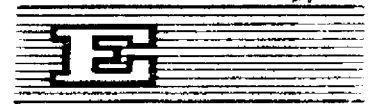




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts of African
Least Developed Countries

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
15-17 April 1982

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Second Meeting of the Conference of
Ministers of African Least
Developed Countries

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
26-27 April 1982

ECA PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, 1982-1983

A NOTE

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of ECA resolution 397 (XV), in which the Executive Secretary was called upon to establish an adequately staffed section within the Commission secretariat to be responsible for the substantial and continuous technical work, substantive support and advisory services that are needed in connection with the least developed countries, within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action, the secretariat has now been provided with additional staff resources within the United Nations regular budget. Accordingly, arrangements are being made to establish a Section on the Least Developed Countries within the Socio-economic Research and Planning Division.

The Section will ensure that continuous attention is given to the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. It will function primarily as a focal point for the promotion, co-ordination and monitoring of all ECA activities designed to assist this group of countries. Specifically, the Section will:

- (i) Undertaken on a continuous basis in-depth studies of the special circumstances of the African least developed, land-locked and island countries with a view to assisting them to achieve a structural transformation of their economies and overcome the obstacles to their development;
- (ii) Undertake yearly reviews and perspective studies of economic and social trends in African least developed countries, including a review of progress in, and of policy issues affecting, the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries;
- (iii) Ensure the effective implementation, follow-up and monitoring in the ECA region of the Substantial New Programme of Action by, inter-alia, providing technical assistance in the form of substantive support and advisory services to the least developed countries in planning, programming and project preparation and in the formulation and negotiation of aid programmes;
- (iv) Act as secretariat for the Interdivisional Committee on the least developed countries; and
- (v) Act as secretariat for the Annual Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries.

During the biennium 1982-1983 the activities of the Section will focus on the following areas:

- (a) In-depth studies of the special circumstances and structural characteristics of the African least developed countries;
- (b) Review of the economic and social trends in the African least developed countries, including a review of progress in, and policy issues affecting, the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action;
- (c) Assistance to Governments of African least developed countries in planning and project analysis;
- (d) Assistance to Governments of African least developed countries in the organization and substantive servicing of the review meetings with aid partners; and
- (e) Organization and substantive servicing of the Annual Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries.

ECA's special programme on the least developed countries overlaps with the work of all the other substantive divisions of the secretariat. Thus, in addition to the above activities, which are the direct responsibility of the Socio-economic Research and Planning Division and which are designed specially for the least developed countries, the programme includes activities carried out within the framework of the programmes and projects designed for Member-States as a whole in areas such as agriculture, education and training, manpower, public administration, management and finance and industry. The programme also calls for the identification, design and development of multinational measures at the subregional level in favour of the least developed countries, especially in the development of common resources, production, trade and management, complementarity in food production, local processing of raw materials and long-term purchase arrangements.

An Interdivisional Committee is responsible for the establishment of priorities for the special programme, as well as for their harmonization and co-ordination in its implementation.

The programme of work of the substantive divisions for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its seventh meeting and is available in document E/CN.14/790/Rev.1, which has been circulated to the Committee for ease of reference; subregional programmes affecting the least developed countries within each MULPOC area are grouped together by project number on pages 14 and 15 of that document.