

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



49093

Distr.
GENERAL



E/CN.14/287
25 February 1964

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Sixth Session
Addis Ababa, 19 February - 3 March 1964
Item 6 of the agenda

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF DIRECTION OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING HELD AT ADDIS ABABA ON 22, 24 AND 26 FEBRUARY 1964

1. The fourth meeting of the Standing Committee of Direction of the Institute (IDEP) was held on 22, 24 and 26 February 1964 at Addis Ababa in accordance with Resolution 58(IV) of the Economic Commission for Africa under which the Institute was set up.
2. The following Member States were represented at the meeting: Algeria, Gabon, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Tunisia and the United Arab Republic. Two Member States - Uganda and Somalia - were absent. A delegation from Nigeria attended the work of the Committee as observer.
3. Representatives of the following States also took part in the meeting as advisers to the secretariat: France, Poland, USSR, United Kingdom and United States of America. Observers from the African and Malagasy Organization for Economic Co-operation (AMOEC) and the Government of Israel were also present.
4. The Secretariat of the meeting was assisted by a delegation from the United Nations Special Fund; the Executive Secretary, members of the ECA secretariat and of the administration of the Institute also attended certain meetings. The list of participants is given in the annex.
5. The Standing Committee elected Mr. B. Strasser-King as Chairman and adopted the provisional agenda proposed by the Secretariat:

- Item I - The statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (Document E/CN.14/275)
- Item II - Report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning since the third meeting of the Standing Committee of Direction (E/CN.14/284)
- Item III - Miscellaneous (see in particular Document E/CN.14/INF.18).

DISCUSSION ON THE STATUTE OF THE INSTITUTE

6. A thorough and closely-argued discussion was held on the statute in which the Executive Secretary and the representatives of the Special Fund took part. A number of amendments were made to the text of the statute taking into account the points referred to below.
7. It clearly emerged from the discussion that with regard to admission to the Institute, the Committee intended to give priority to high officials responsible for development planning as against newly-recruited civil servants.
8. It was also agreed that seven members of the Governing Council shall be elected by the Conference of African Economic Planners on the basis of their personal ability and attainment for a term of three years and shall be re-eligible.
9. Pending the meeting of that Conference, the functions of the Governing Council as set out in article IV of the statute, as slightly amended, would be provisionally entrusted to the Standing Committee whose term of office should end during the Sixth session of ECA in accordance with Resolution 58(IV).
10. In view of the above, it appears necessary to renew the term of office of the Standing Committee, which will terminate automatically on the appointment of the Governing Council as provided above. That, among other things, was the purpose of draft resolution E/CN.14/L.178 submitted to the Sixth session of ECA.

11. With regard to the functions of the Governing Council, the Committee thought it advisable to specify that the provision that the Governing Council should lay down general principles and policies governing the operation of the Institute should include the general conditions governing the admission of fellows.
12. The Advisory Board on Studies whose competence was extended to cover research was authorized to invite other representatives to take part in its work, including representatives of African Universities, of African Planning bodies and of non-African States which contributed substantially to the Institute: i.e. at present those States whose representatives took part in the meeting as advisers.
13. The Committee suggested that the Director of the Institute should be consulted in the event of supplementary contributions being made, possibly in the form of the offer of teaching staff. In any case, the acceptance of such offers falls within the competence of the Chairman of the Governing Council, who should report on the matter as soon as possible to the Governing Council.
14. As a result of the discussion, the Standing Committee approved the Statutes incorporating the points mentioned above and submitted them in draft resolution E/CN.14/L.178, for adoption by the Economic Commission for Africa.
15. The Committee then discussed the Report on the work of IDEF (document E/CN.14/284), concerning which delegates made a number of comments and observations.
16. Emphasis was laid on the desire of the States to see the difference between French-speaking and English-speaking fellows gradually eliminated, without either of the two groups being given preference over the other.
17. In that connexion, it was suggested that half of the examinations be held in English and half in French. Such a provision would mean that the modern language courses should be extended from one month to at least three months; but the total length of the course should not be curtailed, but rather extended to eleven or twelve months.

It was stated that if this prolongation were really justified it would be accepted by all the African States. If this condition were realized the Special Fund would not fail to take due note. It had also been suggested that provision should be made for social gatherings at which the trainees and staff would be able to meet.

18. Stress was placed on the necessity of an integrated interdisciplinary programme which would not exclude, for example, short lectures on African art, African history, etc., a programme which all the fellows should follow.

19. The Tunis courses were mentioned and the secretariat had been requested to inform all member States of the possibility of requesting the establishment of such courses in their territories.

20. Details were also given concerning the holiday courses which were only for fellows still pursuing their studies and not for those who had completed their university studies.

21. The necessity of conferring a diploma at the end of the course was recognized by all the participants and the Committee regretted that no decision had been made as yet concerning the details for issuing such a diploma. It hoped that the necessary steps would be taken as soon as practicable.

22. The delegates then discussed material and financial questions and were much concerned with regard to the difficulties experienced by the fellows in finding accommodation. It was suggested that the body responsible for putting the project into execution should take up this matter. The necessity of a rapid solution was recognized.

23. Certain delegates thought that it was not necessary to attach a medical officer to the Institute even as part-time duty. Fellows should be able to consult a medical practitioner either at the hospital or elsewhere and that would apply also to English-speaking fellows. It was pointed out that a clause dealing with this matter should be included in the future convention to be signed by the IDEP and the Government of Senegal, giving the staff and fellows access to the Government hospital.

24. A long discussion then took place on the thorny question of fellowships. The delegates were much concerned regarding the financing of fellowships in future years. It was decided in draft resolution E/CN.14/L.182 to remind Governments of resolution 72 (V) in which they undertook to finance fellowships.

25. Certain fears were expressed that if there were several sources for financing the fellowships different rates might exist according to the source from which the fellowships were provided. It was suggested that an equalization solution should be found to this.

26. Delegates were not unanimous with regard to the maintenance of the remuneration of the fellows. The majority of the delegates thought it a matter of course, particularly in the case of fellows who had family responsibilities and were obliged in consequence to maintain a double household for the duration of the fellowship, above all if they were obliged to attend the courses without their families; other delegates maintained that States could not be obliged to continue the remuneration of fellows and that a fellow might well have to choose between a fellowship and the remuneration, and select that which gave the higher rate. This was nevertheless the opinion of the minority.

27. With regard to all the financial and material questions some delegates hoped that the IDEP fellows would enjoy the preferential treatment given to the fellows at Dakar University.

28. After hearing the various comments the Committee took note of the Report on the work (document E/CN.14/284).

MISCELLANEOUS

29. Under this heading the main discussion referred to document E/CN.14/INF.18 which had already been the subject of several comments during the debate. The Committee expressed some concern with respect to certain States that had not yet signed the undertaking to contribute to the budget of the Institute in accordance with resolution No. 78(V).

The Committee decided to submit a new resolution at the Sixth session and invited the secretariat to take the necessary steps immediately after the vote on that resolution.

30. The delegates of Gabon and Togo assured the Committee that the payment of the contributions due by their Governments was merely a matter of time.

31. The Standing Committee having taken due note of the two draft resolutions which it had been decided to submit during the Sixth session approved this Report at its meeting of 26 February 1964.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALGERIA	Mr. Brachemi
GABON	Mr. Pither
SENEGAL	Mr. M. B. Fau
SIERRA LEONE	Mr. B. Strasser-King
TOGO	Mr. Mankoubi
TUNISIA	Mr. A. Kamoun
UAR	Mr. Skakier

OBSERVERS

NIGERIA	Mr. T. J. Bako
---------	----------------

CONSULTANTS

FRANCE	Mr. S. Louri
POLAND	Mr. M. Cielecki
UNITED KINGDOM	Mr. R. A. Browning Mr. Mansfield
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Mr. A. F. Stillman
USSR	Mr. D. J. Polshikov

OBSERVERS

AMOEC	Mr. Ordonnaud
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	Mr. Lamby
UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND	Mr. G. Dumontet Mr. K. J. Taylor
SECRETARIAT	Mr. R. K. A. Gardiner Mr. A. Sylla Mr. F. Y. Hsu Mr. C. Vieyra (IDEP)