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FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Contents

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 7
I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	8 - 33
(a) Economic development	8 - 14
(b) Social research and planning	15 - 33
(i) Social welfare	21
(ii) Community development	22 - 26
(iii) Demographic studies	27 - 33
II. INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND HOUSING	34 - 48
(a) Industry	37 - 43
(b) Transport	44
(c) Natural resources	45 - 47
(d) Housing	48
III. AGRICULTURE	49 - 64
(a) Agricultural progress and development	52 - 62
(b) Distribution and consumption of agricultural products	63 - 64

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
IV. TRADE AND SURVEYS	65 - 72
(a) Economic surveys	65 - 68
(b) Trade	69 - 72
V. STATISTICS	73 - 81
(a) Programmes of statistical development	73 - 76
(b) Collation and publication	77 - 81
VI. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	82 - 83
VII. TRAINING	84 - 88

INTRODUCTION

1. It has been the practice in the past for the Executive Secretary to prepare a report for the annual session on the work of the Commission since the last session. On this occasion, the Executive Secretary presents instead, a brief review of the work of the Commission during its first five years. This review is essentially a factual record organized by groups of subjects corresponding to the structure of the secretariat as it has evolved towards the end of 1963. It is in no sense a detailed analysis and appraisal of the Commission's work.
2. The ECA was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in April 1958, and its first session was held from 28 December 1958 to 6 January 1959. So far, five plenary sessions of the Commission have been held, and it will be seen that the organization has just completed its first five years. This is in marked contrast with the other regions. The regional Commissions for Europe, Latin America and Asia and the Far East, have been in existence for some fifteen years. Much of this period has necessarily been devoted to establishing the organization, its Committee structure, and building up its secretariat. Furthermore, it is obvious that in a continent as vast as Africa, it has taken time to make known to member countries what the Commission has to offer. It should also be remembered that, excluding South Africa, there were nine African member countries at the first session, and 32 at the fifth. Recruiting a suitable secretariat has been no easy task, and it was only by the end of 1962 that the secretariat was approaching its full authorized strength.
3. The activities of ECA have been developed in accordance with decisions taken by the Commission at successive sessions. The order in which these problems have been tackled was necessarily dependent, to some extent, on the resources available to the secretariat.
4. As an inter-governmental body, the Commission operates through standing committees and ad hoc meetings.

5. In the early years of the Commission, the work of the secretariat in the field of economic and social development was relatively of a limited nature. This was in part due to the "teething troubles" of the secretariat - the difficulties of recruiting staff and establishing contacts with the governments.^{1/} But it also reflected the very nature of the study of development problems in Africa. The governments themselves were just beginning to take their first steps towards a planned development of their countries. The experience was limited. The basic information on which to plan was extremely fragmentary. Despite these handicaps, considerable progress has been made in the five years of the existence of the Commission.

6. The structure of the secretariat has been in constant evolution and as has been pointed out already, this review has been organized on the basis of the position towards the end of 1963. A further change has now been made but it can be expected that the structure of the secretariat will remain essentially unchanged for some time to come. It is now as follows:

- (a) The office of the Executive Secretary, comprising the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary, the Secretary of the Commission, a Technical Assistance Co-ordination Unit, a small Training Section, a small section assisting in the preparation of the establishment of the African Development Bank and an Information Officer;
- (b) An Economic Development Division comprising five sections dealing with industry; transport; energy and natural resources; housing, building and town planning; and planning and policies;
- (c) A Trade and Surveys Division, comprising two sections dealing with economic surveys and trade;

^{1/} A brief account of the position now reached in the staffing of the secretariat can be found in document E/CN.14/257, which will be supplemented by an oral statement by the Executive Secretary at the sixth session.

- (d) A Statistics Division, comprising two sections dealing with statistical development and economic and social statistics;
- (e) A Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division;
- (f) A Public Administration Division;
- (g) A Social Affairs Section;
- (h) A Division of Administration (including conferences and general services) comprising a Personnel Office, Finance Office, Language Section (including an editorial unit), Library, Documents Office, Registry, Secretarial and Typing Pool and Documents Reproduction Unit.

7. This review is concerned with the past, although reference is made, where appropriate, to work continuing into next year. The draft programme of work can be found in a separate document (E/CN.14/267).

I. ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Economic development

8. In accordance with the programme of work and the priorities adopted by the Commission at its second session, the secretariat devoted most of its time, in 1960, to establishing contacts with the governments and to preparing studies of various aspects of development plans and programming. A survey on development programmes and policies in selected African countries was published in the first issue of the Economic Bulletin for Africa which described and classified the plans of about twenty countries. At this stage, apart from North Africa, planning in the continent was related to public capital expenditure only. It was apparent, however, that many governments in Africa were increasingly moving towards the acceptance of a more comprehensive conception of planning.
9. It was against this background that the secretariat organized a meeting of a Working Group on Economic and Social Development at Addis Ababa in January 1962. Its aim was to exchange planning experience gained by the African countries and to discuss problems of common concern. The deliberations of the Working Group covered three main areas: development policies and programming; the establishment of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the African Development Bank. The Institute is functioning and will soon be on its feet in Dakar, and the Bank is now in the final stages of its establishment.
10. The working party which met in January 1962 had emphasized the need for an expert discussion of comprehensive development planning. In October 1962, the secretariat prepared a number of studies for the experts. It was noted that various methods were being used by African countries to assure consistency of projected development in various sectors of the economy. The experts stressed that comprehensive planning requires a thorough analysis of the existing economic and social structure of the country and should not become merely a theoretical exercise. The expert

group suggested that further work is necessary to test the applicability to African conditions of detailed models of comprehensive planning.

11. In pursuance of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,^{1/} the secretariat organized, in co-operation with the Bureau of Social Affairs in New York and UNESCO, a meeting of a working group of experts on the integration of social development plans with over-all development planning. The group met in Addis Ababa in October 1963 to intensify work in connexion with problems of planning for balanced and co-ordinated economic and social development. A number of papers prepared by the secretariat and consultants were presented to the working group of experts. The subjects for discussion included, social and institutional factors in development planning; the determination of social standards and goals, and inter-relationship of social goals with economic goals and their consistency; administrative aspects of social planning; and data and research requirements for the integration of social development planning with over-all development planning. The report of the Meeting of Experts is being submitted to the Commission (E/CN.14/240).

12. As a result of the meetings so far organized and the discussions undertaken by the experts, the stage is now set for two major meetings that the secretariat is planning to call in 1964. One of them will deal with projections and the other with development problems and prospects in Africa. In compliance with General Assembly resolution, 1708(XVI) the secretariat is undertaking systematic analyses of African development plans as well as experimental work on long-term projection of economic trends in Africa. Such projections would facilitate the formulation of national economic plans in the broad framework of expected long-term economic trends on a world scale.

13. The Commission at its fifth session had strongly welcomed the secretariat's plan to convene a meeting of senior economic planners from

^{1/} Resolutions 1674(XVI) and 903(XXXIV).

all African countries and to prepare a study of co-ordination of development plans.

14. A major study dealing with development problems and prospects in Africa is now under preparation. It will be presented for discussion to a meeting of senior economic planners towards the end of 1964. The study would analyse the development plans of the various African countries and indicate the manner in which the problems of internal and external balance are acting as bottle-necks to the acceleration of the rate of economic growth. It would not only explore the role of government policies, but also attempt an outline of the main contours of economic transition in Africa over the decades to come.

(b) Social research and planning

15. Social research is essential for an understanding of what is actually happening in the social fields in various African countries in order to formulate social plans adequately.

16. A general information paper on the social aspects of economic development (E/CN.14/70) was prepared by the secretariat in 1960. A draft for the chapter on Africa in the 1963 Report of the World Social Situation was prepared also in 1962. Two monographs were submitted to the Meeting on Integration of Social Planning with Over-all Development Planning, held in October 1963. In the social field the meeting, in its recommendations, emphasized that there was a need for comparative studies of the evolution of land tenure systems and for inter-disciplinary research of social aspects of urban and rural development.

17. A Workshop on Urbanization was held in Addis Ababa in April-May 1962 under the joint auspices of the Commission, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ILO, UNESCO and WHO. The secretariat prepared two reports on urbanization in tropical Africa which included a general analysis of problems consequent upon rapid urbanization. Twenty three governments sent representatives to this workshop.

18. The Commission has maintained close co-operation with UNESCO on questions relating to educational programmes and requirements. In 1960, ECA participated in a conference of heads of universities and university colleges held in Khartoum which discussed ways of increasing effective co-operation among African universities. In 1961, a conference on the development of education in Africa was held in Addis Ababa under the joint auspices of UNESCO and ECA in consultation with other United Nations specialized agencies. The conference reached agreement on the outline of a plan of educational development for Africa. This was followed by the Conference of African Ministers of Education in Paris in March 1962 in which the ECA secretariat participated.

19. Other social research projects carried out include a study of the resettlement of Nadd Halfa necessitated by the building of the Aswan dam; a social survey of Addis Ababa in co-operation with a university college; a seminar on the role of women in urban development held in Lagos in September 1963.

20. A major study was undertaken by the secretariat. The Commission at its third session adopted resolution 26(III) requesting the Executive Secretary to undertake "sub-regional studies of the economic and social consequences of racial discriminatory practices on the mobilization of all available resources for the balanced economic development of the territories within the geographical scope of the Commission". In response to this resolution, a study covering seven countries of the South, Central and Eastern sub-regions in the continent was prepared. It dealt with countries which have multi-racial societies; in which the local European community although a settler minority group, was the dominant political, economic and administrative group, which maintained strong economic and political ties with metropolitan powers and in which legislature had an explicit or implicit racial discriminatory bias.

(i) Social welfare

21. In the field of social welfare, the first step was a meeting of experts on the organization and administration of social welfare services held in Abidjan early in 1963. One of the principal recommendations was that governments should be responsible for planning and establishing national social welfare programmes, taking into account local wishes and needs and the part capable of being played by voluntary organizations. This led to a seminar on training for social welfare services which was held in Lusaka towards the end of 1963, bringing together directors of schools of social work and administrators of in-service training schools. Directors and administrators of social welfare programmes took part in a study tour in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal and the United Arab Republic in the middle of 1963. Its purpose was to give them the opportunity of seeing and studying other national programmes and exchanging views within the group, as well as with social welfare officials in the countries visited.

(ii) Community development

22. At its first session the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 1959 "a small conference, or workshop", on "the organization of national community development programmes".^{1/} This meeting was held in Addis Ababa from 14 to 25 September 1959 and was attended by sixty-three participants and observers, including representatives from twelve members and three associate members of the Commission, and from the United Nations special agencies and other inter-governmental organizations. There was emphasis on training activities and also research into ways and means of associating communities with development programmes and transforming traditional methods of community action into modern methods of co-operation. Arising out of the recommendations of this workshop, two projects followed: a training course for officers in charge of women's work, and a general survey of community development in Africa. Work

^{1/} E/3201, paragraph 52.

initiated on the applicability of community development techniques to urban areas in Africa, consisted of two community development pilot projects in urban areas in Africa and a study of the steps necessary to minimize the social disruption arising from urban development. A study was made of the progress of the co-operation movement in Africa, based on visits to Tanganyika, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal. The next step was the first meeting of experts on social welfare and community development held early in 1962.

23. A study was carried out in 1962-1963 by a team of specialists which attempted to evaluate the contribution of community development to economic development in Ghana. One conclusion was that although "self-help" projects in Ghana had made a direct economic contribution, this had been relatively small and the economic benefits mainly indirect. However, it was felt that the establishment of an organization of community development officers and assistance and the setting-up of town and village development committees has provided a significant new channel of communication between the government and the people.

24. A study of national social welfare and community development programmes, including planning, financing and integration with over-all development planning, was undertaken in Ghana and the United Arab Republic. Comparisons were made between the organizational structure of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the United Arab Republic and the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development in Ghana. Attention was drawn to the need for integrating governmental agencies operating at the rural level within the planning agency, able to co-ordinate all such services. A similar case study is being undertaken in Upper Volta and the Ivory Coast. Towards the end of 1963, a training course for government officials in the East Africa sub-region, responsible for the planning, organization, administration and implementation of community development programmes, was held in Dar-es-Salaam. A study tour is now under way in Asian countries on community development, methods and techniques.

25. As part of a general survey of community development in Africa, a member of the ECA secretariat, at the request of the government, carried out a study of community development in Mali in 1961 with special reference to mutual aid societies. The report described rural development programmes from the standpoint of community development, the relationship of community to economic development, central and local community services, community structures and financing, and recruitment of personnel in community development programmes.

26. In compliance with Commission resolution 37(III), particular emphasis was given during the 1961-1962 period to an examination of the relationship between community development and economic development. A preliminary paper^{1/} was prepared which took Ghana, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast as examples. A training course for national supervisory and administrative personnel engaged in community development was held in Dakar in November 1961. Particular emphasis was given to the effects of various economic and social systems in West African countries, to the co-ordination of community with general development and to the role of social welfare services, especially for children.

(iii) Demographic studies

27. The work of the secretariat in the demographic field began towards the end of 1959. In the early phase, the secretariat co-operated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters in preparing a study on the United Arab Republic concerning the 1960 population census. It also helped outline various population studies having particular reference to the demographic needs of the under-developed countries.

28. Since the third session of the Commission, the demographic work of the secretariat has expanded significantly. Two main studies were prepared: one dealing with the relationship between demographic factors

^{1/} E/CN.14/144.

and economic and social development, which was submitted to the working party, and the other dealing with trends in urbanization.

29. A training course in demography was organized in co-operation with the Government of Ghana in the spring of 1961. This ad hoc project was so well received that it was decided to follow it up by the establishment of two regular centres for demographic training and research. One of them was to be for the north African countries and the other one for west Africa. The north African centre, established in co-operation with the Government of the United Arab Republic, has already begun to function in Cairo. Discussions are going on for the establishment of the second centre at Dakar.

30. An important seminar on population problems in Africa took place in Cairo in November 1962. It reviewed demographic problems in relation to economic and social planning in African countries. There was considerable emphasis on the need for extending and improving basic demographic statistics in Africa and assessing their quality. The seminar also stressed regional co-operation in the training of specialized personnel. The secretariat has actively assisted in the formulation of the programme of training at the Cairo Demographic Centre.

31. The 1960 round of population census and a number of sample surveys have yielded a large body of demographic material. On the basis of this data the secretariat has just completed an analytical study on recent demographic levels and trends in Africa. Revision of the existing demographic data and the collection and evaluation of additional material have led to the accumulation of important demographic data for African countries. Since these could be used as an important source of material in African countries, the secretariat has processed the material, to be issued under the title Demographic Handbook for Africa.

32. The preceding work has now laid the basis for projecting population trends up to 2,000 AD in the continent of Africa and in its major sub-regions. The projections will be by sex and age groups. A number of

projects which are now being studied include the analysis of demographic and manpower aspects of African development plans; a statement of general principles for demographic research; survey of urbanization and a study on inter-relations between population growth and economic and social development.

33. The studies so far prepared on development planning and problems mark only the first step in the secretariat's research work. Its major concern over the years to come would be the concrete exploration of ways and means whereby the rate of growth of African economies could be accelerated.

II. INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND HOUSING

34. The ECA's work on industry, transport, energy and natural resources, housing building and planning was a late starter, mainly owing to difficulties in finding suitable personnel for the secretariat. The first serious attempt to draw up a work programme in this broad area was made towards the end of 1961. This programme was adopted by the fourth session of the Commission in February 1962, when a decision was also made to establish a Standing Committee on Industry and Natural Resources.

35. The decision to expand the terms of reference of this Committee, to include transport and set up a Standing Committee on Housing and Physical Planning, was taken by the Commission at its fifth session in February 1963.

36. A Cartographic Unit was established in 1963 and was responsible for organizing the first African Cartographic Conference in Nairobi in July 1963. This is being followed up, with emphasis on giving assistance to national cartographic centres.

(a) Industry

37. During 1962, apart from building up the staff of the responsible Division of the secretariat and collecting material, the first major step taken in the industrial field was to prepare a study of industrial growth in Africa, including prospects in the next decade. This study surveyed and analysed trends in the last ten years. It pointed out that whereas the gap between agricultural production per head between Africa and Western Europe was between two and three times, the industrial gap was some twenty-five-fold. It also pointed out that it had taken no more than a century for Western Europe to industrialize, from present African levels, and that it was well within the bounds of possibility for Africa to reach present Western European levels in half this time. The importance was stressed of increasing agricultural production, of further processing of agricultural, raw materials and mineral resources, both for domestic markets and exports, and of substituting domestic production for imported consumer goods and light industrial products. Nevertheless, a major objective of policy should be to start now, the laying down of modern industries,

strategic for economic development. Given the limited size of African markets and the heavy investment required, this could only be done through sub-regional co-operation and the deliberate sharing out of key industries.

38. A provisional version of this study was considered by the Standing Committee on Industry and Natural Resources at its first meeting held in December 1962. (A revised version will shortly be published in printed form). The Committee, and subsequently the Commission at its fifth session, strongly endorsed the thesis of the industrial growth study and decided to follow it up by two parallel lines of action.

39. Three missions have been organized, made up of ECA personnel, outside consultants and experts from FAO and ILO, with the task of examining, on the spot, the scope for sub-regional co-operation in the laying down of modern industry. Their basic task has been in effect to assist in re-drawing the industrial map of Africa. One mission has already visited West Africa and another, East and Central Africa, and a third will be sent to North Africa at the beginning of 1964.

40. The full reports of the West African and East and Central African missions will be circulated before the sixth session and it is hoped also, at least, a preliminary report of the North African mission. The first two missions have shown that there are real possibilities of establishing new African industries or developing from techniques already made, provided agreements are reached for the grouping of markets to be served. In both sub-regions this is true for example of iron and steel, basic chemicals and fertilizers, non-ferrous metal manufactures, a number of engineering industries and pulp and paper.

41. The second prong of the attack on the industrialization problem is a series of studies on various industries, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, engineering, chemicals and fertilizers, textiles, and building materials. These studies are being submitted to meetings of government experts, normally on a sub-regional basis. The first of them, a study of iron and steel in West Africa, was examined by a meeting of West African experts, held in Monrovia in October 1963. It was agreed at this

meeting that there was scope for the setting up of one integrated iron and steel plant on the coast in West Africa, designed to serve a large part of the needs of the West African market; and also a small plant to serve the inland countries. There are three potential sites for its coastal plants, and their relative advantages and disadvantages are now being examined, together with other related problems, with a view to a further meeting to be held in April, 1964. Similar meetings are planned, to deal with the other industries under consideration, in 1964-1965.

42. These have been the highlights of the industrial programme so far. A number of other projects are in the course of being carried out: collection and improvement of industrial statistics; a study on investment laws and regulations in Africa. Specific plans are being worked out in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned for the establishment of a sub-regional network of applied industrial research institutes and training facilities.

43. The second session of the Standing Committee on Industry, Natural Resources and Transport was held in December 1963. A number of decisions were taken which will give further impetus to the carrying out of the programme of work on industry (and the same is true of transport and natural resources (referred to later in this review)). These decisions include active follow-up of the industrial co-ordination missions and preparations for both regional and sub-regional meetings on specific industries, based on the detailed studies in progress. More detailed country reporting on the industrial situation and problems was called for, partly in preparation for an African industrial symposium to be held in 1965, and subsequently a world industrial symposium in 1966.

(b) Transport

44. The first step in the transport field was to organize preliminary meetings on transport problems, for West Africa, held in Monrovia in October 1961, and for East and Central Africa in Addis Ababa in November 1962. These meetings had as background documents, preliminary studies of transport problems in the sub-regions concerned. Efforts are now being

concentrated on basic studies of the development of transport in West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa. Basic data are being compiled on the transport situation in these three sub-regions. The prospective demand for transport services over the next decade is being analyzed. An attempt is being made to establish the relative costs of different forms of transport as a guide to investment policy. Tentative transport maps are being worked out with, as the next step, sub-regional meetings to discuss specific proposals for transport development. The ECA has joined forces with ICAO in studying African air services, with a view to preparing proposals for a possible pan-African civil aviation conference towards the end of 1964 or in 1965, the primary purpose of which would be to introduce greater rationality in the African transport network and encourage various kinds of intra-African co-operation. Similarly, joint efforts are being made between ECA and ITU to establish an African telecommunications network, by establishing an emergency plan and pointing out possibilities of obtaining financial and material help from outside Africa.

(c) Natural resources

45. In the mineral resources field, a basic survey of mineral resources and their development potential is being carried out. Major emphasis is being laid on assistance to governments in maintaining or expanding mineral survey departments, on the expansion of training facilities and on drawing attention to immediate possibilities of exploitation of mineral resources. A similar approach has been adopted for water resources, both surface and ground water: surveys, development and training. Particular attention is being paid to co-operative multi-purpose development of international rivers and river basins, for example the Senegal, Niger and Nile rivers and the Chad basin.

46. In the energy field, the first step was the preparation for the first African Electric Power Conference, held in October 1963. For this conference, a basic survey of trends and prospects in electric power production and consumption was prepared. The Conference drew attention to the many possibilities of bilateral or multi-lateral co-operation both

in the development of power production and in serving deficit countries from surplus countries, and the secretariat was asked to assist governments in following these up concretely. Other studies were initiated, e.g. on small generators and on ways and means of increasing power consumption. Great emphasis was placed on the establishment of training facilities.

47. An African conference on oil and natural gas is to be held in 1965.

(d) Housing

48. In the housing field, ECA's efforts were originally concentrated on propagating the idea of aided self-help. However, the main effort is now being concentrated on encouraging the formulation of long-term housing policies and the setting up of suitable national housing agencies with the task of preparing a housing programme, proposing suitable legislation and assisting in the execution of proper housing policies. Emphasis is being placed on the mobilization of private savings for house construction and on studying ways and means of reducing housing costs. Studies are being carried out with a view to encouraging greater production in Africa of building materials and components, where appropriate, through sub-regional co-operation. Finally, a start has been made on the examination of town and country and regional planning problems.

III. AGRICULTURE

49. The agricultural programme of the secretariat is conducted by the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division staffed and financed jointly by the United Nations and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), following similar arrangements in the Economic Commissions for Europe, Asia and the Far East and Latin America. The Division was established by a memorandum of understanding signed by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary in April 1959.^{1/} The programme of work of this joint Division is aimed primarily at advising and assisting governments to modify and improve agricultural organization and economic services to agriculture so that this sector may make greater contributions to economic growth in accordance with national development plans.

50. Purely technical matters continue to be handled by FAO directly but the programme in the Joint Division is being implemented in a variety of ways: including, (a) preparation and distribution of documents by the staff, by consultants or by FAO, the World Food Programme and other individuals and bodies, (b) the assembly and analysis of information for documentation, and for briefing of missions and experts, (c) organization and servicing of specialized meetings of government officials and experts and participation in meetings of other agencies with a view to imparting information and principles conducive to agricultural development, (d) direct collaboration with and advice to government officials through visits of staff members or consultants in specific fields, either individually or as part of more general missions, (e) assisting government officials in preparing programmes for technical assistance and requesting experts, fellowships, study tours and other forms of assistance from FAO and other organizations.

51. The main contribution of this Division, as far as assisting governments is concerned, has been to formulate requests and participate in exploratory missions for future programmes. Direct assistance to governments

^{1/} Paragraph 63 of the report on the first session (E/3201).

in agriculture, forestry and fisheries under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the United Nations Special Fund (UNSF) is administered by FAO headquarters.

(a) Agricultural progress and development

52. Besides the preparation of documentation for sessions of the Commission and Specialized meetings, an Agricultural Economics Bulletin for Africa was introduced in 1962. The Bulletin includes articles and notes on several aspects of agriculture.

53. The assembly and analysis of information on the progress of agriculture in Africa has been co-ordinated, to prevent avoidable duplication, with similar work which FAO has been conducting for many years. An important part of the information deals with the agricultural parts of national development programmes and with agricultural development projects. In this field direct assistance has been given to governments:

to Tanganyika on projects for tea, irrigation, coffee and wattlebark, to Mozambique on tea schemes, to Southern Rhodesia on coffee, farm machinery co-operatives and to Northern Rhodesia on rural development, tea and coffee schemes. During 1962 several staff members of the Division assisted in the preparation of the 1962-1967 development plan for Ethiopia. In 1963 a detailed analysis was also made of the Northern Province Development Scheme in Northern Rhodesia, in particular of the agricultural development at Mungwi.

54. Resolution 18(II), 2(a), adopted by the Commission at its second session, gave high priority to work on the problems of the traditional backward sectors of African economies (agriculture and handicrafts) and their integration into the modern sectors of the national economies. This has been made a central theme for a number of projects in a variety of fields including rural institutions, the diversification of agriculture and various physical production factors such as irrigation, mechanization fertilizers and pest control. On the subject of the transition itself from subsistence to market agriculture, a programme is being developed for implementation in 1964 and subsequent years. This would include an expert

level meeting to define concepts and the measures which governments can take to promote and regulate this transition. This would be followed by a ministerial level meeting to draw the attention of government leaders to desirable policy measures.

55. Considerable emphasis has been laid on institutional factors likely to handicap or promote higher productivity in agriculture. In 1960 ECA co-sponsored with FAO a Centre on Land Policies in East and Central Africa. Attention was drawn to the conditions which land tenure policy must fulfil if the agricultural sector is not to act as a brake on general economic growth. A similar joint meeting in Sierra Leone dealt with land policies in West Africa. Here again the importance of removing tenure conditions which can act as a disincentive to the farmer to improve his practices and yields was considered desirable.

56. In 1963 a paper was presented on the implementation in Africa of United Nations resolutions on land reform in response to a request from the Commission at its fifth session. A general conclusion which emerged relates to the progress that can be made in most African countries within existing land tenure arrangements without costly land reform. Another institutional field that has received attention is that of rural credit. Jointly with FAO, a Development Centre for Agricultural Credit was held in 1962 for English-speaking countries in Africa. A comparable centre for French-speaking countries is also planned in 1965.

57. The wider aspect of agricultural diversification has received relatively little attention so far, but in 1963 some preliminary investigations were initiated on levels of external and internal demand, suitability of the commodity, policies and measures to promote production and the likely impact on the economy. Relatively small individual projects have been devoted to the main production factors in agriculture. In 1962 a prominent economic geographer reported economic and social factors to be considered when planning large irrigation schemes.

58. Other studies and investigations undertaken by the Division include soil conservation, the ways fertilizers, pesticides and other production

factors are utilized and the methods of encouraging their application to increase yields.

59. In connexion with reducing losses, the Commission has taken a consistent interest in locust control. The FAO, executing agency for the United Nations Special Fund Desert Locust Project, has reported on its progress since the inception of the project in 1961. According to the Report on Locust Control (E/CN.14/243) there are grounds for optimism that the desert locust has been checked at least temporarily. But there is some anxiety regarding the possibility that there may be renewed outbreaks of other plague locusts, notably the red and African migratory locusts, if control measures are relaxed. Resolution 78(V); invites the Executive Secretary of ECA to approach FAO with a view to the establishment of an anti-locust organization in North Africa.

60. Other activities which have been attracting the attention of the Division concern livestock production and health problems. The need for better vaccination services, quarantine provisions, abattoirs and veterinary services. The Commission at its fourth session adopted a resolution recommending the collaboration of FAO in proposing a meeting of experts. With the assistance of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the United Nations Special Fund a meeting on livestock production and health will be held in Addis Ababa in 1964.

61. Forestry and forest products have been of considerable interest particularly in countries of central and west Africa. Work on African timber trends dealing with existing forest resources, present and future consumption of wood products and trade is continuing with the collaboration of FAO.^{1/}

62. The economics of fisheries is also receiving attention and a plan is under way to establish a general fisheries board extending from Cape Startek to the Gulf of Guinea.

^{1/} Resolution 46(IV).

(b) Distribution and consumption of agricultural products

63. Marketing problems associated with particular products has been of interest to the Commission since its inception. A report by FAO was presented to the second session, drawing attention to the sanitary and commercial obstacles to increasing trade in livestock and meat between African countries and potential customers in the Near East and Europe. In 1960, it was supplemented by a comprehensive survey conducted by FAO of meat and livestock marketing possibilities in Africa in the light of the disease situation. A systematic study of marketing boards and organization in promoting and regulating the sale of agricultural commodities was undertaken in 1961 partly with a view to contributing to a FAO marketing handbook.

64. In connexion with the FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1960, a consultant from the Division visited nine African countries to collect information on food production, trade and consumption levels and to advise local authorities on methods of preparing food balance sheets. In 1961 a member of the Division participated actively in the fourth Inter-African Conference on Food and Nutrition held in Douala, Cameroun. Attention was drawn to the relationship between mal-nutrition and economic development. Also related to these objectives were missions to Tanganyika and the Somali Republic in 1962 to explore projects suitable for World Food Programme operations in the use of food surpluses for economic development. In Tanganyika it was proposed to supply food to facilitate the initial stages of a rural resettlement project. This project is now being put into effect. Two projects were also proposed for the Somali Republic.

IV. TRADE AND SURVEYS

(a) Economic surveys

65. The present scope of work of the Economic Surveys Section can be defined as follows: preparation of country studies, analytical reviews of current economic developments in the region, as well as of economic surveys covering groups of countries or the region as a whole; research work in fields not covered by the more specialized units of the secretariat, particularly money, banking and public finance; participation in various technical assistance missions and assistance to member governments in the preparation of technical assistance country programmes and short-term advisory services to governments in the organization of research work, as well as on problems relating to money, banking and public finance.

66. Until recently, the Section had been mainly concerned with the regular publication of the Economic Bulletin for Africa, which deals with the current trends in African trade viewed in the context of world economic developments. Since 1960, five issues have been already published. Some of the subjects covered by the Economic Bulletin related to public finance, African monetary systems with reference to their impact in intra-African trade^{1/} and the economic and social consequences of racial discrimination.^{2/}

67. In 1963, following the Programme of Work and Priorities adopted at the fifth session of the Commission, members of the Section devoted most of their time to the preparation of the Economic Survey of Africa. Although the team working on the Survey does not consist of members of the Section only, the Section can be considered as the core of the team. A number of countries in North, East and Central Africa were visited by members of the Section, and by the end of the third quarter of the year six country studies were produced in draft.

^{1/} Resolution 30 (III)

^{2/} Resolution 26 (III)

68. As far as the participation of the section in operational activities is concerned, so far it has been rather modest. A few instances of such work, however, are worth mentioning. For three consecutive years 1961, 1962 and 1963, the Central Bureau of Statistics in Ghana was assisted in the preparation of the annual economic survey. At the request of the Imperial Planning Board of Ethiopia, a study on the relative position of the economy of Ethiopia in Africa was prepared in 1962.

(b) Trade

69. The work so far done on trade can be divided into three broad groups: African overseas trade, intra-African trade, and tools and techniques of trade promotion. At the start much emphasis was placed on trade relations with countries outside the region. This was only natural, since there were only nine independent African countries, excluding South Africa, when the Commission was established, and the European Common Market had only just started to function effectively. There was an understandable desire to clarify the relationships of Africa with the former metropolitan powers. As more African countries became independent, the emphasis began to change. A major study of African trade with centrally-planned economies was started in 1961. The first serious attack on intra-African trade problems was made in the second half of the same year, when a Working Party met to examine problems of customs administration in West Africa.

70. Another major study of relationships between Africa and Western Europe was presented to the Standing Committee on Trade in 1962, and the decisions of the Commission at its fifth session in February 1963 were of major importance. A resolution was adopted requesting intensified studies on the major problems of an African common market, and another calling for a study of the possibilities of establishing a clearing system within a payments union between African countries. A paper on steps towards an African common market has been prepared for consideration by the Standing Committee on Trade at its second session, held in November 1963. A paper has also been prepared on steps towards an African payments union, for

examination by a meeting of experts in January 1964. Papers on intra-African trade, trade in African development plans and projections of African trade are being prepared for the UN World Trade Conference to be held in Geneva in 1964. Superimposed on the consideration of problems of trade policy are activities in the field of trade promotion and training; training courses and in-service training are given regularly in customs administration and commercial policy.

71. The second session of the Standing Committee on Trade was held in Niamey from 20 to 27 November 1963. The session concerned itself mainly with the problem of improving intra-African trade and the trade of Africa with the rest of the world, with particular attention to the possibility of creating an African common market and the forthcoming UN Conference on Trade and Development. Questions of customs harmonization and training and trade promotion were also dealt with in some detail.

72. The main recommendations of the session concerned the African common market. The Executive Secretary was requested:

- (i) To submit a paper on difficulties to be resolved prior to the formation of an African common market, positive steps to be taken, commodities which may be traded among African countries and measures for the promotion of intra-African trade;
- (ii) To undertake a study of the international obligations which may have a bearing on the scope of an African common market and the speed with which it could be established, and suggest formulas by which the African countries could discharge these obligations and at the same time speed up the process of integration;
- (iii) To assist African governments in adapting their customs tariffs to the Brussels nomenclature and establish a body to work out a scheme for elimination of African customs barriers;
- (iv) To draw up the documents and draft conventions, in consultation with African governments, relating to an elaboration of the principles of an agreement on the establishment of an African

common market acceptable to all countries of the region; and
the possibilities of establishing free trade areas in agricultural
products and manufactured products;

- (v) To prepare a summary of the main issues to be raised at the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with
recommendations regarding points that should be stressed by
African governments and present this paper for extensive
discussion at the sixth session of the Commission.

V. STATISTICS

(a) Programmes of statistical development

73. The first Conference of African Statisticians met at Addis Ababa in September/October 1959. Two further such conferences have been convened since then, at Tunis from 26 June to 7 July 1961 and at Addis Ababa from 2 to 11 October 1963. In the light of discussions at these Conferences and recommendations made by them, emphasis in the Commission's work-programme has been more on statistical development, including training and methodology rather than collection of statistics, though the latter task has not been altogether neglected.

74. The work undertaken by the Commission in the field of statistics since 1959 may be described under the following headings:

- (i) Assistance to countries in the preparation of long-term programmes of statistical development to meet the requirements of economic and social planning;
- (ii) Establishment of training facilities for improving the supply of statistical staff at all levels, by means of training centres and fellowship schemes;
- (iii) Organization of study tours, seminars and working groups of experts for exchange of statistical information and improvement of standards and methodology;
- (iv) The maintenance of a regional advisory service in statistical matters;
- (v) Assistance in the field of data processing; and
- (vi) Collection and publication of current African statistics on a comparable basis.

75. The first Conference of African Statisticians stressed the importance of preparing programmes of statistical work covering the next five years by each country. The statistical staff of the Commission's

secretariat assisted in the preparation of these programmes, though participation in the exercise during their visits to various countries and subsequent review of the draft programmes at sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices, and at the second Conference of African Statisticians. The third Conference of African Statisticians reviewed this subject again in the light of the experience accumulated since 1959. It considered two papers prepared by the secretariat in this connexion and resolved that the secretariat should:

- (i) Convene a working group of statisticians and economic planners with the object of exploring further the question of developing statistical organizations and programmes to meet planning requirements;
- (ii) Revise and expand document E/CN.14/CAS.3/9, Use of the Revised List of Basic Statistics for Programming Statistical Development, for use by countries in the light of the views expressed by the Conference.

76. Since the outstanding need in developing African statistical services is for more trained personnel, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Commission have made specific recommendations at every session for the establishment of training facilities for middle-grade and professional personnel. It was also recommended that arrangements should be made for enlarging the practical experience of senior personnel in specific fields through study tours and fellowships. Pursuant to these recommendations the secretariat has undertaken a number of ad hoc and continuing projects which included:

- (i) A three-month training course in population census techniques in Accra from 15 March to 14 June 1961.
- (ii) A summer vacation course for university students, dealing with household budget surveys, in Libreville from 21 August to 26 September 1961.

- (iii) Three full-time middle level training centres established in co-operation with the Governments of Cameroun, Ethiopia and Ghana in Yaounde, Addis Ababa and Achimota. The United Nations is also assisting three national centres at Abidjan, Dar-es-Salaam and Lagos.

(b) Collation and publication

77. Two Working Groups were convened to consider problems relating to foreign trade statistics. The first, which met in Addis Ababa from 29 November to 7 December 1961, reviewed the status of foreign trade statistics in African countries, and defined the scope of the Commission's activities in this field. The second group which was also convened in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 September 1963, was concerned primarily with discussing the methodology of constructing trade indices in African countries and considering the problem of standardizing quantum units in African trade statistics.
78. A Seminar on Industrial Statistics, sponsored by ECA and the Statistical Office of the United Nations, was held in Addis Ababa in July 1962 to provide guidance concerning the objectives, contents and methodology of gathering and compiling industrial statistics in African countries, and in particular, of inquiries to be undertaken as part of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.
79. Two meetings have been organized to stimulate interest in household surveys. The object of the first, a Working Group of Consultants on Household Surveys which met in Addis Ababa in December 1961, was to review the existing position regarding household surveys, to clarify the objectives and methods of such surveys under African conditions and to consider the development of survey programmes as part of the regular work of national statistical offices. The second, a Technical Meeting on Food Consumption Surveys, was convened jointly with FAO in Rabat from 17 to 25 July 1963 to discuss the FAO Programme of Food Consumption Surveys, and adapt it to conditions in Africa.

80. Two other working groups complete the list of meetings of experts convened since 1959 to review problems of statistical methodology in Africa. A technical Meeting on Balance of Payments was held in Rabat from 31 July to 9 August to consider problems relating to the compilation of balance of payments statistics in African countries. A Working Group of Experts met in Addis Ababa from 9 to 16 October 1963 in order to discuss practical problems connected with estimating capital formation in African countries.

81. Finally, reference may be made to a series of other measures of a continuing nature designed to facilitate exchange of information among African statisticians on problems of training, regional co-operation, current programmes and other matters of mutual interest. First, the secretariat has instituted a tradition of calling sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices between two Conferences of African Statisticians. Two such meetings were organized in 1960 to review the progress made in the preparation of country programmes and to draw up a provisional programme of regional co-operation. The first of these was held in Nairobi from 30 May to 3 June 1960, the second at Cairo from 21 to 24 November 1960. In 1962 similar meetings were arranged in Yaounde and Khartoum for West Africa and North Africa, respectively. Reference also should be made to a meeting of Directors of Training Centres convened in Addis Ababa in April 1962 for co-ordination of training policy and activities.

VI. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

82. The substantive field of public administration was added to the Commission's list of functions in 1962, first as a selection of the Executive Secretary's Office and then, early in 1963 as a small Division.

83. The first activity in the field of public administration was a Seminar on Urgent Administrative Problems of African Governments which took place in October 1962. Its report was used to formulate the general programme for Africa in the field of public administration. Among the other activities of the Division in 1963 are: a study tour organized for African government officials to Yugoslavia and India; advice given to governments concerning tax administrations and organization and methods and preliminary work towards an inventory of training facilities in the field of public administration.

VII. TRAINING

84. Through this review, reference has been made to ECA's training activities which have been carried out on statistics, social welfare, community development and demography. Some of the activities of the joint FAO/ECA Division on agricultural problems have also been in the training field. This is also true of trade, e.g. training courses in customs administration, commercial and fiscal policy. In the relatively new field, so far as ECA is concerned, of industry, transport, energy, natural resources and housing, training activities, as has already been seen, are still at the planning stage.

85. In the last year, two new major activities in the training field have been initiated. One is to develop and systematize training programmes offered by the developing countries. The other is to draw much more fully on the facilities offered by African universities. Finally, reference should again be made to the establishment of the African Institute for Development and Planning set up in Dakar for the training of development planners; and the African Development Bank, a significant part of the programme of which will be concerned with training banking officials.

86. Recently, ECA has established, within the Office of the Executive Secretary, a small Training Section. Its services will be available to African governments. This Section is attempting to collate information and documentation on training programmes carried out in Africa, both on a long and short term basis.

87. The United Nations specialized agencies have also been approached for details of their training activities in Africa. Information has been received from ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and WMO relating to fellowships offered to African nationals.

88. The stage has now been reached where there will be increasing emphasis, throughout ECA's programme, on training activities.