concerned the new international development strategy should serve the following objectives:

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3/ E/CN.14/698  
4/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1

5/ E/CN.14/698/Add.2  
6/ E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3

(a) The establishment of self-sustaining, internally located process of development and economic growth at the national and/or multinational level;

(b) Subregional and regional collective self-reliance;

(c) Development of human resources to ensure their greater participation in the development process;

(d) Broad-based participation in the development process concurrent and consistent with equitable distribution of the gains of socio-economic development;

(e) Acceleration of the industrialization process on the continent in the context of the social and economic environment of each country and not as a simple importation of foreign industrialization patterns.

8. In the pursuit of these objectives, priorities for the next United Nations Development Decade should be as follows:

- First, the attainment of regional self-sufficiency in food;
- Second, the establishment of a sound industrial base with special emphasis on the development of the requisite national industrial and technological policies, capabilities, and institutional infrastructure, as well as intra-African co-operation in order to permit the industrial take-off of Africa;
- Third, the physical integration of the region through the development of transport and communications at the national, multinational and regional levels;
- Fourth, the development of capabilities - national, multinational and regional - required to enable African Governments and their peoples to establish sovereignty over their natural resources;
- Fifth, the establishment of mutually beneficial and equitable relations between African countries and the rest of the world;
- Sixth, the attainment of a substantial increase in the present meagre 4 per cent share of intra-African trade in the total trade of Africa.

9. The following modalities were recommended for the achievement of objectives and priorities:

(a) At the national level- Establishment and implementation of programmes for large-scale development of manpower, inter alia, at the intermediate level where African countries are extremely weak, and the mobilization of human resources for development purposes;



(b) At the regional level - Strengthening of existing subregional and regional institutions for implementing priority programmes and projects. Emphasis on the development of human resources and Africanization of training;

(c) At the international level - Strengthening or devising new forms of co-operation, inter alia, through the agency of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, in connexion with the new international economic order;

(d) The plan of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development must have regard to these objectives and priorities;

(e) Declaring the period 1980-1990 as the African Industrial Development Decade for the purpose of focusing greater attention and evoking greater political commitment and financial and technical support, at the national, regional and international levels for the industrialization of Africa.

10. It was realized that these objectives, priorities and targets are unrealistic without:

- The total political commitment of all African States to their pursuit as expressed in the realistic translation of these commitments into concrete action through:
  - (i) Declared policy priorities;
  - (ii) Budget and financing;
  - (iii) National and international consistency in the selection of agreed strategies and investment criteria;
  - (iv) Co-ordinated positions taken by member States individually and collectively at international negotiations.
- The political will needed on the part of the developed countries to ensure the implementation of priority programmes and of work towards the agreed objectives and special attention to the least developed, land-locked, island and most severely affected developing countries.

## Section II

### Plan of Action

#### 1. Self-sufficiency in food supply

##### (a) The Regional Food Plan for Africa

The chief features of the plan to be incorporated into the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade should include:



- The relation between food products and other products; the allocation of financial and real resources; the system of incentives;
- Institutions within the context of integrated rural development;
- Changes in strategies and instrumentation: infrastructure of transport; marketing; storage; processing capabilities;
- Technical inputs:
  - . Specific improved seeds, R and D, multiplication and distribution;
  - . Agricultural chemicals;
  - . Implements, tools, machinery and manufacturing and repair servicing capabilities;
  - . Irrigation: Water resources exploration and evaluation;
  - . Storage facilities;
  - . Irrigation technology; production and supply of irrigation equipment;
  - . The promotion of intra-African trade in food.

(b) Increased over-all productivity in agriculture (inclusive of crops, livestock, forestry and fishery)

Through:

- Improved policy emphasis for agricultural development;
- Increased investment through national budgets and foreign assistance;
- Improved infrastructure in the rural areas including mass education of the rural population; establishment at national levels of agricultural mechanical centres for the production of tools, equipment and other relevant and appropriate machines inclusive of servicing; encouragement of the creation of national agro-service centres aimed at bringing agricultural inputs within the early reach of farmers; encouragement of multi-purpose river basin development;
- Integrated rural development approach consistent with other necessary institutional changes.

(c) Agricultural research for appropriate inputs, skills and technological improvement

- Intensive and urgent agronomic research for the development of new crop and livestock strains able to cope with the changing

ecological conditions and the special problems of the Sahel and other arid and semi-arid areas;

- Training and research to generate (large-scale) massive adaptive technology for accelerated agricultural development;
- Increased productivity and effective control of exploitation of the resources from the farms, forests, livestock and fish products.

## 2. Human resources development

Very high priority should be attached to the development of human resources during the Third United Nations Development Decade. It is therefore recommended that special efforts by the United Nations system, bilateral aid and other donors in assisting member States to develop their human resources as much as possible should be included in the international development strategy for the Decade.

Major areas of such resources comprise:

- High and middle-level technical manpower;
- Manpower for industry at the workshop level;
- Improved agricultural manpower;
- Manpower for marketing, distribution and maintenance services;
- Manpower for business support institutions (such as industrial estates and extension services, agricultural extension, etc.);
- Manpower for major sectors such as natural resources exploration, evaluation and extraction (including mining), transport and communications, food production, etc.;
- Eradication of illiteracy (use of local languages).

In regard to segments of the population requiring special development efforts technical training and entrepreneurial development are recommended relating to:

- Women;
- Out-of-school population;
- Drop-outs.

and attention is called to the need for research on methods and content of non-formal education and particularly of education technologies for converting the primary out-of-school/drop-out population into efficient operatives in industry, farming and services including maintenance of equipment and structures.

Special attention should be given to the development of national capabilities in project design, planning, installation and management, the lack of which constitutes a grave weakness in most African countries. Special and imaginative efforts should also be made to create conditions of work and other incentives to halt and reverse the present brain drain from the region.

### 3. Population

With regard to population, account was taken of:

- The high rate of population growth in many African countries;
- The rapid rate of uncontrolled urbanization;
- The high levels of mortality and fertility;
- The existing gap in meeting the needs of large groups for health, education, shelter, food, employment, etc.;
- The imbalance in opportunities for the development and application of latent capabilities in the population of women and the young.

### 4. Survey, inventory and management of natural resources

The strategy should aim at substantially strengthening the national and multinational capabilities of the region with regard to the collection and dissemination of information needed for the purpose of planning natural resources at the national level with a view to their efficient management and use including considerations of environmental protection, the conservation of exhaustible resources and the careful management of renewable resources capable of ultimate exhaustion.

The main elements of this part of the strategy should include:

- The expansion and development of national and multinational capabilities for making full use of modern technologies (including remote sensing) for natural resources exploration, evaluation and inventory;
- The development of technologies for the extraction and processing of natural resources which will maximize the economy of physical use of these resources (including recycling and materials substitution) and which will contribute towards the protection of the environment;
- The acquisition and/or development of capabilities at the national and multinational levels for negotiating the exploration, extraction and disposal of their natural resources on the most advantageous terms;

- The development and distribution of information on natural resources with a view to identifying complementarities in natural resources for planning socio-economic development; and
- The development of policies, machinery and operational infrastructure for effectively securing the optimum advantages from the resources of the sea bearing in mind the opportunities and responsibilities which are inherent in the proposed International Convention on the Law of the Sea.

#### 5. Energy

- Establishment of national and subregional energy models by the years 2000-2020;
- Harmonization of energy policies;
- Rural electrification;
- Development of non-conventional and new energy sources;
- Promotion of the use of solar energy, especially for agricultural needs.

#### 6. Environment and development

Considering that environment provides the human, physical and biological resources that form the basis for any development process and that an integrated approach should form an integral part of any development planning, environmental considerations have to be taken into account in the plan of action for the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

In order to promote the accelerated development of the developing countries within the framework of the New International Economic Order, environment factors have to be taken into account to reduce social and economic costs that arise from neglect and utter disregard of problems of pollution, soil degradation, resource depletion, desertification, flooding, water-borne diseases, climatic changes and others that result from various development processes and patterns.

The main components to be included in an integrated environment-development strategy should include:

- Protection of the environment by monitoring pollutants in the air (smoke and noxious industrial gases), in the seas (oil); in the soil (excess fertilizers and heavy metal pesticides); and in foods as contaminants;

- Conservation of natural resources to combat deforestation, soil loss and degradation, mineral depletion, desertification, salinization of arid farm lands;
- Environmental legislation to improve the quality of life by maintaining the basic needs of clean air and water, good food and health and a satisfactory work and leisure ratio;
- Promotion of environmentally-sound development through careful development planning for siting an economic activity, choice of process and technology, anticipatory environmental problems, choice of end products, marketing strategy and periodic assessment of rural-urban population migration resulting from the promotion of the industrialization process.

## 7. Science and technology

The teaching of science and scientific research in Africa have not been properly linked to technology and its application. Moreover, the two of them have not been treated as priorities and oriented towards the social and economic needs of Africa. Yet technology is the outcome of a specific agent (generally a business unit) attempting to solve particular technological problems, under specific constraints, at a particular place and time. This raises questions about the existence, character and sectoral distribution of such agents and the relationship of technological adaptation, invention and innovation to production.

It is therefore considered that:

- Measures should be taken to make science teaching and scientific research related to technology and both of them oriented towards the social and economic needs of Africa;
- Measures should be taken for the establishment in Africa of multi-national teaching companies within the principal sectors and subsectors of production priorities;
- These companies should be closely associated in their operational activities with universities, polytechnics and educational and training institutions at the second level;
- These companies should also assist in the development of technical entrepreneurs;
- At the national level, efforts should be made to identify and develop or establish production units where experiments can be carried out in the production of parts and components, in the substitution of materials, in changes in design and other processes of the upgrading of traditional technology and the adaptation of imported technology;

- Measures should be taken for the establishment of networks of information on low cost and other adapted technology from other developing countries and regions;
- Measures should be taken for increasing the supply of equipment, parts, raw materials, blueprints, technical literature, etc., to facilitate the operation of clearing and teaching centres for technological research and experimentation.

### 3. Transport and communications

For satisfactory implementation of the various schemes planned during the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa:

(a) African countries should make the development of transport and communications a top priority and give it the required support;

(b) The Economic Commission for Africa should have all the necessary finance, equipment and resources available to enable it to prepare the programmes for the various phases of the Decade;

(c) The international community should provide special and ongoing assistance by supplying African countries with services, equipment, capital and know-how to that the projects can be implemented during the Decade;

(d) African countries should be assisted by the international community to develop transport and communications networks within their countries in order to accelerate the development of the rural areas which will complement the implementation of the international network.

The main elements of the strategy should therefore be as follows:

#### (i) Road transport

- Establishment during the biennium (before 1982) of a master plan for a unified homogenous African international road network.
- This master plan would be superimposed on national plans and would complement them as needed.
- In this context the implementation of ongoing projects should be continued, whilst at the same time promoting the study and implementation of other trans-African links, in particular the nine highways mentioned in document E/CN.14/710 which should be accorded the same degree of urgency.
- Establishment of a Road Charter for this African network, which will define the technical construction, maintenance, and operating standards, including all legal and administrative aspects.

- Expert missions carried out by the Commission to study with national authorities this Master Plan and the related charter.
- The approval of these two documents as soon as possible by all the member States should be encouraged.
- Harmonization of the various codes and systems of road signs and signals and axle load limits.
- Simplification and harmonization of administrative and legal barriers on international sections of road.
- The setting up of training centres.

(ii) Maritime transport and ports

- Ratification and application of the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and application of Rule 40/40/20;
- Setting up of subregional maritime shipping companies;
- Establishment of shippers' councils;
- Development and upgrading of ports;
- Adoption of modern unit transport facilities and development of multi-modal transport and coastal traffic;
- Harmonization of administrative and customs formalities;
- Construction of shipyards;
- Establishment of training institutions;
- Marine pollution programmes.

(iii) Air transport

- Liberalization of traffic rights and harmonization of time-tables and programmes;
- Pooling of equipment, lines and ground installations;
- Establishment of joint training centres and servicing and repair facilities;
- Establishment of multinational air freight companies;
- Standardization of equipment and formalities.



(iv) Rail transport

- Standardization, development, co-ordination and improvement of rail services;
- Interconnexion of the different networks;
- Harmonization and standardization of track gauges, rolling-stock loading gauges, brake systems and motive power;
- Construction of an African rail network.

(v) River and lake transport

- Joint development of rivers and lakes;
- Pooling of the various possibilities provided by rivers and lakes;
- Development of river and lake transport - infrastructures, management, legislation.

(vi) Telecommunications

- Construction of the PANAFTEL network;
- Improvement and development of national networks;
- Development of the telecommunications and electronics industry;
- Development of training and of data processing equipment;
- Harmonization of charging systems and international accounting procedures;
- Setting up of remote sensing facilities.

(vii) Mail services

- Organization of subregional sorting centres;
- Organization of international accounting system;
- Development of mail services: infrastructure, management, training of specialists;
- Improvement of mail routing and delivery, especially in rural areas;
- Establishment throughout the continent of monetary services primarily of postal and money order and postal savings facilities.

(viii) Radio and television

- Setting up of a multinational satellite communications system;
- Programme exchanges;
- Improvement and development of the infrastructure and of the broadcasting equipment and electronics industry.

9. Tourism

- Elaboration of an over-all policy for the development of tourism on a continental scale;
- Sectoral development study at the regional and subregional level;
- Training and upgrading of cadres and specialists;
- Exchange of experience and information;
- Direction of national tourist flows;
- Design of tourist products for joint marketing at a subregional level.

10. Economic co-operation

In pursuit of the strategy for the Decade, existing regional and subregional bodies designed to favour subregional co-operation and integration should be strengthened.

Special priority should be given to the implementation of projects designed to fulfil these aims by encouraging intra-African trade and other forms of regional economic co-operation.

11. Intra-African trade

To achieve an 8 per cent share of intra-African trade, it is suggested that:

- (a) The Economic Commission for Africa should intensify its activities in the identification of trade and other barriers to intra-African trade; market research and trade promotion with a view to importing the necessary information to member States on a continuous basis and assisting them in taking advantage of existing and potential intra-African trade opportunities;

(b) African countries should undertake trade negotiations aimed at eliminating or reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers among themselves at subregional levels within the framework of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, and at inter-subregional levels and eventually at the regional level;

(c) The Commission should bring about direct contact between buyers and sellers of specific commodities in the form of workshops and trade in these commodities;

(d) Steps should be taken to strengthen existing clearing house and other payment arrangements and create new ones at the subregional level with a view to integrating them into an African Payments System by the end of the Decade and thus minimize the use of foreign currencies for the financing of intra-African Trade;

(e) Export credit insurance systems should be established at national, subregional and regional levels to encourage African business men to trade with each other.

## 12. International trade

High priority should be accorded to the need for a market improvement in the clearly inequitable relationships that exist between African countries and other groups of countries with a view to securing such terms of trade for the region as will actually assist its development effort, instead of impeding it, as is at present the case. To this effect, steps will need to be taken to upgrade significantly the local value-added content of Africa's exports to these countries; and to diversify Africa's trade patterns with a view to reducing the region's excessive dependence on trade with any other group of countries.

## 13. Industrial development

High priority should be attached to industrial development programme in Africa within the framework of the establishment and execution of a programme of action.

### (a) Integration of industry and economic development

- (i) In order to speed up industrialization efforts and to increase the multiplier effects on the other development sectors in Africa, it is recommended that, "systematic industrial development" be approved and applied in preference to the sectoral system, that is to say, the method of starting with the processing of a primary raw material, Processing units based on successive by-products would then be identified, studied and implemented, making maximum use of Africa's resources and putting a stop to the alarming waste of industrial by-products which has so far been observed in Africa;

- (ii) The total integrated vertical development of natural resources with particular attention to mineral, agricultural, marine and energy resources, with a view to increasing the value added; reducing exports of primary products; increasing employment opportunities and increasing the benefit of these resources to the entire population of the countries concerned;
  - (iii) The development of basic, engineering, capital goods, small-scale and light industries to provide inputs for the development of the other sectors of the economy and to enable the total development of natural resources;
- (b) Industrial and technological strategies, policies and plans
- (i) A re-examination of existing industrial strategies, policies, plans and programmes, taking into account the status of technical personnel and scientists involved in industrial and technological development and the promotion of indigenous industrial entrepreneurs especially in the small-scale industrial sector;
  - (ii) The preparation of national technology plans and programmes as an integral part of the national economic development plan; this needs to include the institutional machinery for the development or up-grading and commercialization of indigenous technologies, as well as the evaluation, selection, acquisition, adaptation, absorption and regulation of foreign appropriate technologies.
- (c) Industrial and technological manpower development
- (i) The development of industrial and technological manpower to cover the entire spectrum of the various skills and expertise required at the various stages of the industrial development process;
  - (ii) The establishment of national institutions, such as teaching companies, rural workshops, demonstration plants, sectoral institutes and the strengthening of existing ones for the training of industrial and technological skills;
  - (iii) A realignment of the existing educational system, national compensation schemes, to the status of technical personnel with the increasing emphasis on industrial and technological development.

(d) Industrial and technological institutional infrastructures

- (i) The development of a sound national industrial institutional machinery for the effective planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of industrial development activities.
- (ii) The national machinery should include institutions dealing with:
  - Industrial and technological research and development;
  - Standardization, quality control and metrology;
  - Regulation of technology import;
  - Commercialization of indigenous technologies;
  - Industrial and technological information;
  - Industrial planning, project identification, preparation and evaluation;
  - Industrial investment promotion with special emphasis on assistance to small-scale industrial entrepreneurs;
  - Industrial consultancy and management;
  - Industrial and engineering design including product and process adaptation.

(e) International industrial trade

- (i) Improving the present system and structure of international industrial trade and the marketing of African manufactured goods;
- (ii) Promoting greater intra-African co-operation in the expansion of African markets for manufactured goods.

(f) Intra-African industrial and technological co-operation

- (i) Harmonization of strategies and policies in order to overcome the constraints facing African countries, especially those related to shortage of industrial manpower; development or acquisition of technology, integration of markets; and optimum utilization of their limited financial resources;

- (ii) Greater participation by the African countries to influence action, at the international level, through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization industrial consultation meeting, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development negotiation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization policy-making organs and those of other relevant United Nations and international organizations;
- (iii) Greater emphasis on industrial and technological matters in trade and economic agreements between African and industrialized countries;
- (iv) Increased technical assistance from international organizations to the African countries in support of their industrial development efforts, with emphasis on assistance to multinational projects and the least developed countries, land-locked, island and drought-stricken countries.

#### 14. Financing development

It is recognized that Africa has a considerable amount of resources in terms of development funds. To exploit this advantage there is need to:

(a) Arrest the drain of foreign exchange out of the region by various mechanisms of which the activities of transnationals constitute one element;

(b) Mobilize these and other financial and real resources with and redeploy them on a region-wide basis for the purpose of national, multinational and regional development and economic growth particularly in the development of basic and strategic industries. Such mobilization and redeployment will require specialized financial institutions where the concentration of particular kind of skill and the accumulation of particular kind of experience can be brought to bear on their optimum utilization;

(c) However, given the urgency and the complexity of the problems of accelerated development and economic growth that will face the countries of the region, it is clear that substantial net transfer of external resources from the international community will be needed, on terms and conditions that do not exacerbate the debt burdens of the region and for purposes which will enable the region to service, without undue strain, such debt payments. Appropriate measures should therefore be taken to increase the net inflow of resources and improve the terms by which such resources are transferred.

15. Transnational corporations

The strategy should include:

- (a) Measures to develop a comprehensive information system on transnational corporations so as to increase the awareness and perception of African countries of the issues relating to their structure, operations and policies, and how these affect the socio-economic development process including steps to increase the flow and exchange of knowledge and experience on national regulations and legislations;
- (b) Measures to develop negotiating capacities and to strengthen the bargaining position of member States vis-a-vis transnational corporations through the creation of appropriate institutions at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels;
- (c) Measures for regulating the purchase and acquisition of technology from transnational corporations in such a way as to ensure the growth of indigenous production and technological capacity, thereby accelerating the attainment of self-reliance;
- (d) The harmonization of measures towards transnational corporations including the adoption of a common stand; and
- (e) Measures to maximize the advantages which transnational corporations are expected to confer on African countries in the forms of, e.g., employment opportunities, investment finance, development of managerial and technical skills, transfer of technology and the development of industry, agriculture and the rural sector.

16. Political commitment

In order for the African region to accomplish the declared priorities and objectives of the African Development Strategy for the 1980s, there must be the political will to take the needed action at the national, subregional and regional levels and it is therefore recommended that a commitment to this strategy should form a frame of reference in the pursuit of the socio-economic transformation of the African continent.



Report and recommendations of the Technical Committee of Experts  
with special reference to:

- (i) The medium-term plan, 1980-1983
- (ii) The biennial programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
- (iii) The biennial budget, 1980-1981
- (iv) ECA operational projects, 1979-1980-1981  
(agenda item 13)

249. The Chairman of the Technical Committee of Experts presented the report of the seventh meeting of the Committee (E/CN.14/705, E/CN.14/TECO/45). After considering it, the Conference approved the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/695).

250. The Conference then discussed the strategy for African region in the International Strategy for the Third Development Decade (E/CN.14/TECO/45 annex III).

251. Considerable discussion took place on the strategy document. Whilst there was a consensus that the document was an important one for Africa, some participants expressed the view that it should merely be noted by the Conference and then submitted with comments by the Executive Secretary of ECA to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its forthcoming meeting in Monrovia. That would allow individual member States enough time to study such an important document before committing themselves to it. The reasons given for providing more time for the study of the document were to enable Africa's strategy for development to be fitted in within the global strategy and take account of cases where countries were in the process of formulating their development plans. The majority of the participants on the other hand expressed the view that they should adopt the document which contained a succinct catalogue of the problems facing Africa and recommend it in a form of resolution to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government as a plan of action for the development of Africa. One participant pointed out that the notions of "growth" and "development" which were used in the document were unclear and that they should be clarified in the revised document. He also pointed out that the plan of action in the document in relation to agriculture should take account of export products, reafforestation, agronomical research and high yielding varieties. Another participant proposed an amendment to the plan of action set out in the document so as to take account of the environmental dimension of development. (See resolution 332 (XIV).)

252. Commenting further on the utility of adopting a strategy, the Executive Secretary explained that the General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the Third United Nations Development Decade and that 49 African member States had participated forcefully in the drafting of the resolution. The General Assembly had also established a preparatory committee and a smaller group of 27 members on the Third International Development Strategy. The General Assembly had asked the preparatory committee to submit a draft outline of the Strategy. African representatives to the United Nations had been explaining their ECA about the African input to the Strategy so as to enable them to reach a consensus by September 1979. The General Assembly would at its special session in 1980 adopt the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. There was therefore no time to lose. He would have to send to New York in the next few days a tentative African position with regard to the Strategy. He supported the position of the Rapporteur that, contrary to the fears expressed by some participants that sufficient time had not been provided to study the plan of action, the document as indicated in paragraph 112 of the report of the Technical Committee of Experts could not be finalized by the Conference but would have to be submitted to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their next meeting in Monrovia. That would enable the various African Governments to undertake the requisite scrutiny of the document. He suggested that a meeting of a Committee of the Whole of the Conference should be called to examine the document and whatever comes out of the work of the Committee should be transmitted in the form of a resolution to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at Monrovia with positive recommendations; the resolution should also invite member States between now and the Monrovia meeting to examine the document thoroughly.

253. The Chairman summed up the discussions and received the endorsement of the Conference that the document be adopted as a working document which should be submitted as such by the Executive Secretary of ECA, together with the views of member States, to the Monrovia meeting.

254. The Conference approved the report of the Technical Committee of Experts and the other texts annexed to it.