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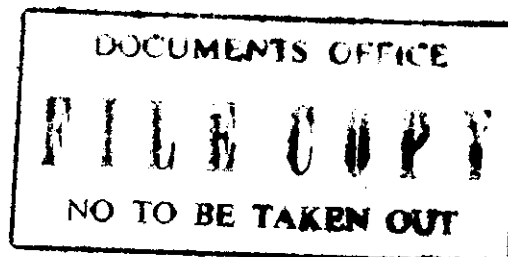


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REPORT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING ON
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA

(Kinshasa, 19-22 November 1969)

M69-3165

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa was held at Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) from 19 to 22 November 1969. The Meeting was convened in pursuance of the agreement reached between the representatives of the States of the sub-region at the ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa in February 1969; and follows normally on the first Meeting held at Brazzaville in April 1966 (see document E/CN.14/351 - E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/5).

PART I

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK AND PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

2. H.E. Mr. Th. Lwango, Minister of National Economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, welcomed the participants. His address is reproduced in Annex IV to the present report.
3. Mr. P. Rajaobelina, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, delivered an inaugural address (reproduced in Annex VI) on behalf of Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary. The representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity also delivered an address, reproduced in Annex V.
4. Representatives of the following member States were present at the Meeting: Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Chad. The list of participants is appended (Annex II).
5. Observers were sent by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the following inter governmental organizations: ADB, OAU, UEAC.
6. Mr. Th. Lwango (Democratic Republic of the Congo) was elected Chairman, Mr. S. Nko'O Etoungow (Federal Republic of Cameroon) first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gabdou (Chad) second Vice-Chairman and Mr. B. Bouapa-Beotsa (Rapporteur).
7. After examination, the provisional agenda (E/CN.14/ECOP/6) was adopted subject to the deletion of item 4(g): "Institutional arrangements for multinational decision-making", consideration of which was deemed inopportune. The agenda as adopted by the Meeting is set forth in Annex I.

PART II
REPORT ON THE WORK
AGRICULTURE

Item 4(a) of the agenda: Domestic and external demand for selected agricultural products and possibilities of specialization within the sub-region

8. A secretariat representative presented document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/8 entitled "Phase I. Study on intra-sub-regional co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture in Central Africa" (preliminary conclusions).

The study in question, it was recalled, formed part of the United Nations joint programme for agricultural development in Africa, as adopted by the ninth session of ECA and by the FAO Regional Conference at Kampala in 1968.

It was pointed out that the document under consideration represented no more than the provisional conclusions of Phase I of that study, which should normally comprise three successive phases culminating in specific projects. The Phase I study would not be considered as final until it had been discussed with FAO and with the States concerned.

9. With regard to the methodology applied in the study, the secretariat representative drew attention to the material borrowed from the FAO Indicative World Plan, particularly for the population projection, the hypothetical trend of development of total and per capita GDP, the consumption elasticities for the projection of demand, and the technical parameters (cultivated areas, yields, livestock growth rates, trend in livestock exploitation rates, etc.) for the projection of production.

10. He pointed out, however, that the study had adopted a more recent base-year (1965/66) than that of the IWP (1961-63) in order to take account of the changes which had occurred between 1961-63 and 1965/66 in the production and marketing of agricultural commodities and in the knowledge acquired of certain phenomena. Apart from that difference in the choice of base-year, the projections were comparable with those of the IWP in every respect.

11. The study had concentrated on a specific number of products for sub-regional co-operation - on those, in the main, which seemed best suited for trade, such as rice, millet, and sorghum, maize, wheat flour and brewer's malt, in the cereals group; fruits and vegetables; pulses; butcher's meat; river and sea fish; cotton; and timber products. The mainly self-consumed products such as tubers and plantains, or products intended for export outside the sub-region such as coffee, cocoa and rubber, or the oilseed products in which each country was more or less self-sufficient, had been excluded.

12. The findings of the study made it possible to forecast:

- (a) that the composition of trade in agricultural products in 1985 would be essentially the same as in 1965/66, comprising meat, tobacco, fish, cotton and sugar, although the volume of trade in respect of the last-mentioned product was likely to decrease;
- (b) that trade in agricultural products would increase at an average rate (6 per cent annually) well above that of agricultural production. However, a hypothetical lower rate (3.8 per cent) and higher one (7.2 per cent) could be considered, according to whether agricultural co-operation would or would not be systematically organized. The conditions for realizing the hypothesis of the higher rate had been defined;
- (c) Chad and Congo (Brazzaville) would continue to be the countries mainly concerned in sub-regional trade in agricultural products. However, the increased importance of Cameroon as an exporter and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as an importer of agricultural products should be stressed. From the tables in the study and the trade matrices, a clear idea could be obtained of the present and anticipated share of each product and country in sub-regional trade in agricultural products.

13. The secretariat representative also outlined the characteristics of sub-regional trade in agricultural products, namely, that the products in question were heavy in relation to their value, and that certain food habits were an obstacle to trade. In consequence, it was impossible for sub-regional agricultural trade to undergo any considerable expansion, and it had been necessary to include in the study of agricultural products proper that of such derivative industrial products as cereal flours, malt, manufactured tobacco, soap, margarine, cotton fabrics, sawnwood and plywood, etc., in respect of each of which it would be necessary to ensure close co-ordination with the ECA Industry Division's parallel studies.

14. The secretariat representative went on to give a summary account of the results of the projections for individual products, with particular emphasis on those for which the sub-region seemed likely to remain in deficit and which should therefore be the main concern as regards Phase II, namely, meat, river fish, sea fish, maize, wheat, rice and vegetables.
15. Co-operation should also cover agronomic research, by major ecological zones, and the training of intermediate and senior personnel in agriculture.
16. The continuation of the study should be constituted by Phase II, to be undertaken in full agreement with FAO and after discussion with the countries concerned. Phase II might possibly include the pilot study of one or more countries, selected on account of their importance for sub-regional trade in agricultural products. Chad would appear to be the country which best met most of the criteria applied for selecting the leading country in that respect.
17. During the ensuing discussion, it was urged that the study on co-operation in the agricultural sector should provide information on:
- (a) the potential of the countries of the sub-region for producing the main agricultural items;
 - (b) the prospects for major export items such as coffee, cocoa and cotton.
18. It was also urged that the secretariat should take account of internal demand in the countries concerned, and that no subsequent phase of the study should be embarked upon without prior discussion with the countries of the sub-region.
19. One delegation asked to be given time to make a closer study of Annex IV, dealing with the pilot study project.
20. Another delegation raised specific questions concerning the demographic hypotheses, the hypothesis concerning changes in consumption habits, and the source material on which the study was based. It also sought information on the conclusions reached by the study with regard to agricultural specialization - a question discussed at the preceding Meeting on Economic Co-operation held at Brazzaville.

21. The secretariat representative, dealing briefly with those points, explained that:

- (a) The study was based on the production forecasts of the FAO Indicative World Plan, which took account of the production potential of the various countries. In general, the countries would be able to meet internal and external demand except for the products mentioned earlier.

One of the main objectives of Phase II would in fact be to evaluate the potential of the countries of the sub-region for producing goods in respect of which the forecasts showed a possible deficiency in the sub-region.

A country's potential depended on its current technical level. For example, the sub-region showed a deficit balance in wheat because of the fact that stock-raising techniques were still very extensive; but with more intensive techniques it could show a surplus balance. The importance of Phase II was precisely that it would indicate ways of improving techniques for producing the goods in short supply.

- (b) With regard to the prospects for major products, the question came outside ECA's competence and could be effectively tackled at the international level only. However, countries could co-ordinate their policies in that direction in order to avoid ruinous competition and achieve better results in their negotiations with the importing countries.

- (c) The projections for internal demand had in fact served as a basis for the intra-sub-regional forecasts for agricultural products.

- (d) With regard to the demographic hypotheses, they were those of the IWP, which were in turn supplied by United Nations Statistical Office in New York.

- (e) On the question of food habits, account had been taken of their trends in selecting the consumption elasticities, which were identical with those adopted by FAO.

- (f) The document submitted to the Meeting mentioned no particular source apart from the IWP, for the reason the latter merely presented the conclusions of other more detailed studies which themselves indicated their sources. The base-year 1965/66 took account, in particular, of the information collected in the countries themselves.

- (g) With regard to agricultural specialization, it was a policy which could only be applied in certain individual sectors when there was a clear and obvious natural vocation for it. For example, it was undeniable that certain areas (savannahs, highlands) were highly favourable for cattle-raising, whereas others were suitable for forestry. In other cases, it was not always certain that it would benefit a country to specialize its agricultural production too narrowly. Agronomic and economic reasons might argue, rather, in favour of expanding its range of agricultural production but without pressing its concern for self-sufficiency at all costs to absurd lengths. With the introduction of new techniques, the countries' production potential increased, and, a forest country could at a pinch, produce the meat it needed if it made up its mind to pay a higher price for doing so.

22. Recommendation No. 1 concerning agenda item 4(a) was adopted by the Meeting (see page 20).

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Item 4(b) of the agenda: Review of, and prospects for, industrial development in the sub-region

23. A secretariat representative gave a summary of the sectoral studies on industrialization in Central Africa. He explained that the study on the harmonization of industrial development has been divided into two separate parts:

- (i) Study by sectors;
- (ii) Study on harmonization.

24. The first part had been brought to a successful conclusion. The 25 following sectoral studies had been completed:

- Textile industry, E/CN.14/INR/165;
- Clothing industry, E/CN.14/INR/166;
- Bags and bagging materials, E/CN.14/INR/167
- Forest industries, E/CN.14/INR/168
- Glass industry, E/CN.14/INR/169
- Tobacco industry, E/CN.14/INR/170
- Cement-based industry, E/CN.14/INR/171
- Aluminium industry, E/CN.14/INR/172

- Ceramics industry, E/CN.14/INR/173
- Brick industry, E/CN.14/INR/174
- Printing industry, E/CN.14/INR/175
- Cement industry, E/CN.14/INR/176
- Consumer-oriented chemical industry, E/CN.14/INR/177
- Construction industry, E/CN.14/INR/178
- Beverage industries, E/CN.14/INR/179
- Food industries, E/CN.14/INR/180
- Mining industry, E/CN.14/INR/181
- Sugar industry
- Copper-working industry
- Iron and steel industry
- Basic chemical products industry
- Fertilizer industry
- Leather and footwear industry
- Refractory materials industry
- Engineering and electrical industries

Most of these studies had already been published and distributed to the participants in the Meeting.

25. With regard to the mining industry, the delegates' attention was drawn to the need for systematic prospecting, especially in countries which had hitherto been somewhat neglected on account of their distance from the sea. It was stressed that a vast amount of work had still to be done, above all in the field of pure geology (maps, field investigations, etc.) in order to prepare the way as soon as possible for large-scale strategic research.

26. According to the secretariat estimates, the size and expansion prospects of the sub-region's iron and steel market made it possible to envisage an adequately scaled iron and steel industry (with an annual output of 400,000 tons of steel) by 1975. That capacity could be doubled by 1980, and the industry's competitiveness would thus be enhanced. The sub-region possessed adequate reserves of iron ore, limestone and cheap hydro-electric power. Furthermore, charcoal could be used to replace non-existent resources of coking coal.

27. The secretariat representative referred to the fact that the report on the aluminium industry proposed, by way of example, a large alumina plant with a minimum annual capacity of 500,000 tons and thus able to feed a 240,000-ton per annum smelter. It was suggested that that capacity should be regarded as a 1980 target. The plant could be installed in Cameroon. Furthermore, it was proposed that half the 240,000-ton capacity should be the 1975 target, the above-mentioned capacities implying a bauxite production of about 1,200,000 tons a year by 1980.

28. With regard to the copper-working industry, the study proposed a plant for producing domestic wire, two plants for wire and cable production, a rolling mill for machine wire and another for sheet products.

29. With regard to the fertilizer industry, the relevant report gave consideration to five basic solutions and six variants. The solution providing for the production of complex fertilizers at a single plant was found the best of all from every standpoint. The production programme envisaged the manufacture of a balanced three-way mixture (type 12-12-12) and ammonium sulphate.

30. The secretariat considered that in view of the existing political conditions, the solution involving the distribution of the production of simple fertilizers between two plants remained a very useful one. It was slightly less favourable in general, but that economic drawback might be offset by the social and political advantages flowing from the apportionment of production between two different countries. Consideration might be given, in that case, to the possibility of producing ammonia in one single plant for all the countries of the sub-region.

31. The study on the basic chemical industry showed that of all the solutions, the one that in the final analysis promised the best overall results from the standpoint alike of investors' interests and impact on the community was that providing for the production of PVC, hydrochloric acid, acetylene, calcium carbide and DDT at a central plant. The production of caustic soda and chlorine should be shared between the central plant and a secondary one. Another solution, which the secretariat felt should be presented, provided for the production of DDT at a specialized plant. There could thus be three centres for developing the chemical industry in Central Africa.

32. The third report on the chemical industry proposed an industrial development programme for the production of soap, surface-acting agents and washing preparations, perfumery and cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, paint and related products, and matches.

33. The participants' attention was drawn to the interesting possibilities offered by the textile industry. According to the secretariat study, there were a number of powerful economic arguments in favour of a policy of rapidly developing the textile industries in Central Africa. The textile industry would obviously play a key role in industrialization during the next twenty years as regards production and employment and also the development of the sub-region's industrial "know-how".

34. Lastly, the arithmetic of import substitution clearly indicated that production by textile plants would permit substantial savings in foreign currency. The development programme set forth in the study envisaged a required capacity of 46,300 tons by 1980.

35. The sectoral study on the clothing industry specified that a production of 15,000 tons in the sub-region's factory sector in 1980 would need to be matched by a corresponding capacity. From the sub-regional standpoint, the factory sector of the clothing industry offered great possibilities for employment, and the amount of investment per clothing worker was relatively low.

36. With regard to cement, future requirements were estimated at about 3 million tons in 1980. The disproportion between cement requirements and the existing plants' potential production in 1980 necessitated the construction of new cement works. The available data on raw material resources not being precise, it could merely be estimated that there would be sufficient raw materials for the establishment of two plants with a unit capacity of 250,000 tons a year and a cement works with a capacity of 100,000 tons a year.

37. On the subject of bricks, as a traditional material for building, with the raw materials for making baked bricks, so advantageous for building work, being found in practically the whole of Central Africa, stress was laid on their importance as a basic product and the need for concentrating on developing the industry.

38. The study on the glass industry gave rise to proposals for the construction of new glassworks, and for the extension of existing plants in certain cases. Calculation of the turnover showed that the proposed plants were economic. The proposals envisaged two centres for producing sheet glass, three centres for glass containers and two centres for glass for special purposes.

39. In the report on the development of the ceramics industry, the proposals were for the establishment, by 1980, of:

- (a) a plant combining the production of stoneware products and pressed and cast whiteware products;
- (b) a whiteware plant producing mainly pressed products, and also cast products;
- (c) a plant producing cast products; and
- (d) a stoneware plant.

40. The delegates' attention was also drawn to the need for the modernized development of forest industries. The area of dense forests in the Central African sub-region covered 144 million hectares and accounted for 75 per cent of the area for the African continent as a whole. The forests in question formed the main timber reserve for the whole of Africa, not only in respect of local requirements but also for the export of wood products to the other countries. According to the findings of the ECA study, new sawmills with modern equipment should be constructed in the new exploitation areas. The rational construction of new veneerwood plants in logging areas should be accelerated. Studies should be initiated with a view to establishing a new fibreboard plant to serve the sub-region's local markets. The manufacture of pre-fabricated wooden houses should be encouraged throughout the sub-region. New joinery undertakings and new medium-size furniture factories should also be built.

41. With regard to pulp and paper production, it was suggested that a study should be made with a view to the establishment, by 1980, of a plant with an annual capacity of 60,000 tons for producing industrial paper and paperboard, and another with an annual capacity of 20,000 tons for producing newsprint, writing paper and printing paper entirely for the

local market or for export to the neighbouring countries. Efforts should be pursued for the establishment between 1970 and 1980 of a bleached pulp mill with an annual capacity of 150,000 tons, working for exports to Europe. The importation of unbleached kraft pulp and the manufacture of industrial paper in one of the large consumption centres for local processing were also proposed. Studies should be made on the establishment of small-size paper mills in important centres for the production of low-cost wrapping paper from paper waste. More conversion enterprises should be set up, such as printing works and paperboard factories for manufacturing industrial paper, bags, boxes, school supplies and office equipment.

42. The secretariat representative also referred to the very interesting proposals to be found in the reports on engineering and electrical, printing, leather and footwear, food, beverage, tobacco and sugar industries.

43. He added that the conclusions of the sectoral studies would undergo considerable modification, both as regards the volume of production envisaged and the proposed location of the plants, after the final study on harmonization. In the circumstances, the reports on each sector should be regarded as provisional.

44. He then informed the participants that the final study on harmonization would be presented to a meeting of Central African experts in the form of a preliminary plan for consideration and approval. Only after the findings emerging from that discussion had been embodied in it would the study be considered ready for definitive approval by the Ministers of member countries.

45. The delegates expressed their satisfaction at the work done by the ECA secretariat in regard to industry, and asked that the outstanding sectoral studies be made available to governments as soon as possible.

46. In view of the extent and importance of the studies, and the fact that some of the sectoral projects had not yet been distributed, it was proposed that the delegations be left free to submit them to the competent bodies in their respective governments so that they could study them carefully.

47. Recommendation 2 on agenda item 4(b) was adopted at the close of the meeting (see page 21).

MANPOWER AND TRAINING

Agenda item 4(c): Sub-regional co-operation in the field of manpower and training

48. A secretariat representative submitted a basic document entitled "For a strategy of human resources development in Central Africa" (E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/9) for discussion on agenda item 4(c).

49. He pointed out, in his introductory remarks, that manpower, training and educational problems had so far not been dealt with in any overall study. That was a serious omission, particularly at a time when the countries concerned faced serious problems which might be briefly summed up as follows:

- (a) Unfavourable population structure (more than 40 per cent aged under fifteen), as reflected in a particularly high dependency rate.
- (b) Low educational level of the adult population, with its adverse effect on the sub-region's economic development prospects and possibilities.
- (c) Inadequacy, low domestic yield and high cost of the educational system, which was incapable, moreover of supplying the economy of the sub-region with the necessary skilled personnel.
- (d) Serious shortage of technical and scientific staff at every level.
- (e) Intensive use of foreign skills at every rising cost.

50. The document submitted to the participants contained a number of proposals designed to bring about a solution of some of the problems by means of sub-regional co-operation in human resources. It was pointed out that the proposals could not be regarded as an exhaustive list of the possible ways of tackling the problems. It was for the participants to decide on any other measures and action they might deem more appropriate.

51. It was stressed, in the ensuing debate, that any concrete decisions in the matter of sub-regional co-operation on manpower, training and education depended on lengthy preliminary work with a view to bringing out the basic elements of those decisions. It was considered that the problems in that specific field had too many political implications to allow of decisions being taken without preliminary consultations at the highest governmental level in each country.

52. To conduct that preparatory work successfully, the following procedure was recommended:

- (a) The secretariat should carry out, in close collaboration with the government authorities of the sub-region, a comprehensive study of the manpower and training problems facing the countries of the sub-region, and the possible fields and advantages of sub-regional co-operation in the development and use of human resources.
- (b) The secretariat should approach the responsible government authorities in each of the countries of the sub-region with a view to finding the means of reaching the necessary decisions.

53. This proposal was agreed to by the participants. It is contained in Recommendation 3 on agenda item 4(c), as adopted at the close of the meeting (see page 22).

TRANSPORT

Agenda item 4(d): Co-ordination of transport policies in the sub-region

54. A secretariat representative presented document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/7 entitled "Machinery for the co-ordination of transport policies and planning in the Central African sub-region". It took the form of a brief note by the secretariat, since there were already a large number of national and multinational studies on that subject, so vital to the development of economic co-operation in the sub-region.

55. The document submitted to the meeting proposed the establishment of an intergovernmental body for the co-ordination of transport policies, composed of a co-ordinating committee and four working sub-committees to deal with the different modes of transport.

56. In the course of the ensuing debate, a delegation reminded the meeting that the Brazzaville Conference had asked that a study of land transport be made. The study had been entrusted to Mr. Lagouge, a Belgian expert, and published in July 1969.

57. The delegations suggested that a conference should be specially convened to study the findings and the suggestions of that study. It would be for that conference to take a decision regarding the establishment of the proposed co-ordinating body, as the present meeting was not empowered to do so.

58. With regard to the co-ordination of air transport, a delegate noted there were two international companies in the sub-region: the multinational Air-Afrique Company and Air-Congo. It should be possible to organize co-operation between them for material maintenance, equipment standardization and staff training. As to the technical problems of air navigation, the scope of the "Veritas" agency or of any similar body could, be extended to all the countries of the sub-region.

59. Regarding the various forms of land transport (road, rail and inland waterways), the Transequatorial Communications Agency (ATEC) might serve as an example for other countries.

60. It was agreed that the Lagouge report should first be studied by a group of experts who would give technical advice on the problems mooted in the study and on the establishment of a co-ordinating body. A meeting would later be convened at ministerial level to take the necessary decisions.

61. The delegations also stressed the catalytic role which ECA should play in that field, as in many others, by taking initiatives enabling governments to reach decisions on measures to be adopted.

62. Having regard to ECA's work programme for 1970, it was agreed that the meeting of experts could be organized by the secretariat, if possible at Libreville, towards the beginning of June 1970, subject to the agreement of the Government of Gabon. Recommendation 4 was adopted on agenda item 4(d) (see page 23).

ELECTRIC POWER

Agenda item 4(e): Development of production and consumption of energy in the sub-region

63. In an introductory statement, a secretariat representative said that the purpose of the item was purely information. The Sub-regional Meeting on Energy for Central Africa, held at Brazzaville from 2 to 4 April 1968 (see the report of the meeting, E/CN.14/415 - E/CN.14/EP/35), had recommended the establishment, as early as possible, of a permanent committee on energy whose terms of reference had been specified in the above-mentioned document.
64. Once the governments of the countries of the sub-region made the necessary arrangements to endorse the establishment of that committee, it would be able to meet.
65. To solve the problem of the financial implications of establishing the committee, it had been decided that the ECA Sub-regional Office for Central Africa, in co-operation with experts appointed by the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, should draw up a first request to the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund sector) with a view to organizing and providing structures for the committee's basic technical services. This draft request had been prepared by an ECA expert in co-operation with experts from the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In accordance with the procedure laid down at the Brazzaville meeting, the Executive Secretary of ECA had sent the draft to the governments of all the countries of the sub-region under cover of letter ECO/310/2 dated 4 July 1968. It was for them to send the request to UNDP Headquarters in New York if they approved it.
66. The secretariat, it was added, was anxious to know what had been done by the governments in that respect.
67. During the discussion which ensued, the delegate of Chad said that his government had approved the establishment of the Committee.

68. Other delegations, including those of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, promised to inform the ECA secretariat at a later date about the measures taken both in regard to the establishment of the body and the submission to UNDP of the request for financing the establishment of the Committee's basic technical services. Recommendation 5, addressed to the governments of the countries of the sub-region, was adopted at the close of the Meeting (see page 24).

EXPANSION OF INTRA-SUB-REGIONAL TRADE

Agenda item 4(f): Expansion of trade among the countries of the sub-region on a selective basis

69. A secretariat representative introduced document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/11 entitled "Development of trade in the Central African Sub-region". In the discussion which followed, the representatives after stressing the importance and usefulness of the document, urged the need for paying special attention to the problem of the development of trade in the sub-region in the context of an expansion of intra-African trade. The document's principal merit they submitted, lay in the fact that it showed the magnitude of the problem and the peculiar position of intra-sub-regional trade, which was practically negligible.

70. The participants regretted that the statistical data contained in the ECA document did not always tally with those published by national statistical or research bodies.

71. With regard to the problems encountered in the development of intra-sub-regional trade, the meeting considered that there were others: in addition to the obstacles enumerated in Chapter VII of the working document payment difficulties, the disparity of customs legislation (including customs tariffs) and contraband trade. Reference was also made to the inadequacy of the efforts made to promote exports from the sub-regional countries.

72. In the case of non-controlled trade, the participants considered that the danger represented by that practice in the sub-region and in Africa as a whole should be particularly warned against.

73. One delegation urged the ECA secretariat to focus attention on the deterioration in the terms of trade. Reference was made to the existence of two poles of attraction in the sub-region, UDEAC and UEAC, and to the fact that the two co-operation bodies did not set themselves up in opposition to each other.

74. Discussing the possibility of determining specific products regarding which genuine negotiations might be conducted in the context of a progressive liberalization of trade, the representatives felt that it would be better to await the outcome of the major study on industrial harmonization which Professor Lacroix had been asked to carry out. Recommendation 6 on agenda item 4(f) was adopted by the Meeting (see page 24).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda item 5: Proposed establishment of a regional centre for training in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics

Proposed establishment of common specialized service centres for surveying and mapping

75. A secretariat representative gave a summary of the situation and informed the meeting that there might be some changes in regard to the original proposal. The question arose of whether it would not be better to set up sub-regional centres rather than establish one for the whole of Africa.

76. Some delegations were surprised that the secretariat had not informed the governments earlier about the difficulties encountered. They expressed their misgivings about the establishment of several sub-regional centres, which they feared might be ill-equipped.

77. One delegation called attention to the fact that Cameroon, following sub-regional consultations, had offered to act as host-country to the Regional Centre for Training in Photogrammetry, Photo-interpretation and Aerogeophysics.

78. The discussion closed with a proposal that the secretariat should place the question on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the ECA Technical Committee of Experts due to be held in Addis Ababa in February 1970. The secretariat was asked to explain to the Committee the reasons

for the sub-regionalization of the original project. The ECA Conference of Ministers, which was to meet in 1971, would be able to choose between a single regional centre or several sub-regional centres and to decide on the site or sites. The proposal is contained in Recommendation 7 adopted at the close of the meeting (see page 25).

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Agenda item 6

79. The Meeting considered that in view of the series of conferences to be held in the sub-region during 1970 and 1971, it was advisable for the secretariat to wait until they had taken place before convening the next sub-regional meeting on economic co-operation. The time-table of conferences drawn up by the present meeting meant that it could not be convened before 1972.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Agenda item 7

80. To conclude the proceedings, the delegations adopted the present report, together with the seven recommendations and two resolutions to be embodied in it.

PART III

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MEETING

Recommendation 1. Agriculture

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Having heard the ECA secretariat's statement in presenting document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/8, and having regard to the ensuing discussion,

- (1) Takes note of the efforts made by the secretariat to bring the study on Central African co-operation in the field of agricultural development to a successful conclusion;
- (2) Recommends that the Division of Agriculture of the ECA secretariat should complete that study at the earliest possible date, in close co-operation with FAO and the governments concerned and in full concordance with the studies conducted by the other divisions of the secretariat, particularly on the subject of industry (food industries, textile industries, tobacco manufacture, etc.), transport and the legal and fiscal obstacles to sub-regional trade;
- (3) Requests the ECA secretariat and FAO to provide for embarking on the second phase of the study immediately after securing the agreement of the governments concerned in the first phase.

Phase II should centre particularly on a study of the production potential of the countries of the sub-region in the agricultural sphere, with special emphasis on commodities of which there might still be a deficit in 1985.

It should also include a pilot study of one or more countries of the sub-region which are of special significance from the standpoint of sub-regional trade in agricultural commodities.

The purpose of the second phase will be to select specific projects of sub-regional importance which will be put into final form in the third phase.

Recommendation 2. Industrial development

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind the information supplied by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa concerning the industrialization possibilities indicated in the sectoral studies,

Bearing in mind also the importance of the final study on the harmonization of industrial development which is now being made,

Being aware of the need:

- (i) to ascertain, with a view to consistency, the proposed volume of production and the level of demand within the context of intra-sectoral and multinational relations,
- (ii) to establish a programme of co-ordinated investment spread over a period of time,
- (iii) to make a critical assessment of the advantages of economic co-operation for development, and
- (iv) to formulate a multinational development strategy and the political measures necessary for its application,

Being also aware of the efforts made by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide the Meeting with documentary material of high calibre,

Recommends:

- (i) that all the sectoral studies outstanding be made available to the respective governments within three months;
- (ii) that the final study on the harmonization of industrial development be made available to the governments concerned before the end of the second quarter of 1970;
- (iii) that a meeting of Central African experts be convened before the end of the third quarter of 1970 to consider that study;

- (iv) that the conclusions of the above-mentioned meeting of experts be included in the final version of the study;
- (v) that the definitive study on the harmonization of industrial development be submitted for approval to a conference of Ministers of Economy and Transport of the member countries of the sub-region most possibly in Cameroon, during the first quarter of 1971.

Recommendation 3. Co-operation in the field
of manpower and training

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Having studied the proposals contained in document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/9 presented by the secretariat of ECA,

Mindful of the important role of human resources in economic development,

Mindful also of the need for close co-operation between the countries of the sub-region in the field of manpower and training,

Considering that most of the countries of the sub-region have no exact figures at present for the supply of and demand for manpower in the various professional categories, or, a fortiori, a coherent plan for the development and use of human resources,

Considering that this shortcoming stands in the way of any decision to engage in sub-regional co-operation in the field of manpower, education and training,

(1) Recommends:

- (i) that the secretariat of ECA, in co-operation with the other United Nations specialized bodies, active in the full use of human resources, undertake an intensive overall study of the manpower and training problems facing the countries of the sub-region and of the possible and desirable solutions of various kinds;

- (ii) that an ad hoc meeting of national experts in the development and utilization of human resources be convened to consider the findings of the aforementioned study and to report to the different governments concerned.
- (2) Requests the competent government authorities of the different countries of the sub-region to assist the ECA secretariat actively in rapidly completing the aforementioned study by making available to it any documentation and national statistical data that might prove necessary.

Recommendation 4. Co-ordination of transport policies
in Central Africa

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,
Having heard with interest the ECA secretariat's statement in presenting document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/7 entitled: "Machinery for the co-ordination of transport policies and planning in the Central African sub-region",

Bearing in mind the studies which have recently been concluded in this field but which the various governments have not yet been able to examine,

Conscious of the need to study transport problems in the context of an overall policy of economic co-operation in the sub-region,

Requests the ECA secretariat to organize a meeting of transport experts before the end of the first quarter of 1970 to examine the studies and the proposals contained therein,

Looks forward to receiving at the earliest possible date a summary of the main studies carried out by ECA with a view to the co-ordination and development of transport in the sub-region,

Urges that decisions on the subject be taken by the Conference of Ministers of Economy and Transport envisaged in Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 5. Electric Power

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind the delay by certain countries of the sub-region in implementing Recommendation 2 of the Brazzaville meeting concerning the establishment of a permanent committee on energy,

Conscious of the need for a co-ordinated approach to UNDP regarding the resources necessary for the implementation of this project,

Draws the attention of the governments of the countries of the sub-region to the necessity of taking the requisite steps to ensure that the committee is duly established and that the draft request prepared by a secretariat expert in collaboration with experts from the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, pursuant to Recommendation 2 of the Sub-regional Meeting on Energy for Central Africa held in Brazzaville is submitted to UNDP headquarters in New York at the earliest possible date,

Recommends that the governments of the countries of the sub-region keep the ECA secretariat informed of the steps taken to that end.

Recommendation 6. Expansion of intra-sub-regional trade

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

1. Aware of the limited trade conducted within the sub-region,
2. Aware of the need to find a solution to the problems arising from the existence of a number of obstacles hampering the expansion of intra-sub-regional trade,

Takes note of the important study submitted by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (document E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/11),

3. Recommends that the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa keep in constant touch with the countries of the sub-region, in order to ensure that the statistical data in its possession fully agree with the figures published by the competent national services,

4. Considers that clandestine trade is a danger to the trade of the African countries inasmuch as it largely vitiates the official statistical data, and that a study on each African country should therefore be undertaken, to determine the extent of trade not subject to control,
5. Trusts that the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa will give special attention to finding positive solutions for overcoming the obstacles impeding in the way of the development of intra-sub-regional trade,
6. Recommends that member countries of the sub-region give special attention to problems relating to the promotion of exports,
7. Draws their attention to the fact that they can call on the Regional Trade Promotion Centre set up under Resolution 199(IX) for assistance in this connexion.

Recommendation 7

- Establishment of a regional centre for training in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics
- Establishment of common service centres specializing in surveying and mapping

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Bearing in mind the information supplied by the ECA secretariat,

Regrets that difficulties have arisen in the implementation of the projects originally envisaged,

Requests the secretariat of ECA to include in the agenda of the next meeting of the ECA Technical Committee of Experts the question of the establishment of a regional centre for training in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics and common service centres specializing in surveying and mapping, and to provide that Committee with information concerning the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the projects,

Refers the choice between setting up one Regional Centre or a number of sub-regional centres, and the decision regarding the choice of the site or sites for those centres to the next meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Resolution 1. Vote of thanks to the Government
of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Desirous of voicing its gratitude to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to his Government and to the Congolese people for the warm welcome given to the delegates and to members of the ECA secretariat and for the facilities generously made available to the delegates and observers at the Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Resolution 2. Congratulations to the secretariat
of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa,

Considering the efforts made by the secretariat and the satisfactory results achieved by the participants,

Considering the extensive and useful documentation prepared for the Meeting,

Conscious of the magnitude of the tasks assumed by the secretariat of ECA and of the devotion shown by its staff,

Heartily congratulates the Executive Secretary, his Deputy and all the members of the secretariat including the staff made available to the secretariat by the Congolese Government, whose efforts contributed to the conduct and success of the meeting.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Examination of arrangements for economic co-operation in Central Africa:
 - (a) Domestic and external demand for selected agricultural products and possibilities of specialization within the sub-region
 - (b) Review of, and prospects for, industrial development in the sub-region
 - (c) Sub-regional co-operation in the field of manpower and training
 - (d) Co-ordination of transport policies in the sub-region
 - (e) Development of production and consumption of energy in the sub-region
 - (f) Expansion of trade among the countries of the sub-region on a selective basis
5. Any other business
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Adoption of the report

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. Delegations

BURUNDI

Mr. F. Kisukurume
Ambassador of Burundi to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

CAMEROON

Mr. Simon Nko'o Etoungou Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. François David Ndjountene Deputy Director for Trade and
Industry

Mr. Albert Fomi Assistant Director for Investment

Mr. Jean Melaga Acting Director for Economic and Technical Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Isaac Minsobitta Head of the National Manpower and Employment
Services

Mr. Ndedi-Mpacko Head of Planning Services

CHAD

Mr. Mahamat Gabdou Director of Trade and Industry

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. Th. Lwango Minister of National Economy

Mr. Z. Konde Head of the International Co-operation Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. F. Guizani-Lema Deputy Principal Secretary Ministry of
National Economy

Mr. Y. Tshinkela Assistant Director Ministry of National Economy

Mr. H. Masele Director in the Ministry of National Economy

Mr. P.R. Tchibambe Assistant Director in the Ministry of National
Economy

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (contd.)

- Mr. Y. Lukusa Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Y. Mbuyu Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development
- Mr. J. Buhendwe Deputy Departmental Head Banque nationale du Congo
- Mr. G. Kabeya Departmental Head in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Trade Department
- Mr. M. Tingu Assistant Director in the Ministry of Finance
- Mr. T. Mbela Assistant Director in the Ministry of Transport and
Communications
- Mr. G. Baza Delegate-General to ONRD
- Mr. A. Nyembwe Alternate Delegate-General to ONRD
- Mr. J. Tula Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. J. Tambwe Assistant Director in the Ministry of Mines and Land
Affairs
- Mr. A. Kingombe Deputy Departmental Head in the Ministry of Transport
and Communication
- Mr. A. Somwe Economic and Social Adviser Ministry of Transport and
Communications
- Mr. M. Kinzunga Assistant Director in the Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
- Mr. J. Fua Assistant Director in the Ministry of Energy

GABON

- Mr. B. Mouapa-Beetsa Ambassador of Gabon to Congo (Brazzaville)

RWANDA

- Mr. A. Senyoni Ambassador of Rwanda to the Democratic Republic of the
Congo
- Mr. Sibomana Second Secretary of the Rwandese Embassy to the Democratic
Republic of the Congo

II. Observers

OAU

Mr. Jérôme Ngomaganga Representing the Administrative Secretary-General

UDEAC

Mr. Michel Traotobaye Executive Secretary

III. Official observers

UNDP

Mr. Sales UNDP Resident Representative in Kinshasa

ADB

Mr. Almoody Vice-President

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

I. Working documents

- E/CN.14/351
E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/5 Report of the Sub-regional Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa
- E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/7 Machinery for the co-ordination of transport policies and planning in the Central African Sub-region
- E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/8 Phase I Study - Intra-regional co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture in the Central African Sub-region (preliminary conclusions)
- E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/9 For a strategy of human resources development in Central Africa
- E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/11 Development of trade in the Central African Sub-region
- E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/12 Institutional arrangements for multinational decision-making in the Central African Sub-region

II. Reference documents

A. Sectoral studies (industry)

- E/CN.14/INR/165 The textile situation in Central Africa: markets, industries, prospects
- E/CN.14/INR/166 Clothing industries in the Central African Sub-region
- E/CN.14/INR/167 Bags and bagging materials in the Central African Sub-region
- E/CN.14/INR/168 Forest industries development in Central Africa
- E/CN.14/INR/169 Development of the glass industry in Central Africa
- E/CN.14/INR/170 Tobacco manufacture in Central Africa: economic aspects and future prospects

A. Sectoral studies (continued)

E/CN.14/INR/171 Cement-based industry in the Central African Sub-region: Development prospects 1963-1980

E/CN.14/INR/172 Aluminium industry and demand for non-ferrous metals in the Central African Sub-region: Development prospects 1965-1980

E/CN.14/INR/173 Development of ceramics in Central Africa

E/CN.14/INR/174 Development of the brick industry in Central Africa

E/CN.14/INR/175 Study of the present situation of the printing industries in Central Africa

E/CN.14/INR/176 Development of the cement industry in Central Africa

E/CN.14/INR/177 Prospects for some consumer-oriented chemicals in the Central African Sub-region

E/CN.14/INR/178 Construction industry in the development programmes of the Central African countries

E/CN.14/INR/179 Beverage industries in Central Africa: Economic measures and future prospects

E/CN.14/INR/180 Food industries in Central Africa

E/CN.14/INR/181 Mining in Central Africa

Pre-investment study of the copper manufacturing industry in the East and Central African sub-regions

Prospects of sugar production and consumption in Central Africa

B. Documents relating to the establishment of sub-regional centres of photogrammetry

E/CN.14/CART/243 Report of the ECA Mission to Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and United Arab Republic to survey the sites offered by their Governments for the proposed regional training centres in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics.

B. Documents relating to the establishment of sub-regional centres of photogrammetry (continued)

E/CN.14/CART/246 Consultations with African Governments on location for regional centre(s) for training in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics (Report by the secretariat)

E/CN.14/CART/247 Estimate of budget for regional centres for training in photogrammetry, photo-interpretation and aerogeophysics (Prepared by the secretariat)

Revised draft agreement on the establishment of a regional centre for training in air survey techniques

Memorandum concerning co-operation between Poland and ECA in the field of geodesy and cartography

C. Other documents

Statistics of Central African sub-region (September 1969)

Set of maps of communication routes in Central Africa

ANNEX IV
OPENING ADDRESS

by

Mr. Th. Lwango, Minister of National Economy
of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Your Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

I should like first of all, on behalf of the Congolese Government and the Congolese people to welcome all those who are gathered here in Kinshasa on the occasion of the meeting organized under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa on the theme of economic co-operation in Central Africa.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is particularly proud to receive in its capital the Second Meeting of member States of the Central African Sub-region, and to contribute towards intensifying the efforts being made to co-ordinate and integrate the countries in the central part of our continent.

International co-operation is the great prerequisite in the second half of this century. But in giving it our support and our fealty, we are not simply bowing to fashion. We fully realize that only by concerting and co-ordinating our efforts within geographical groupings of States having a community of interests can the economic advancement of our continent and the improvement of living conditions for our peoples - two objectives which must inspire our activities - be achieved in a balanced and harmonious manner.

International co-operation, embracing the study and implementation of joint projects in transport and energy, the harmonization of agricultural and industrial development policies and the pooling of efforts in the field of education and occupational training, benefits the entire group of participants, for it makes it possible to develop potentials which often cannot be exploited by individual States on their own.

Collective action at regional level gives each member State a new and far-reaching economic dimension; it increases the effectiveness of investment efforts and, is reflected, in terms of direct or indirect profitability, in the accounts of every one of them.

Furthermore, by the interplay of suitable checks and balances it makes it possible to equalize opportunities as between countries unevenly endowed by nature, and ensures an equitable distribution, for example, of industrial activities. Hence, international co-operation, as a factor for justice, is truly in line with our lofty ideal of solidarity, that characteristic component of African culture and policy.

Since its establishment, and more particularly since the meeting in Brazzaville in 1966, our Sub-regional Office has done a great deal in the way of reflection and planning, thereby making it possible to define the main lines of concerted action among our six States. The fruits of its reflection have been particularly useful in mapping out a common policy of industrialization.

It is all the more regrettable, therefore, that little progress has been made in practice in integrating our economies, whether from the standpoint of trade or from that of concerting economic policy.

This formidable problem should, we feel, be given full attention by this gathering, and it would be a matter of great satisfaction to us if, at the close of this meeting, our sub-regional group found itself able to embark on the implementation of development plans of a concerted nature.

It is hardly necessary to say, of course, that in expressing this wish I am fully aware of the immense difficulties of the undertaking.

To choose the path of international co-operation is to choose the path of hope; but even if this choice reflects a genuine and clear-cut determination to succeed, the path is hard, and only by dint of tenacity, tolerance, patience, and frankness also, can the outcome be successful.

Our determination to achieve regional integration must therefore be reinforced by modesty, and rather than making a headlong attempt to enfold the economic and development policies of our States in one embrace, the aim should be to implement specific priority projects of common interest. What I have in mind, in particular, is the importance, at this present juncture, of defining a common policy on transport, electric power production and the training of qualified staff.

This determination to see this grouping of our States become a living entity makes our exchange of views of vital significance for the future. It is for this reason that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes this Meeting, which I have the great honour to declare open, all possible success.

ANNEX V

ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF OAU AT THE OPENING OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING
ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to address you, and to convey the fraternal greetings of the Administrative Secretary-General of the OAU and the best wishes of all the members of the secretariat for the complete success of this important meeting opening today in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which two years ago, provided accommodation in this same hall for the Fourth OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. It is my pleasant duty to express our gratitude to His Excellency the President, Lieutenant-General Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, to the Congolese Government and to the Congolese people, for the extremely warm and fraternal welcome they have always given the various international gatherings held in this fair city.

Allow me to assure you that were it not for the many duties which keep him in Addis Ababa, the headquarters of OAU, His Excellency Mr. Diallo Telli, the Head of the General Secretariat, would today be with you in person to show the special interest which the OAU secretariat takes in the proceedings of this important gathering. Indeed, does not the preamble to the Charter of the OAU say that it is the responsibility of African Heads of State and Government to harness the natural and human resources of our continent for the total advancement of our peoples in spheres of human endeavour? In the eyes of the founders of OAU, the co-ordination and harmonization of national policies in the economic and social field are of paramount importance among the measures destined to bring about the economic integration of the African continent.

This is what lends the present meeting its value, for it should contribute to a study of further possibilities of closer and fuller co-operation in the sub-region in order that a united Africa will be able one day to assert itself as a valid partner in the field of foreign trade and thus provide its peoples with better living conditions.

On the threshold of the Second United Nations Development Decade, it is the duty of the African States to adopt within OAU as well as within sub-regional groupings, a common strategy which Africa would uphold in all international bodies in order to ensure that the new decade is a success for the developing world in general and for the African world in particular.

Sub-regional studies should permit a more thorough going analysis of the major economic problems which have to be solved by the countries of the sub-region in order to establish a modern and viable economy. The discussions which will take place during the next five days should lead your Meeting to formulate conclusions that clearly indicate the future common action to be undertaken for rapidly solving the economic problems facing the member States of Central Africa.

The various items included in your provisional agenda are all of them questions of extreme topicality, and their study can be said to be well-timed. Africa is today faced with the problems of training and making rational use of its human resources. Many young men and girls who may or may not have completed their primary education and who are unable to go on to secondary education, and worse still, some of those who have been fortunate enough to complete their secondary or even higher education, are hard put to it to find paid employment suited to their qualifications.

The existence of this far from negligible group within our population confronts every African country with the crucial problem of unemployment and underemployment, in view of the group's inability to take an active part in national development.

In order to ensure a positive approach, the economic situation in Central Africa has to be defined in relation to that of other sub-regions. It is impossible to over-emphasize the extent to which the sub-regions of

Africa complement one another. In seeking the natural resources or manpower which they are unable to provide individually, priority should be given to other areas of the continent. This basic principle would appear, in advance of the discussion, to be that best fitted to guide you in your work.

While I do not wish to enlarge on each of the subjects of your discussions, I must nevertheless affirm that, by and large, they give the States grouped within the African sub-region scope for reviewing the weaknesses of their economic system due to competition, as evidenced both in the search for sources of financing and in the absence of harmonization in the investment system, with the result that multinational projects are seldom given a sympathetic reception by potential investors. For it must be admitted that in the present extremely complex, process of economic development, no bloc can make a real advance whatsoever in isolation.

It is our earnest hope that frank discussions will take place at this gathering and will culminate in clear directives on ever closer economic co-operation which, as the report of the Economic Commission for Africa suggests, should lead to the establishment of a common administrative structure for planning and development.

Never can enough stress be laid on the need for speedy solutions to the problems hampering accelerated economic growth. Among these, I should particularly like to mention the inadequate export revenue resulting from the slackening in foreign aid, the increased burden consequent on governmental expenditure and rapid population growth, and the repercussions of structural change on the economy. In Central Africa, as in the other sub-regions, we are confronted with a vast sector where uncertainty and darkness still prevail: the subsistence sector, which provides the bulk of the Central African population with its means of existence.

Our prime concern should be the rational exploitation of our riches, so as to enable our populations to raise their standard of living and hence improve their social conditions. This presupposes the co-operation, co-ordination and development of three main sectors: energy, agriculture and industry, to which should be added the communications sector which, in Central Africa, it must be admitted, fall short in every respect.

E/CN.14/465
E/CN.14/CA/ECOP/13
Annex V
Page 4

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity hopes, by its presence at your meeting, to be able to make a modest contribution to your deliberations in order that they may lead to realistic solutions of some of the more important aspects of the economic and social liberation struggle which African countries are resolutely waging within the Organization of African Unity.

Thank you for your kind attention.

ANNEX VI

ADDRESS BY MR. P. RAJAQBELINA, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, AT THE OPENING
OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MEETING ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN
CENTRAL AFRICA

Your Excellencies,

Gentlemen,

I am particularly happy to represent Mr. Gardiner, who has been detained up to now by another conference in Addis Ababa, at this Meeting on Economic Co-operation in Central Africa. He deeply regrets his inability to be with us at this inaugural gathering, but he will be here this evening and you will have an opportunity to meet him. He has asked me, in any case, to convey to you his wishes for the success of the Meeting.

I should like, first of all, to thank the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for having agreed to act as hosts to this Meeting, in addition to those already held here or due to be held before the end of the year.

Allow me to thank you, your Excellency for the address which you delivered in formally opening this Conference, and which once again demonstrates the interest which your Government and its distinguished Head, His Excellency Lieutenant-General Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, President of the Republic, take in our work and particularly in the concept of sub-regional co-operation of which you are notably the champions. Your words are an encouragement for our future efforts, and I take this opportunity to ask you to accept our heartfelt thanks and to convey to the President of the Republic our respectful gratitude.

The representative of OAU, in addressing us on behalf of the Administrative Secretary-General, indicated the deep interest which that eminent African organization takes in economic problems, the solutions to which, progressively implemented, will ensure the well-being and security of our populations.

Our gratitude also goes out to all the representatives of United Nations bodies who, by their presence, have provided a demonstration of international solidarity in the work of economic and social advancement.

I particularly wish to greet the Executive Secretary of UEAC, with which ECA proposes to collaborate in the full scope of the word. In our view, any grouping of States exerts a favourable effect in promoting concrete action. The Secretary-General of UDEAC, who has asked to be excused on account of previous engagements and who is not with us today, can likewise rely on the Commission's full co-operation.

You will undoubtedly recall the previous Meeting on economic co-operation in your sub-region which was held in April 1966. The present Meeting is simply its logical follow-up.

At the first Meeting, it was suggested that "a standing ministerial council similar to that which it had been decided to set up in East Africa should be established to intensify economic co-operation throughout the sub-region; it would have under its authority three committees of experts, one of which would be responsible for harmonizing development plans, particularly in industry and energy, one for transport and trade and the third for agriculture and natural resources". I beg you to bear with me for a moment while I briefly outline the broad aspects of this suggestion.

As regards industry, the Meeting recommended that a major study should be undertaken on the problem of industrial development in Central Africa. This task was assigned to Professor Lacroix and a research bureau, and they have now been working on it for several months. But as you may well imagine, an undertaking of that kind, if it is to be brought to a successful conclusion, must deal with every aspect of economic development in the sub-region and will therefore take far more time than had at first been anticipated. The establishment of factories or the exploitation of natural resources depends on nearly all the factors that contribute to development in general: energy, transport, potential markets, and so on. We therefore hope that Mr. Lacroix's study will give us an overall view of the situation and enable the competent authorities to take valid decisions.

Once the study is completed and transmitted to the countries concerned, a further meeting could be held on the same lines as the present one. As far as we can see, the study will be completed and sent to governments for consideration by January or February next. The 1970 meeting would then use this document as a basis for an exchange of views with the object of establishing the framework for an overall development strategy in the countries of the Central African sub-region.

As regards energy, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa is extremely pleased with the very encouraging results achieved by the delegates at the Meeting on Energy held from 2 to 4 April 1968. They recommended that a permanent committee on energy be established which would explore this very vast and important field of energy with a view to industrialization. Pursuant to this recommendation, ECA assisted the countries of the sub-region in drafting a request to be addressed to UNDP. The formal text of the draft project was sent to the different governments on 4 July 1968 for study and approval. We hope that the Committee on Energy will be able to start activity once the relevant recommendation is approved by the countries of the sub-region.

As regards transport, a point that emerged from the 1966 Meeting was the special importance attached by the various countries concerned to inland transport. Nevertheless, a list of inter-regional links the drawn up which the Meeting recommended should be constructed as a top priority. Here, again, ECA is at the disposal of the States concerned to assist them in seeking technical and financial resources from bilateral and multi-lateral aid bodies.

As regards agriculture, the participants in the 1966 Meeting agreed that "specialization should not prevent the countries from diversifying their agriculture for their own consumption. However, special working party was set up to prepare provisional indicators as well as a specialization scheme for the sub-region. This, we hope, will constitute a basic document for a possible study of markets.

In this connexion, I would merely remind you that FAO and ECA are concerting their efforts in a common programme which was approved by the FAO Regional Conference at Kampala last year and endorsed by ECA's ninth session this year. The document submitted to you at this Meeting is the last chapter of the first phase of this programme. You will also see, details, in this document concerning the proposed organization of the second phase. Nevertheless, the first phase already gives us a general picture of the sub-region's agricultural economy and of its probable development. We hope this document will at this stage already enable you to consider concrete solutions in the field of agricultural co-operation; and once the study has been concluded and studied by FAO, we shall be able to draw up a programme on the prospects of intra-sub-regional co-operation and trade in the sphere of agriculture, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the countries of the sub-region at the 1966 Meeting.

On the subject of economic co-operation institutions, we are bound to say that your sub-region is continuing to play a pioneer role in the sense that States groupings exist with which ECA expects to co-operate closely. It is our firm conviction that the best method of co-operation is through the medium of economic groupings.

Yet we are quite aware of the limitations of that approach, and would therefore like to raise the question of the implementation of multinational projects. It will first of all be necessary with the assistance of the sub-regional offices to identify and list projects which concern two or more neighbouring countries, whether based on bilateral or on multilateral aid. The governments concerned will then be asked to determine the order of priority of the different projects, bearing in mind the development objectives set in the national development plans. Obviously, where these multinational projects come within the purview of an economic institution or grouping, their implementation is greatly facilitated; conversely, it is by implementing projects that real co-operation can normally be established in institutional form.

The participants in the ECA's ninth session last February showed their understanding of this question when they adopted Resolution 211 (IX) on the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in United Nations programmes of technical co-operation in Africa. They considered it quite in order that the ECA secretariat should play a certain role in the operational activities of the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation in Africa, including the preparation, implementation and evaluation of given projects.

This resolution followed another (Resolution 189 (IX)), which urged that a more substantial and effective decentralization of operational activities be carried out in accordance with the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to these resolutions, the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of ECA laid before the Economic and Social Council the two problems and their corollary: the need to increase the Commission's resources in terms of staff and finance. In its Resolution 1440 (XLVII), the Economic and Social Council took note of the decisions of the ninth session. It went further in Resolution 1442 (XLVII), in which it endorsed ECA Resolutions 188 (IX) and 189 (IX) by particularly stressing the need to strengthen the sub-regional offices. The United Nations General Assembly will also consider these problems at its present session.

As you can see, everything is being done to enhance the Commission's role in every field in Africa. Already, on the secretariat's proposal, the Executive Committee, at its second meeting adopted the principle of a further reorganization of sub-regional groupings bearing in mind all the affinities existing between the individual countries and existing economic groups. A proposal to that effect is to be submitted to governments, and we hope the ECA Conference of Ministers will take a decision when it meets in Tunis in 1971. ECA's new co-operation policy is to be applied in the sub-regional offices, in close collaboration with the economic groupings operating at sub-regional level. It can therefore be anticipated that the main beneficiaries of decentralization of ECA's activities directed from

Addis Ababa will be the sub-regional offices. It was to enable them to cope with the resultant increased volume of work in prospect that the Executive Committee made plans for a substantial increase in their staffs.

The sub-regional offices will in the future have a much more important role to play, for they will have to maintain permanent contact with the ECA secretariat, on the one hand, and the governments of member States of the sub-region and the economic groupings, on the other.

I should like to take this opportunity, in passing, to pay my respects to Mr. Beleoken, the new Director of the Central African Sub-regional Office, who recently took up his duties. We hope that collaboration between your States and the Economic Commission for Africa will be strengthened through his good offices.

Pending such time as all these developments bear fruit, the Economic Commission for Africa can and must continue to play its part in the economic development of African countries, but that, of course, will depend on the countries themselves, for ECA is essentially an instrument which is at their service. It can, in the immediate future, prepare studies on national or multinational projects, help the countries concerned to formulate requests to bilateral or multilateral financing sources, assist them in preparing for negotiations, and so on.

The ECA secretariat is ready, at all times to send competent officials, consultants or regional advisers at the request of governments to ensure that these technical assistance activities are successfully carried through.

Your Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

I would be reluctant to conclude my address without voicing the following wish: that the impetus given to the Economic Commission for Africa by the ninth session and the Executive Committee will enable it fully and effectively to play the role you expect of it. The Commission can and should be a link in the African countries' developments process. It will be able to become so because of the current reorganization, but above all because the African States will want it to be, and because they will place greater trust in it.

Our second wish is addressed to your Meeting: that it will constitute a landmark in the history of the development of your sub-region, even if it is only regarded as a prelude to a more important conference pursuing more ambitious aims. The drive and conscientiousness with which you will deal with the various agenda items will unquestionably be reflected in your future efforts.

ANNEX VII

CLOSING ADDRESS

by

Mr. Th. Lwango, Minister of National Economy
of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chairman of the Meeting

Your Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

Now that our proceedings are coming to a close, my mind is divided as to what should be considered their most striking feature - the spirit which animated our discussions or the content of the resolutions adopted.

From the very outset we encountered difficulties which compelled us to postpone the opening by more than 48 hours. Yet we made the best of a bad job and succeeded, still smiling, in getting our work started just under three days ago.

I hardly know what was to be admired most during our proceedings, the spirit of understanding shown by all the delegates, or the services provided by the executive secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, all the more praiseworthy, surely, in that the organization of the Meeting was far from perfect.

The Meeting did not adopt specific projects. Its objective - very properly, indeed - was to define the methods of approach to be adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa in order to help the member States of the Central African sub-region to study and co-ordinate their economic development policies. The point, precisely, is that it is not the function of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to take decisions or to take operational action in the implementation of projects. Its role is essentially to give advice and technical assistance. The only operational aspect compatible with its functions and terms of reference is that of investment promotion, and pre-investment at the preparatory stage. Obviously, it is not for the Economic Commission for Africa to decide on which projects should be implemented, or to provide for the actual implementation.

The present Meeting will have afforded an opportunity to recall these rules and achieve a concordance of views between the ECA secretariat, on the one hand, and the delegates of member States of the Central African sub-region, on the other. We shall thus be enabled to develop our mutual trust, thus giving the secretariat encouragement in the work it is doing in helping us to carry out pre-investment studies and conduct investment promotion operations.

We have thus had five days of work which have brought us still closer together. We would feel the impending separation much more were it not for the conviction that each one of us, in leaving, carries from the others, a message of goodwill and readiness to co-operate, and that each one will strive to bring the resolutions adopted to fruition. It is mainly for this reason, and because of this conviction, that I wish to thank each and every one of you, personally and on behalf of all of us, for the work you have done. I am all the more grateful to you in that our Meeting has been held in the midst of fortunately peaceful disturbances experienced by Kinshasa in connexion with the recent trip of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the organization of events in celebration of the 24 November anniversary, all of which prevented the Democratic Republic of the Congo from providing the participants with all the comfort they deserved.

Again I offer you the apologies of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the shortcomings noted, and its thanks for the understanding you have shown, and I wish each one of you godspeed and a safe return home, and look forward to meeting you again. Thank you.

I have the honour to declare the deliberations and the Meeting of the Central African sub-region closed.