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DRAFT REPORT
OF THE
WORKSHOP ON URBANIZATION IN AFRICA
Addis Ababa, 25 April - 5 May 1962

62-1231

INTRODUCTION

1. From 25 April to 5 May 1962, a Workshop on Urbanization problems and policies was held at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was jointly sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.
2. The Workshop was held in response to the recommendations formulated by the Economic and Social Council which, for some years past, has been concerned with the social and economic problems which accompany the growing concentration of population in urban areas, and has, accordingly, adopted resolutions calling for study or action in the field of urbanization. After various studies and surveys conducted by the United Nations in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, the Economic and Social Council approved in 1961 a concerted action programme in the field of urbanization and by Resolution 830 B (XXXII) invited inter alia "...the United Nations, including the regional economic commissions, and the specialized agencies concerned to strengthen their work on various aspects of urbanization and to make the necessary provisions for full participation in the concerted programme of international action in this field....". The ECA, at its Third Session, approved as a project of high priority the organization, in 1962, of a Workshop on Urbanization, in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the specialized agencies concerned, within the framework of the concerted programme.

3. From the beginning of their action in the field of urbanization, and as one of the methods used to draw the attention of governments to the problems arising from urban development and to the policies and practical measures conducive to their solution, the United Nations, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies, has been sponsoring a series of regional seminars. The first of these, covering the region of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, was held in August 1956 in Bangkok, Thailand. A second seminar, covering the region of the Economic Commission for Latin America, was held in July 1959 in Santiago, Chile. A Survey Mission, jointly sponsored by the United Nations, ILO, WHO, and UNESCO, in co-operation with FAO, was sent to selected countries in the Mediterranean region (including U.A.R. (Egypt), Libya and Morocco) at the end of 1959, to survey the problems and policies related to urbanization in the region, with particular attention to the co-ordination of measures and services at the national or local level. The present Workshop can therefore be considered as the last of this series.

4. Its particular purpose, which is essentially a practical one, is to identify and discuss fundamental concrete problems arising from the rapid growth of cities in Africa and the massive migration from the countryside to urban areas, and to assist governments in the formulation and execution of policies and measures to solve the most urgent of these problems.

5. The present report is divided into three parts. The first gives an account of the organisation and conduct of the Workshop; the second presents the reports of the Rapporteurs relating to each of the topics discussed at the meetings; while the third contains the text of the conclusions reached and the recommendations for action made by the Workshop as a result of its proceedings on each topic. A list of participants, the work programme and time table, a list of documents presented at the Workshop, and a list of Workshop officers and members of discussion panels are included as annexes I, II, III and IV respectively.

PART I - ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

a) Membership and attendance

6. The Workshop was attended by national and municipal officials and experts concerned with urbanization, designated by the governments of the following countries : Cameroun, Congo (Léopoldville), Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Senegal, Sudan, Tanganyika, Tchad, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom, and by representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Office, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, as well as of the League of Arab States *

7. The Workshop had the cooperation of 15 experts designated by the Economic Commission for Africa, 1 expert designated by the International Labour Office, 8 social scientists designated by UNESCO, and 2 experts designated by the World Health Organization. *

* For the complete list and particulars of participants, see Annex I to the present report.

b) Opening and closing meetings

8. The Workshop opened its proceedings on 25 April 1962 at 10 a.m. at Africa Hall. At the inaugural meeting an address was delivered by

(Ethiopian authorities: Summary of saliant points .)

9. Mr. Lengyel of UNESCO

10. Mr. (other specialized agencies)

11. Finally Mr. [redacted] representing the Acting Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

12. The representatives of the (intergovernmental organizations)

13. The following intergovernmental organizations and national institutions were represented by observers :

(and [redacted] [redacted])

[redacted] MI

14. At the closing meeting of the Workshop, the participants completed their review and approval of a draft of the present report and adopted the recommendations and conclusions which are contained therein. The Workshop ended by a brief statement by

c) Organization of the work

Method of work

15. Each item of the Workshop agenda was taken up in plenary meetings. The first two days of the Workshop were devoted to the presentation of the introductory and general topics (items A and B of the agenda) in the form of lectures, without general discussion, but followed by questions and answers. During the next six working days, special topics listed under item C of the agenda ^{=)} (Policies and Action) were handled by panel discussion in plenary meetings. Each topic or sub-topic was introduced very briefly by a nominee of an international organization. In order to facilitate the discussion, panels of twelve speakers were drawn for each topic or sub-topic, taking into account the need for an equitable geographical and interdisciplinary distribution of participants within each panel. Seven discussion panels, the composition of which varied according to each topic or sub-topic under consideration, were so constituted. ~~==)~~

*) See Annex II for details

~~==)~~ See Annex IV for details

The last two working days were devoted to the drafting, discussion and approval of the report and to the adoption of the recommendations and conclusions of the Workshop.

16. A general committee, set up by the Economic Commission for Africa in advance of the meeting, was responsible for the general organization, programming and conduct of the Workshop. In addition, specialized steering committees consisting of the Chairman, the discussion leader and the rapporteur (or rapporteurs) of each meeting were responsible for preparing the discussion and drafting the report and conclusions on the topic dealt with at that meeting.

Officers

17. At the opening meeting the Chair was taken by Mr.
At the other meeting, the chairmen were :

18. Mr. acted as scientific rapporteur and will be in charge of preparing a report including some of the documents submitted to the Workshop to be published at a later date under the auspices of UNESCO.

19. Mr. Georges Lambert-Lamond, a senior official of the Office of Social Affairs of the United Nations (European Office), who was responsible for the organization of the Workshop for ECA, and Mr. Peter Lengyel of the Department of Social Sciences, UNESCO, acted as Secretaries to the Workshop.

Programme of the Workshop :

20. The following topics were introduced or discussed at the Workshop : ^{*)}

The role of cities in economic, social and cultural development.

Urban development in Africa in its historical and geographical perspective.

General review of international action.

General aspects of urbanization in Africa: demographic, economic and social and sociological.

Planning in relation to urbanization : national, regional and rural, industrial growth, selection and location of industries and other economic activities, Urban planning.

Employment and Training.

Social development, including : education, health, sanitation, nutrition and social Welfare.

Administration and financial organization.

*) See Annex II of the present report for detailed programme.

Documents

20. The documents used at the Workshop are listed in Annex III of the present report. These documents include background studies of a general character dealing with the various aspects of the urbanization process in Africa as well as studies dealing with specific aspects or cases. Most of the documents falling within the first category were prepared by the International Secretariats while many of the others were prepared by Governments or outside experts.

Final Report

21. The Workshop took note of the fact that its report would be presented to ECA at its 5th Session (1963), to the Social Commission at its 14th Session (1963), and that UNESCO, ILO and WHO would communicate it to their Member States. The opinions expressed by ECA and the Social Commission will be transmitted in due course to the Economic and Social Council.