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Fifth session  
Leopoldville, February-March 1963

COMMITTEE ON THE  
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES  
PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING  
held at the Palais de la Nation, Leopoldville,  
on Thursday, 14 February 1963 at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Doukkali (Morocco)  
Secretary: Mr. Chidzero

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Representatives wishing to have corrections made to this provisional summary record are requested to indicate them on a copy of the record and send them as soon as possible to the Translation Section, Room No. 20, Palais de la Nation.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed to the election of a Vice-Chairman.

Mr. RUGARABAMU (Tanganyika) proposed Mr. Simba (Congo - Leopoldville).

Mr. BAKAI (Sudan) and Mr. MAMOUDOU (Niger) seconded this proposal.

Mr. SIMBA (Congo - Leopoldville) was elected Vice-Chairman.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES for 1963-1964 (E/CN.14/230 and Add.1 and Corr.1) (continued).

II. Economic Surveys and Reviews, Finance and International Trade.

The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Stamenkovic, Chief of the Economic Studies Section of ECA, to make an introductory statement on Section II.

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) described the project explained under item 11-01 (Economic Bulletin for Africa). This Bulletin was the most important of the ECA publications. It appeared twice a year, and covered a whole range of subjects concerning the Governments of African countries. Part A of the Bulletin, which was devoted to contemporary economic and social trends in the countries of Africa, had been improved considerably. The representative of Nigeria at the fourth session of the Commission had proposed the inclusion of a bibliography of United Nations publications of special interest to African countries, and that had been done.

Mr. STAMENKOVIC stated with regard to item 12-01 (Monetary Systems), that a study had been carried out by a consultant in 1961, but unfortunately too late for submission to the Commission.

A report respecting the matters under item 12-03 (Foreign Aid) was generally prepared by Headquarters, but it had been impossible to complete it in time for the current session.

Item 12-02 (Public Finance) had given rise to detailed discussions at the fourth session. The project mentioned under item 12-10 (Inflation and Savings) was a special, continuing project. It was to be carried out partly in coordination with project 12-01.

Mr. SEERS (Secretariat) explained that item 11-10 (Economic Survey of Africa) was a project which consisted in selecting about a dozen countries at different stages of development and belonging to different regions, in comparing them with other regions of the world and in surveying their processes of development. That would help governments to accord due importance to certain development projects for education, investment, and so on. A survey of that nature would provide a broader understanding of the economic situation and enable economic projections to be undertaken.

The CHAIRMAN invited members to comment on sub-sections 11 and 12.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) requested further clarification of item 11-01 (Economic Bulletin for Africa). The Bulletin should contain articles on the economic and social development of Africa. He asked if those articles would be produced by the secretariat alone, or whether there would be co-operation between the secretariat and the Governments of member nations.

Mr. STAMENKOVIC (Secretariat) replied that the secretariat would be very pleased to receive articles, but in view of the fact that it was responsible for the contents of the Bulletin, the secretariat must reserve the right to publish or refrain from publishing an article. The principle of co-operation would thus be maintained, but the secretariat must retain the right of selection.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) said that if the Governments of Member States were to send in articles, they must have the necessary information concerning the scope of the articles, their presentation and other proscribed standards, for otherwise they would not conform with the required conditions.

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) replied that Governments intending to submit articles should inform the secretariat of their intention, so that it could send them information on length, time-limits and other requirements which would facilitate the task of the Governments concerned and of the secretariat.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, for the purpose of these articles, account should be taken of the programmes of priorities in the different countries.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) thought that if the secretariat could suggest the necessary conditions, Governments would then have something to guide them when they desired to submit articles; that would permit a certain degree of co-ordination. The secretariat should give careful consideration to the matter for it would arise in the near future. With regard to item 11-10, the statistical documentation covered the period up to 1957/58. He asked whether the secretariat intended to add data for one or two additional years, and whether it intended to publish in the Bulletin new data for the period 1950 to 1959.

Mr. SEERS (Secretariat) replied that the work was not very far advanced, but the secretariat intended to incorporate the results of the Economic Survey of Africa from 1950 onwards and other documents that had appeared subsequently; that would give a more precise notion of the data previously used.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) pointed out that Mr. Seers had not stated whether the information added would be of recent date. It was necessary to avoid duplication of work; the same figures should not be reproduced, but fresh data, and particularly statistical data, should be obtained.

The CHAIRMAN replied that it was very difficult to obtain fresh data, in particular statistical data, as it was a question of series; the secretariat could only try to give weighted figures. The data published must depend on the work carried out in the different countries.

Mr. CARNEY (Sierra Leone) did not consider that the replies he had received really provided enough information, and decided to await publication of the results. With regard to item 12-03 (Foreign Aid), he would like a detailed classification of bilateral and

multilateral foreign aid by investments to be made, the data to hand being too general for a proper evaluation of the aid.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the suggestion of the representative of Sierra Leone could be carried out only if the secretariat had sufficient staff for such a classification.

Mr. RUGARABWU (Tanganyika) stated that the developing countries required foreign aid for their development, and that it was desirable to study the difficulties they had to face in obtaining foreign loans. He referred to the example of loans attached to a specific project, which did not relate to the priorities in the country receiving aid.

Mr. APPIAH (Ghana) said that the need of foreign aid in Africa was enormous. He supported the idea of classification suggested by the representative of Sierra Leone. The various countries must know in which field they received the most important aid. The secretariat was in the best position to carry out such a classification. It should also help the African countries to know whether aid coming from association with regional economic groups such as the Common Market counted as foreign aid, for a member or associate member of an organization of that kind accepted responsibilities, and it was right that it should derive certain advantages.

Mr. HEWING (Secretariat) replied that that was one of the pre-occupations of the secretariat. These questions would be studied at the fifth session of the Commission. Item 11 of the agenda dealt with a whole range of documents relating to foreign aid to Africa. It was preferable that the question should be discussed in the Commission itself.

## I. Economic and Social Development (continued)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that in the absence of certain representatives the Committee had been unable to complete the examination of Section I. He invited the members of the Committee to offer their comments on item 01-10 (Development Banks).

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) stated that the work on the establishment of an African development bank was nearly completed. The moment therefore seemed to have arrived for dealing with the national development banks in process of establishment. He suggested that the secretariat should immediately take the steps mentioned under item 01-10 (b), to ensure as soon as possible the collaboration of the various national banks with the African Development Bank and the co-ordination of activities on the national level.

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) explained that the secretariat was concentrating its efforts at the time on the preparatory work for the Conference of Ministers for Finance, which was to take place during 1963. A provisional body could be set up to succeed the Committee of Nine. That body would be made responsible for establishing relations among the various national development banks and studying with them methods for accelerating the economic expansion of the African countries and territories.

Mr. PARKER (Liberia) stressed the need of determining at once the kind of aid that the national development banks could bring to the African Development Bank. He thought that a meeting of the representatives of the national banks should be considered for 1963.

The CHAIRMAN said that the secretariat would keep in mind the suggestions of the representative of Liberia.

Mr. KAYA (Congo, Brazzaville) stated that his Government had just received a telegram from the secretariat requesting it to express its views respecting the situation of the African Development Bank. In his opinion, that step was premature, as the Finance Ministers and technical experts had not yet laid down the conditions under which the Bank would operate.

Mr. EWING (Secretariat) believed that there was a misunderstanding. The Committee of Nine had been given the task of drafting recommendations and submitting proposals to the Conference of Finance Ministers concerning the site of the African Development Bank. In the absence of information regarding the various African countries desirous of submitting their candidatures, the Committee of Nine had not been able to make a firm recommendation on the subject. The Secretariat had therefore drawn up a document describing the services and installations which the various countries might place at the disposal of the African Development Bank. It was only in order to complete that document that the Secretariat had addressed telegrams to the countries which had not already expressed their views on the question.

## II. Economic Surveys and Reviews, Currency, Finance and International Trade (cont'd)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Chief of the Foreign Trade Section to introduce sub-section 13 (International Trade).

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) pointed out that the sub-section comprised three groups of projects. The first group consisted of projects relating to intra-African trade, the second covered trade relations between Africa and other parts of the world, and the third included technical aspects of trade.

With regard to the technical aspects of trade, he drew the Committee's attention to the necessity of setting up commercial information services in all the member countries of ECA. Under item 13-05 (c), it was pointed out that the secretariat had already sent to Governments lists of

publications and periodicals on trade questions of interest to them. Moreover, the Governments would be invited to reply to a questionnaire on the establishment of those services.

He said, with reference to item 13-13, that the secretariat did not know whether steps had been taken in 1962 towards preparing and organizing a conference of African businessmen.

In conclusion, Mr. Nypan asked the members of the Committee to state whether it was preferable in their opinion that documents submitted by ECA to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be prepared by its secretariat alone rather than in collaboration with other international organizations concerned with questions of trade.

Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) asked whether the secretariat, when it drew up the ECA programme of work, had kept in mind the preliminary agenda adopted by the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. He suggested that that agenda should be distributed to the members of the Committee. He recalled that the aim of that Conference was to study to what extent trade could assist the economic development of the developing countries. The documents to be prepared by the secretariat, then, should deal with that question. Special stress should be laid on the policies to be followed and on the need for the African countries to establish trade with countries or groups of countries in other continents.

Mr. ANYIA (Nigeria) considered item 13-01 (Problems and Prospects of Intra-African Trade). He suggested that an examination by the secretariat of the effects of fiscal policies on the traditional trade of the African countries should be included in the study of the principal aspects of intra-Africa trade. An effort had been made to modernize trade practices in Africa, but it should not be forgotten that most of the merchants carrying on cross-border trade in West Africa were illiterate.

Mr. YAKER (Algeria) considered that the question raised by the representative of Nigeria was one of extreme importance for the African countries. The application of the fiscal policies adopted since the attainment of independence by numerous African territories had sometimes constituted an obstacle to the flow of traditional trade.

With regard to items 13-01 (e) and 13-01 (f), he inquired whether the secretariat intended to undertake similar surveys in other sub-regions of Africa.

Mr. NYPAN (Secretariat) stated that the secretariat had a copy of the provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. This document would be reproduced and distributed to members of the Committee as soon as possible. The representative of Ethiopia would thus be able to see that the secretariat had taken this agenda into consideration when laying down the programme of work for 1963-1964.

He drew the attention also of the representative of Nigeria to item 13-11 (Frontier Traffic in West Africa), which demonstrated that the secretariat had not lost sight of the situation, to which the application of new customs regulations had given rise.

In reply to a question by the representative of Algeria, he stated that the secretariat had no precise project for North Africa; nevertheless, the expert responsible for customs matters had sent a questionnaire on fiscal policies to the Governments of the countries of West Africa and North Africa, in order to discover what the secretariat could do in the matter.

The meeting rose at 12:40 p.m.