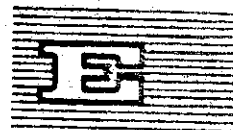


# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL



E/CN.14/249  
29 January 1964

Original: ENGLISH and  
FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Sixth session  
Addis Ababa, 19 February - 3 March 1964  
Item 5 of the revised provisional agenda

## REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF AN AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

(prepared by ITU)

### CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2
I. IMPORTANCE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA	
Co-operation of ECA and ITU	6 - 7
Measures taken so far	
(a) ITU's action	8
(b) ECA's action	9
(c) Joint action of ITU and ECA	10
(d) Proposed steps for implementation	11 - 17
Programme contemplated until the end of 1965	18
Co-ordination problems	19 - 20
Conclusion	21 - 23
II. PROPOSED PLAN FOR ASSISTANCE BY ECA TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECTS	24 - 31
Procedure and possible aid from ECA and ITU for the provisional circuits	32 - 34
National Networks	35 - 36

E/CN.14/249

Paragraphs

Procedure and possible aid from ECA and ITU for  
implementing the long-term pan-African network  
envisaged by the Plan Committee for Africa

37 - 44

ANNEX

Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary-General  
of the ITU and the Executive Secretary of the ECA

## INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifth session, the Economic Commission for Africa having paid special attention to the need for improving telecommunications systems in Africa, requested the Executive Secretary to explore the matter and submit a report at the sixth session.<sup>1/</sup> This paper presents the steps taken so far by the Commission, explains the problems met and suggests some provisional immediate as well as permanent long-term solutions.

2. Consultations with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have shown from the very beginning that ECA has an important role to play for speeding up the telecommunication development in Africa. On the other hand, the Organization of African Unity, at its first conference in May 1963 stressed the importance and urgency of creating intra-regional telecommunications facilities as a basic tool in promoting African Unity.

<sup>1/</sup> Annual Report of ECA to the Economic and Social Council on its fifth session (E/CN.14/229 para 263 (c)).

# I. IMPORTANCE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA

3. Telecommunications have a vital bearing on economic development in particular through the fields of transport, (aviation, sea and river navigation), meteorology, education and information, commerce, industry etc.

4. Telecommunications are also of prime importance in the hands of governments in exercising their indispensable functions of control and administration at the national level, as well as enabling them to participate more fully in the life of the community of nations.

5. In the light of those elementary facts, it is disturbing that in Africa:

- (a) Most countries do not possess the minimum telecommunication facilities necessary to permit the governments to exercise satisfactorily their basic functions in matters of administration in all parts of their territory;
- (b) In too many cases telecommunication traffic between African countries has, at present, to be routed through fairly remote non-African countries; but the links utilized were never designed to carry the inter-African traffic requirements existing today;
- (c) The geographic and demographic conditions of the African continent are such that a good telecommunication service at the regional level is perhaps more essential than in any other part of the world. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that the establishment of an up-to-date, efficient telecommunication system is among the very first requirements today for the development of Africa. This is particularly true at a time when other continents are already planning or implementing long distance automatic telephone dialling within the continents and are transmitting inter-continental television programmes.

Co-operation of ECA and ITU

6. The ITU - Specialized Agency for Telecommunications of the United Nations - has a considerable experience in the field of international co-operation (it will celebrate in 1965 its 100th year of uninterrupted existence). As will be explained below, it has already been rather active in promoting the development of telecommunications in Africa and, the ITU Secretary-General Mr. Gerald C. Gross stated at the fifth session of the Commission that the organization would make all possible efforts to assist the African countries at the regional level on a large scale development programme of their telecommunication systems if the region so desired.

7. It was only during the spring of 1963 that the heads of the ECA and ITU secretariats were able to discuss in detail the terms for a co-operation between them for the development of telecommunications in Africa, particularly with regard to building up the necessary intra-regional circuits and thus establishing at an early date fast and reliable services between any two African countries. Both were immediately convinced of the mutual benefit offered by such co-operation and they started at once organizing it. Active joint work has already been undertaken in the best spirit and the heads of both secretariats are determined to pursue and to amplify it on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding concluded in November 1963. (See Annex I). A further step was taken to consolidate and obtain practical results from the ECA - ITU co-operation when the ECA Executive Secretary attended a special session of the joint CCITT - CCIR (permanent bodies of ITU) World Telecommunication Plan Committee Meeting in Rome in December 1963. The special problems facing Africa in this and other fields were once more brought to the notice of the experts of all nations engaged in the planning work.

Measures taken so far

(a) ITU's action

8. Within the framework of its activities as a world-wide organization, the ITU has paid due attention to the needs of Africa. Its action has been exercised in the following ways:

- (i) In the matter of planning an over-all African telecommunication network it has created, within a Committee for the Planning of the General Switching Network, a sub-committee for Africa (as it has, also, for Asia, and the Far East and for Latin America); this sub-committee, which met for the first time in January 1962 in Dakar, has drawn up a draft plan for Africa known as the Dakar Plan which is a consolidation of the intentions of the countries of the continent at that time. The sub-committee has now wide functions based on a world inter-connecting plan comprising all forms of telecommunications, like automatic telephones and telex, telegraph circuits, television and broadcasting, etc. The last CCITT - CCIR Plan Committee of the ITU in Rome expressed the view of the increased importance of their work to call the original regional sub-committees now full committees, e.g. : the "Plan Committee for Africa".
- (ii) Within its programme of technical co-operation (EPTA and Special Fund) the ITU has, over the last ten years, organized projects in sixteen African countries involving the supply of over twenty-five experts, the granting of fellowships and the delivery of equipment and for the establishment of specialized telecommunication training centres. At the request of the Congo (Leopoldville) the ITU has undertaken a major action in that country within the framework of ONUC and provided a mission of some fifty experts.
- (iii) In the matter of radio frequency assignments on a regional basis, it called two African Conferences; one dealing with very high frequencies for broadcasting and television met in Geneva in April 1963 and established a comprehensive plan agreed unanimously and which will be of the utmost importance for an orderly development of broadcasting and television within the region; one to deal with medium wave broadcasting is to be held in Madrid in September 1964.

- (iv) The International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) of the ITU has also reiterated on several occasions its preparedness to give special attention to the frequency problems of the African countries which are of considerable importance for the proposed planning.

(b) ECA's action

9. As mentioned above, ECA's interest in telecommunication development was expressed at the fifth session of the Commission after which the secretariat started work in this field. The initiative of the secretariat in this respect is ambitious and is based on a thorough co-operation with the ITU which has, in any case, to remain fully responsible for the technical aspects of the project and has to maintain contact with the respective telecommunication administrations according to its statutes.

(c) Joint action of ITU and ECA

10. As stated in paragraph 7 above, this joint action is based on a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated in November 1963. It provides for:

- (i) The establishment of an ad hoc ITU Mission consisting of a team of telecommunications experts seconded by the ITU under the EPTA, to ECA headquarters, devoted to the problems particular to the region. ECA will provide all the necessary administrative help to perform their task, and having their seat at the ECA headquarters will permit close co-ordination with other associated fields of development in Africa like aviation, meteorology and others. The duties of this mission are substantially:

- (a) To provide close liaison between ITU headquarters and ECA on all matters interesting either organization in the fulfilment of the tasks entrusted to them by member countries in regard to the development of telecommunication in Africa;

- (b) To collect information about the present telecommunication facilities and the immediate or long-term development plans as furnished by the countries of the region and to keep an up-to-date register of such information for use by ECA and member countries of ITU;
- (c) To advise the interested countries of the region at their request on the practical steps to be taken in order to build up their telecommunication facilities, with special emphasis on the setting up of inter-African telecommunications; the practical steps visualized cover all types of action such as technical advice, suggestions for the financing of equipment from various sources either through bilateral or multilateral arrangements; which may be available to ITU and/or ECA; advise on training either through local facilities or fellowships abroad, etc.
- (ii) To co-operate to the fullest extent possible with the countries of the region in all phases of the implementation of the world-wide inter-connecting plan (established by ITU's Joint CCITT - CCIR Plan Committee) and in particular of the Plan Committee for Africa.

Note : The Chairman of the Plan Committee for Africa (Mr. Gabriel Tedros of Ethiopia) will act as "Co-ordinator" in close liaison with the Executive Secretary of ECA thus ensuring fullest integration between all entities concerned with this work.

(d) Proposed steps for implementation

11. Decisions taken by African countries during the meeting of the World Plan Committee in Rome in November-December 1963, are of a paramount importance since it means that the building of the inter-African telecommunications network required for satisfactory communications of any two African States will be among the most urgent preoccupations of all African telecommunication administrations.



12. An important fact became evident during the world wide Telecommunication Meeting in Rome: large areas in Africa are insufficiently developed with regard to regional and national telecommunication facilities. In order to bring their systems up to a condition where they can be interconnected with the systems of other parts of the world as envisaged by the World Plan, the countries concerned will require ample funds, technically skilled personnel and possibly some reorganization of their present telecommunication administrations.

13. All this will take considerable time and efforts from the countries concerned at a time when these countries are confronted with other major problems in their development. In the meantime, alternate facilities to link, provisionally at least, the major cities of Africa can be established to meet this most urgent need for reasons given in various parts of this paper. At the same time, of course, the large scale pan-African network covering all areas of the continent and permitting complete inter-connexion must remain the main and final aim in order to bring the quality of the telecommunication services in Africa to the level of development found in other parts of the world.

14. Thus a two step development programme should be envisaged covering the establishment of:

- (a) A provisional inter-African network (on high frequencies) linking major cities with rapid implementation on an emergency basis. This system could provide rather quickly teleprinter and telex facilities, even with automatic dialling, as well as long distance direct radio telephone connexions (without dialling). Such programme can be started without delay and circuits could be placed in operation within weeks or months according to availability of basic facilities like power supplies, telecommunication equipment, buildings and others.

The main aim of this programme is to provide without delay the most urgently required circuits between African countries and to permit the countries concerned to establish a logical step

by step procedure for implementing the long-term programme based on the Dakar Plan and subsequent revisions or additions which the World Plan Committee or the Plan Committee for Africa may adopt; and

- (b) The main African telecommunication network (based on ITU's Joint CCITT - CCIR Plan Committee for Africa). This is a most elaborate regional programme, as part of an ambitious World Plan, requiring adequate co-ordination as well as financing on a large scale. It will involve an extensive installation programme, including training of technical as well as technico-administrative staff, detailed technical implementation planning and the construction of buildings, roads and power supplies, etc. Co-ordinated action will be required also for the final determination of submarine high channel capacity cable routes and the possible utilization of telecommunication satellites. Further co-ordination will be required for building the telecommunication arteries to permit the transmission of regional television programmes and also data transmission, as well as to provide interconnexion facilities with all other continents.

15. Some of the aspects of the long-term programme will require some time to be started and to be completed. However, training must be started without delay, in order to have adequately trained national staff when the network reaches the installation stage and later on for its proper operation. (Simply to mention the order of magnitude, a rough estimate will make it necessary to train some 7 to 8,000 technicians for some four years just to meet the basic requirements in the various fields of telecommunications in Africa).

16. It is easy to see the role which the ECA/ITU mission is called to play in co-ordinating or in advising the different countries in this common problem; whether they may want assistance in one form or another or if they prefer to carry out their portion of the telecommunication network with their own resources, a thorough co-ordination is of paramount

importance in order to arrive at the highest over-all efficiency. Every country will derive considerable benefits from having available centralized information on the progress of implementation.

17. Without prejudging the decisions which will be actually taken in this respect by the individual countries, the secretariat submits in Chapter II a proposal for establishing the provisional inter-African network on high frequencies, mentioned in paragraph 14(a) above, suggesting a practical approach for the implementation of a large part of it in the very near future, as well as a proposal for starting on the final aim of implementation of the pan-African network envisaged by the Plan Committee.

Programme contemplated until the end of 1965

18. Conceived as a continuation and a reinforcement of the action taken so far by the Commission, the programme suggested should be divided in three parts complementary to each other:

Part I, continuation of the action already undertaken as described under 10 (i) above and for which financial provisions are made in the EPTA for 1964.

Part II, a programme of technical and financial assistance available to all countries which desire such help for the immediate implementation of their part of the provisional inter-African telecommunications circuits, (see para. 14(a)). For this purpose, effective multilateral and bilateral assistance facilities would be sought and encouraged (see Chapter II).

Part III, would consist of a project of the "pre-investment study" type, to be financed by the Special Fund and to be implemented if possible in two years (say from October 1964 to September 1966), with the main aim of evaluating technical and financial implications of implementing the long-term African telecommunication plan envisaged by the Plan Committee (see para. 14(b) above). Such a project would involve the recruitment of a group of specialized experts thoroughly

familiar with the telecommunication problems of Africa and also with problems of construction and technical planning, to work on a regional basis, as well as the provision of some survey equipment. The experts would be recruited only for the time that their services were required, for this specific work, and this might permit in particular the African administrations to co-operate directly in this survey by detaching some of their most qualified specialists for a specific length of time. Such study would have to be sponsored by countries through the Special Fund on a regional basis. (It will of course remain open to all those countries of the region to make their own technical and financial arrangements either for the immediate or long-term requirements as they desire).

#### Co-ordination problems

19. It can be seen at once that in these arrangements there is no risk of overlapping or duplication between :

- (a) The role of the telecommunication experts working on specific national projects in various countries of the region (see 8(ii) above); whose duties at the national level will remain unchanged;
- (b) The action of the ITU/ECA mission mentioned under 10(i) and 13 above; and
- (c) The Special Fund project contemplated under para. 18 Part III above.

20. In fact, with the proposed system of co-ordination it will be easier to ensure in particular:

- (a) That most of the experts engaged in national projects can concentrate on assisting in the solution of telecommunication problems and training of personnel on a local, national basis;
- (b) That the regional experts have as a main task to stimulate and help those telecommunication administrations which have engineered plans to provide the means (technical and/or financial as required) for implementing telecommunication development plans; moreover

the ITU/ECA mission will co-operate closely with the experts working on national projects providing them with information on regional developments which may affect their task in the particular country of duty;

- (c) That the Special Fund survey project suggested above will interest specifically those countries where no expert advice is available for making an estimate of their specific requirements in implementing the plan and will be of assistance, for solving inter-connexion problems, to those countries who wish to conduct their own implementation planning or financing.

#### Conclusion

21. The action which is suggested aims at the achievement, in the shortest possible time and in the most practical way, of establishment of the provisional inter-African telecommunication circuits as contemplated by the Organization of African Unity at its first meeting while preparing the way simultaneously for the implementation of the African network envisaged by the Plan Committee for Africa (Dakar Plan) as part of the World Plan.

22. In bringing the above to the notice of the countries members of ECA the secretariat cannot over-emphasize enough the need for governments to give to telecommunication projects the appropriate priority. An attractive and hopeful feature at a time when African countries are forced to enter into heavy financial commitments is that telecommunication services are usually self-supporting and can even become profit-making. Besides the regular commercial telephone, telegraph and telex users there are several entities such as airlines, press, banks and official organizations which are potential customers, for renting exclusive teleprinter channels on the national and international systems when these are available.

23. Well organized telecommunication systems can provide considerable income to the countries, besides being a utilitarian public service without which no modern nation can expect to function efficiently.

II. PROPOSED PLAN FOR ASSISTANCE BY ECA TO AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR  
TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECTS

24. The joint CCITT-CCIR Plan Committee of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has drawn up a world-wide telecommunication interconnecting plan. This plan is subdivided into various regions of the world one of which is the African region for which a Plan Committee for Africa was created (under the chairmanship of Mr. Gabriel Tedros of Ethiopia).

25. To provide adequate co-ordination, member countries of the ITU have followed the practice of entrusting the regional planning to the various Plan Committees (formerly called the plan sub-committees, for Asia, Latin America and Africa in the order of their establishment). In each of these committees the countries of the respective regions are duly represented as of right. A sub-regional plan prepared outside of the ITU has been, in Africa, that of the UAMPT. But this body is working in close co-operation with ECA and the ITU to effect the necessary co-ordination.

26. During the Rome Meeting of the Plan Committee (November-December, 1963), a basic structure was arrived at for an ambitious world-wide interconnecting plan which has emerged from the "Switching Plan for Europe and Mediterranean Basin", subsequently enlarged to embody all regions of the world, which was started over a decade ago by the then CCIF (International Consultative Committee for Telephony of the ITU now merged into the CCITT). The aim of the World-wide Plan is to reach eventually the stage where any telephone subscriber in the world will be able to dial automatically any other subscriber on his own or other continents.

27. While working out the Plan it has become evident that telecommunication links of continental and inter-continental type should not be limited to the original aim of telephone and telegraph communications; but they should serve also to carry television programmes, data transmission, etc. with their specialized applications.

28. The African continent is, in view of the above, placed in a special situation: on the one hand the national and regional telecommunication systems are in many areas practically non-existent or insufficiently developed to be utilized as part of the world inter-connecting plan. On the other hand, with the new political structure which has transformed Africa almost overnight from an almost entirely colonial region into a continent of independent sovereign nations the African capitals require urgently telecommunication links with one another having at least the availability of point-to-point telephone, telegraph and telex services.

29. With relatively small investment and efforts a provisional inter-Africa telecommunication network could be established which could provide temporarily the basic services between capitals while making at the same time arrangements to implement the major pan-African telecommunication network contemplated by the Dakar Plan.

30. Thus a two-step development programme can be envisaged which would simultaneously start with the following schemes:

(i) Installation of a provisional inter-African Radio-telephone and telegraph network (including telex) on High Frequencies; and

(ii) Study of an Implementation Procedure for the pan-African Telecommunication Network agreed by the Planning Committee for Africa and as part of the World Plan of inter-connexion.

31. The Provisional Network could consist of the following circuits in Africa as shown in the Dakar Plan or proposed at the Rome Meeting

ACCRA

- LEOPOLDVILLE (D)

- ADDIS ABABA (D)

- CAIRO (R)

- RABAT (R)

- ABIDJAN (R)

ADDIS ABABA

- ALGIERS (R)

- DAKAR (D)

(D) = Dakar 1962

(R) = Rome 1963

	- CAIRO (D)	
	- LAGOS (R)	
	- MOGADISCIO (D)	
ALGIERS	- BRAZZAVILLE (R)	
BAMAKO	- FREETOWN (D)	
BRAZZAVILLE	- CAIRO (R)	
CAIRO	- DAKAR (R)	
DAKAR	- RABAT (D)	
	- LAGOS (D)	(D) = Dakar 1962
NAIROBI	- USUMBURA (R)	(R) = Rome 1963
KHARTOUM	- LAGOS (D)	
	- MONROVIA (R)	
LAGOS	- NAIROBI (R)	
	- ABIDJAN (R)	
LEOPOLDVILLE	- NAIROBI (D)	
	- LAGOS (R)	

Each circuit could provide for one or two simultaneous radiotelephone channels simultaneously with 2 - 4 channels of protected (error preventing) teleprinter circuits to be used as regular (P & T) telegraph channel, telex trunk, or exclusive leased channels on permanent basis like for air services, meteorological data transmission and others.

Procedure and possible aid from ECA and ITU for the provisional circuits

32. In order to set up the suggested provisional network on high frequencies the countries require:

- (i) Equipment (transmitters, receivers, radio telephone terminals, automatic telegraphy equipment, antennas, adequate connecting lines or cables, power supplies, buildings etc.)
- (ii) Installation personnel
- (iii) Personnel to operate the new services and to maintain the equipment



33. Some countries have all the necessary equipment and personnel to install the new circuits but others require part or all of the items mentioned above.

ECA and ITU are therefore of the opinion that assistance should be available at short notice for all the aspects mentioned as they may be required by one or other country in varying degrees. And only if the countries can avail themselves of their facility at short notice can such a network be established with the required speed.

34. A new form of assistance is therefore being suggested by ECA in co-operation with ITU to solve the problem with urgency on a regional scale.

Equipment

- (a) ECA/ITU will establish in Africa a pool of equipment suitable for providing after rapid installation, the desired radio-telephone, telegraph and telex links between capitals;
- (b) Such equipment could be made available by donor countries to ECA as part of their contribution to technical assistance (in this case for a specific purpose). ECA would make all necessary efforts to establish the equipment pool in co-operation with ITU;
- (c) Countries of Africa which require assistance would receive part or all of the basic equipment required for the installation on a loan basis for a fixed length of time (initially a two year period) considered adequate for the country to start making its own arrangements for definite installations. The loan period could be extended if justified;
- (d) Equipment no more required on a particular circuit could be employed in many possible ways, either to open a new regional link from the same location or could be shifted to another country;

- (e) ~~Equipment would be employed requiring simple installation~~ procedures to permit fast putting into service and easy removal if and when required;
- (f) Further details for utilization after the provisional links have been superseded by permanent installations can be worked out once the principle of this aid procedure has been approved. (A logical, final utilization, would be as training equipment in relevant institutes).

Experts

ECA in co-operation with ITU would made available experts for the urgency programme to assist countries in the following:

- (a) Preparatory work prior to installations. Examination of detailed requirements including site and building requirements, equipment requirements, availability of personnel, availability of power supplies and others;
- (b) Installation of equipment if required, either already available with the country or supplied by ECA under the loan arrangements suggested above, with participation of local personnel;
- (c) Maintenance of the equipment and in-service training of local personnel for a fixed period as required until local staff can take over all maintenance and operational duties;
- (d) General advice on tariffs, organization and preparation for permanent installations in connexion with suggestions at paragraph 37 et seq. below;
- (e) Liaison with ITU on national development programmes and guidance for inclusion under ITU country programmes with EPTA or Special Fund procedures. (ITU Technical Co-operation Department).

National networks

35. The subject of aid for national networks not directly connected with the regional development has been purposely omitted as the arrangements considered are mainly intended to help in the solution of regional telecommunication problems. Aid for the development of national systems is normally the responsibility, on the part of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, of the country programmes established by the individual countries with the Resident Representatives of UNTAB and the Special Fund (and are operated from separate budgets).

36. It is understood, of course, that under the ECA/ITU arrangements any member country of ECA can obtain guidance and information at any time from ECA regarding available sources and procedures for obtaining United Nations assistance for the development of national telecommunication services (including training, financing, planning assistance and solution of specific telecommunication problems).

Procedure and possible aid from ECA and ITU for implementing the long-term pan-African Network envisaged by the Plan Committee for Africa (as part of the World Plan prepared by ITU's Joint CCITT - CCIR Plan Committee).

37. The implementation of this ambitious telecommunication network will require a great effort on behalf of most of the African countries and the investment of considerable sums (of the order of several hundred million dollars for the entire African system) comprising the improvement or the establishment of national telecommunication systems with portions devoted to regional and inter-continental traffic, the construction of wide-band submarine cables and possibly the establishment of ground stations for satellite communications.

38. While the Plan Sub-Committee for Africa has reached substantial agreement on the proposed routes of the main telecommunication trunks for the region, a considerable amount of work is required to arrive at concrete figures regarding cost, equipment and personnel requirements and an adequate time estimate for the completion of the different portions envisaged.

39. The implementation of the provisional network suggested in the previous paragraph will give the African countries a "breathing space" to work out carefully the implications of the long-term continental plan. However, if the continent wants to keep pace with the development in other areas of the world, work must start without delay on implementing the African Portion of the World Plan.

40. With all the other areas of the world working on the implementation of this Plan - a World Wide automatic telephone numbering plan has already been approved - the African continent could not afford to remain behind or unconnected to the World network if a rapid development of her great resources is to be achieved. In addition to intra-African connexions the continent of Africa will have to be efficiently connected with all parts of the world with telephones and telex channels in order to reach and to compete on the world markets. But this has to be done quickly if we are to avoid serious economic disadvantages. ECA proposes therefore the immediate establishment of a two year pre-investment study programme to be financed by the Special Fund.

41. The study in which African Telecommunication and Economics Experts should participate, assisted by international specialists in telecommunication (technical and administrative) should aim at a full assessment of the requirements for the establishment of the permanent pan-African telecommunication Network as foreseen by the Plan Sub-Committee for Africa of the ITU (CCITT - CCIR).

42. Main items of the survey would be:

- (a) Cost evaluation of the plan, section by section;
- (b) Estimate of personnel requirements and proposals for necessary training schemes. Possible utilization of existing training facilities in Africa; and assessment of possible sources of training overseas;
- (c) Preparation of a comprehensive report on the economic and the technical and financial aspects of the implementation of the plan;

- (d) ECA will follow closely the progress of the survey and may suggest even before the completion of the Final Report to proceed with implementation of such parts of the Plan which are sufficiently advanced;
- (e) Joint Meetings of ITU's Plan Committee for Africa and the members of ECA should be encouraged to review progress.

43. If the member countries approve the present procedure, ECA will take immediate action in consultation with ITU specially on:

- (a) Establishment of the Equipment pool and preparation of the detailed procedure for providing the loan aid programme, and
- (b) On the preparation of the request for the Special Fund Project for the pre-investment survey on the implementation of the pan-African Telecommunication Network under the conditions specified above.

44. The Commission in co-operation with ITU, has already started collecting basic information through contacts with the countries concerned regarding the provisional network as it considers this step to be already within its mandate given at the fifth session of the Commission.

ANNEX

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ITU AND  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECA

Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn and signed by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on the one hand and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the other in order to establish a firm basis for effective co-operation between ECA and ITU in developing Telecommunications in the African region in general and in studying the needs of, and providing advisory services to particular countries of the region in matters connected with the development of telecommunications.

1. Objectives

The basic objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are:

- 1.1 To accelerate the development of telecommunications in the African region and to secure appropriate priorities for telecommunications projects within the overall development programmes of the countries concerned.
- 1.2 To work out a plan and build up a comprehensive, self-contained and modern regional telecommunications network to meet the immediate and long-term needs of all countries of the region, including inter-connexions of the African network with the world-wide telecommunication system.

2. Spheres of Interest and Responsibility

- 2.1 ECA. The Economic aspects of telecommunications development and the requirements of administrations, excepting the technical aspects of tariff fixing, will be studied by ECA, in the closest co-operation with ITU/ECA's work in this regard will be guided by the need to accelerate

the overall economic and social development of Africa, the special immediate requirements of the region and its overall relations with other parts of the world which affect the growth of the African economy.

2.2 ITU. The responsibility of the ITU will cover all technical aspects of telecommunications and their operation, including all technical questions regarding telecommunication tariffs, and will be in accordance with the International Telecommunication Convention.

2.3 Work Programme - In order to avoid duplication of work or competition in areas of mutual interest, it is agreed that the programme of work should be prepared jointly by the two Secretariats in the field through mutual consultation. Such consultation or agreements will be without prejudice to other work projects which are mainly the responsibility of one or the other organization, but which may contain elements for which the other agency is responsible.

2.4 New proposals relating to the work programme in fields of common responsibility of both the organizations would be jointly agreed upon by the Secretary-General of the ITU and the Executive Secretary of ECA, and would be submitted for approval to the appropriate bodies of the respective organizations as necessary and according to their constitutions.

2.5 Joint Spheres - Work in the joint fields of responsibility will be planned in accordance with the jointly agreed priority requirements of both organizations.

### 3. Staff Arrangements

3.1 For the purpose of carrying out the tasks pertaining to the ECA region in the field of telecommunications and in order to implement the joint programmes of work, the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of ITU will establish a Joint Unit in the Secretariat of ECA, attached to the Transport Section.

- 3.2 The ITU will, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ECA, second to the Joint Unit a senior telecommunication professional officer, who will be assisted by the requisite number of technical officers, as may, from time to time, be deemed necessary to execute the joint project, (or joint projects) in hand. The technical officers will be nominated or withdrawn by the Secretary-General of the ITU; provided that any ITU official so seconded to the Joint Unit may at any time be replaced or withdrawn from any joint project on the request of the Executive Secretary of ECA.
- 3.3 The Senior Officer will be in charge of the Joint Unit and will assist in implementing the agreed programme of work referred to in Sections 1 and 2. For those matters which are within the sole competence of ITU he will be responsible only to the Secretary-General of that Organization. For administrative matters he will be under the ECA from which he will receive substantive guidance with respect to implementing the programme laid down by the ECA Committee on Industry, Transport and Natural Resources.
- 3.4 The Senior Officer will keep the Executive Secretary of ECA informed regarding the technical work of the Joint Unit.
- 3.5 The Senior Officer provided by the ITU will have broad authority to make decisions on behalf of the ITU on matters within the jurisdiction of the ITU, in order to facilitate the work of the two bodies in this field.
- 3.6 The ECA will provide office accommodation, and after the necessary budgetary arrangements, appropriate secretarial and other services and equipment.
- 3.7 The question and number of the staff to be provided by the two agencies will be reviewed periodically in the light of progress of the agreed work programme.



- 3.8 The ITU will provide the salaries and allowances of professional officers and the funds for their official travel within the region. All other expenses will be met by ECA.
- 3.9 Personnel matters relating to ITU staff will be dealt with by ITU provided that the timing of leave will be agreed in consultation with ECA.

4. Conclusion

In signing this Memorandum, the Secretary-General of ITU and the Executive Secretary of ECA believe that the above arrangements constitute a practical basis for accomplishing the joint objectives and maintaining productive and useful co-operation between the two organizations.

(signed) Gerald C. Gross  
Secretary-General - ITU

(signed) Robert K.A. Gardiner  
Executive Secretary - ECA

Date : 11 November 1963

- - - - -