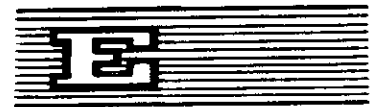




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS
Ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 April - 2 May 1983

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE ON ITS FOURTH MEETING

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 23 April 1983. The meeting was declared open by Comrade Tekola Dejene, Minister, First Deputy Secretary-General of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and member of the Central Committee of COPWE. Opening addresses were also delivered by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. Djomatchoua, representative of the Organization of African Unity and Mr. Khalefa A. Bazlya, representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the country which chaired the third meeting, who also proposed a motion of thanks (see section C below).
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. Observers were present from the following States not members of the Commission: China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, the German Democratic Republic, India, the Netherlands, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.
4. The Holy See, Republic of Korea and Switzerland, States not members of the United Nations, were also represented.
5. The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) were represented in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.
6. Observers were present from the following United Nations bodies: the Regional Commissions Liaison Office, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
7. Observers were present from the following inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations: the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), the African Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the African Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys (RECTAS), the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), the African

Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

8. One non-governmental organization, Caritas International was also represented by an observer.

9. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Mr. Mersie Ejigu, Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Apollinaire Rugaravu, Rwanda
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Khalil Haddaoui, Morocco
Rapporteur:	Mr. A.D.J. Blankson, Nigeria

10. It was also decided to set up an open-ended drafting Committee in which all member States could participate for the consideration of draft resolutions to be submitted to the Conference of Ministers as well as a select committee composed of Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho and Sierra Leone to consider the draft Silver Jubilee Anniversary Declaration.

B. AGENDA

11. On 14 April 1983, the meeting adopted its agenda and revised it on 19 April 1983 with the addition of item 9 (b) in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure. The final agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983
5. Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos:
 - (a) Joint progress report by the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary
 - (b) Contributions by ECA-sponsored institutions to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos
 - (c) Situation of food and agriculture in Africa
 - (d) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988:
 - (i) Progress report on phase I, 1980-1983
 - (ii) Draft programme for phase II, 1984-1988

- (e) Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990: Progress report
 - (f) Establishment of an African Monetary Fund: Progress report
 - (g) Regional and subregional economic and technical co-operation and integration: Progress report
 - (h) Interregional economic and technical co-operation
 - (i) Statistical support for development in Africa: Issues, progress and problems
6. ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study
7. Africa and current international economic negotiations:
- (a) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
 - (b) UNCTAD VI
 - (c) Negotiation for a new agreement between EEC and ACP countries
 - (d) Negotiation on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations
8. Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission:
- (a) Report of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development
 - (b) Report of the third meeting of the Regional Inter-governmental Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Regional Inter-governmental Committee on Human Settlements and Environment
 - (c) Progress report on the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
 - (d) Report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa
9. (a) Third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Institutions, December 1982: Issues and recommendations
- (b) Harmonizing and sustaining Africa's institutions for effective development
10. Preparatory activities for the International Youth Year
11. Programme of work and priorities:
- (a) Medium-term plan, 1984-1989: Resources of the sea programme
 - (b) Implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1982-1983
 - (c) Implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the MULPOCs for the biennium 1983-1983
 - (d) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985 (including MULPOCs' substantive programme of work)

12. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD):
 - (a) Report on the utilization of pledges for 1981 and 1982
 - (b) Projects for funding in the biennium 1984-1985
13. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session that are of interest to the Commission
14. Follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions of the Commission at its seventeenth session:
 - Res. 430 (XVII) - African Household Survey Capability Programme
 - Res. 432 (XVII) - Financing of the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques
 - Res. 433 (XVII) - African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
 - Res. 436 (XVII) - Appropriate telecommunications for the development of Africa
 - Res. 437 (XVII) - International Convention on Multimodal Transport of Goods
 - Res. 438 (XVII) - Pan-African Documentation and Information System
 - Res. 440 (XVII) - External indebtedness of African countries
 - Res. 441 (XVII) - Development of Intra-African Trade
 - Res. 444 (XVII) - Institutional machinery for the review and co-ordination of programmes and policies in human resources
 - Res. 452 (XVII) - The UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa for the period 1982-1986
 - Res. 456 (XVII), 457 (XVII) and 458 (XVII) - Substantive New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries
15. Staff and administrative questions
16. Any other business
17. Date and venue of the next meeting
18. Adoption of the report, draft resolutions and draft Declaration for submission to the Conference of Ministers
19. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

12. In his opening address to the meeting, Comrade Tekola Dejene, representative of Ethiopia, welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia.

13. He stressed that the meeting was significant in that it coincided with the Silver Jubilee of ECA and discussions would cover a long span of time, examining the role of the Commission in African development in the past 25 years and its proposed role in the next 25 years.

14. Despite the economic fluctuations of the past two decades, ECA had had a positive influence in promoting the economic and social development of the continent. As the membership grew from nine to 50 independent States, the scope of its activities had expanded accordingly and its assistance in continental efforts to accelerate development had been valuable.

15. Describing the present adverse international situation, he said that the international malaise was neither temporary nor cyclical and could not be corrected by traditional policy instruments. The inherent defects of the system had to be corrected by radical change, particularly since the establishment of the new international economic order was elusive as a result of the obstinacy of the advanced countries in global negotiations.

16. The task of the present meeting was thus more crucial than ever before in coming up with recommendations that would lead to a breakthrough in global negotiations. The recent non-aligned summit meeting in New Delhi had taken the advanced countries to task in that there was no alternative to negotiations on trade and aid, money and finance and the transfer of technology. Africa had to reinforce the position taken at New Delhi in order to achieve the objectives of the developing countries.

17. Of the long list of items on the agenda, he considered the following of critical importance: a review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983, ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008 and the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos with a view to establishing an African Common Market by the year 2000.

18. In the 1960s and 1970s, trends in economic growth were unsatisfactory. People now had 10 per cent less locally produced food than a decade earlier, the manufacturing sector had failed as an engine of growth, and unemployment and underemployment were widespread. Exports were stagnant, terms of trade adverse and the deterioration in economic and social conditions was indeed a reason for serious concern.

19. With regard to the policies for the coming 25 years, discussions would provide useful opportunities to work out practical guidelines for long-term planning and perspective studies. The basic conclusion should be that African countries should make serious efforts to implement the programmes contained in the

Lagos Plan of Action, which embodied a commitment by African Governments to take charge of their own destiny, with the assistance of ECA and OAU. He felt that a thorough examination of the reports would lead to the formulation of more effective strategies and policy measures to make the Lagos Plan a real blueprint for African development.

20. On the ECA work programme, he emphasized that the deliberations should aim at making the Commission a more effective instrument for accelerating development in Africa. He concluded by indicating that the task of working out recommendations for practical action on the enormous challenges facing Africa was not easy, but he was sure that the Committee would prove worthy of the responsibilities entrusted to it.

21. In his opening address, the Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed participants to the meeting and to Addis Ababa and expressed his most sincere appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its continuing support to ECA.

22. The fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee, one in the series of meetings preparatory to the Silver Jubilee session of the Commission, had a heavy workload for, according to the terms of reference of the Committee, it was expected to examine all matters that were to be put before the Conference of Ministers.

23. With regard to agenda item 4, he noted that, already in 1979, a review had been made of the formative years of the Commission and of its role in the 1980s and 1990s. Again now, in order to put the past into proper perspective and facilitate member States' efforts in diagnosing the future, the secretariat had prepared a review of the socio-economic development of Africa from 1958 to 1983 (E/ECA/CM.9/20). It provided a very broad overview of conditions over the past 25 years at the macro-level of production sectors, investment, consumption and trade. It showed that Africa's annual rate of population growth had been the highest in the world and that urbanization was also increasing fast. Over the period, GDP had almost tripled with an average real annual rate of growth of 5.6 per cent. The performance of agriculture had deteriorated, and Africa had become a net importer of food. Finally, as a result of differences in performance and resource base, three broad categories of countries had emerged in Africa: the major oil-exporting countries, the non-oil-exporting countries and the least developed countries, all of which were also non-oil-exporting countries. The major oil-exporting countries in 1980 accounted for 42.1 per cent of Africa's GDP, the non-oil-exporting countries 56.3 per cent and the 21 least developed countries among them in that year only 11.3 per cent.

24. Africa's export trade was dominated by primary commodities whose prices had fluctuated adversely. With deepening dependence on foreign sources of supply and the steep upward trend in the prices of manufactured goods, it was little wonder that the non-oil-exporting countries had experienced a balance-of-payments crisis, particularly since 1975. Africa had in fact remained on the periphery of international trade and its share in world exports had declined steadily throughout the whole period to 3.4 per cent in 1979. Another highlight of the review was the heavy indebtedness of African States. The debt service ratio had reached about 11 per cent in 1979 for Africa as a whole and in a handful of countries stood at over 20 per cent.

25. In industry, the cumulative effect of past policies was an industrial structure that was mismatched with resource endowments and therefore had weak linkages with the rest of the economy. Heavy reliance on imported inputs had aggravated the balance-of-payments crisis. Despite inadequacies, transport had improved, as had energy production.

26. Health conditions had improved, but services were still concentrated in the urban areas. In education, an enrolment rate of over 70 per cent of primary school age children had been achieved, but the orientation of the education system and the trained manpower mix had not been as responsive to Africa's needs as they should.

27. The conclusions to be drawn from the study were that the past 25 years had been a period of rapid social and economic change in Africa. In the social sector in particular, the countries had achieved more in 25 years than the colonial Powers had during the entire colonial period. Nevertheless, Africa remained economically backward and more than 50 per cent of its member States had officially been classified as least developed.

28. It was because of the need to see what the future held in store that the meeting had before it a document entitled "ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study" which highlighted the problems which validated the proposals for a regional development strategy, illustrated the orders of magnitude of the efforts required if the Lagos Plan of Action was to be successfully implemented and anticipated the role and evolution of ECA in the next 25 years. The two-scenario study presented two options and clearly depicted their cumulative effects. It made it crystal clear which one Africa must follow if by the year of the Golden Jubilee Africa was to have established a dynamic and self-reliant economy and no country was to be given the epithet of least developed.

29. Most other items on the agenda of the meeting related to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action at various levels. The progress report of the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA for example concentrated on what the two secretariats had been able to do. Concerning the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, programme implementation under phase I had made significant progress and more than \$6 billion of the required \$15 billion had been secured. The requirements for the second phase had recently been estimated at about \$30 billion.

30. With regard to the medium-term plan, 1984-1985, a revised version of the resources of the sea programme was before the meeting for consideration and approval before it was submitted to the General Assembly for adoption. To facilitate consideration of the programme of work for 1984-1985, a progress report on the implementation of the programme for the 1982-1983 biennium had been prepared. The Committee was also expected to determine whether the underlying thrust of the work programme was in conformity with the Lagos Plan of Action, the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade and, above all, national plans.

31. Finally, he drew attention to the menacing problems of drought and desertification in Africa, which might well before long become a vast desert. He accordingly suggested that the Committee might consider the desirability of organizing a special scientific round table on Africa's climatic situation to be attended by top-ranking national and international experts in the field and representatives of international institutions to explain the phenomenon and advise on how to counteract it.

32. He wished all participants a successful meeting and a happy Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

33. The OAU representative, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of OAU, stressed the fact that the Organization of African Unity was pleased to be represented on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. For him, ECA had become a household word in Africa.

34. He congratulated the Executive Secretary of the Commission and his predecessors for their tireless and steadfast efforts which had led the institution to its present commanding heights.

35. Those who did not learn from the lessons of history were bound to make the same mistakes again. In that connection, he recalled the major landmarks in the genesis and evolution of the Commission since the early 1950s. The purpose of the unit which was called upon to become ECA in 1958 was to collect economic and social information in Africa. At the beginning, the unit had not been endowed with the requisite manpower and finance to undertake the necessary tasks, but it was the tenacity of the founding fathers that had rooted ECA into the fabric of African socio-economic structures in the years to come.

36. In 1958, the African continent was seething with the political upheavals of freedom and the newly independent States soon recognized the danger of re-colonization by outside Powers unless they formed regional groupings. Those groupings had paved the way for the establishment of OAU in May 1963.

37. Since that time, OAU and ECA had worked closely together. The joint efforts of the two secretariats had led to the Monrovia Symposium which, in turn, had led to the adoption of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, culminating in the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in April 1980.

38. He informed the meeting of the existence of an OAU/ECA Joint Committee through which matters of mutual interest were debated. And in that spirit, the two secretariats look forward to continuing their close relationship in the years ahead.

39. The representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which had assumed the chairmanship of the third meeting of the Committee, speaking on behalf of the outgoing Chairman and on behalf of the people of the Jamahiriya, lauded the hospitality of Socialist Ethiopia, a country which was well known for its relentless struggle against imperialist forces and its determination to ensure the emergence of a revolutionary economic movement.

40. He stressed that, although the major part of Africa had achieved political independence, the same could not be said at the economic and cultural levels. He therefore launched a pressing appeal for sound co-operation between Africa and Arab countries since the two groups constituted an economic, political, social and cultural whole. If they united, together they would constitute a force which would be capable of liberating the continent.

41. Finally, he called on ECA to intensify its efforts to strive for the economic liberation of the continent, and wished the meeting every success in its endeavours.

A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983 (item 4)

42. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/20 containing a review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983. Africa's population had increased at an average annual rate of growth of 2.8 per cent, reaching 434 million in 1980. Mortality rates had remained high and the dependency ratio had increased. At the same time the rate of urbanization had nearly doubled.

43. In terms of output, in addition to the disappointing results in agriculture, the industrial sector had suffered from shortages of raw materials, spare parts and operating capital, outdated equipment and defective planning and management. The mining sector had been affected by falling world demand and internal transport problems. With regard to energy, a small number of countries had a surplus whereas the vast majority suffered from a deficit.

44. The overall savings ratio had improved, primarily because of the oil-exporting countries, for the ratio of the non-oil-exporting group had increased only marginally and it had even fallen in the least developed countries. As the external situation had worsened, Governments had been compelled to have more and more recourse to costly commercial and other loans, which had given rise to debt accumulation and arrears in payments. The financial situation of most Governments was precarious and the government deficit was increasing steadily, but Africa's main problems lay in its increasing dependence on the outside world through imports of food, particularly cereals, in addition to traditional imports of equipment, spare parts and the services of high-level experts.

45. In the social field, the region continued to suffer from high unemployment, underemployment and mass poverty, notwithstanding impressive achievements in education and primary health care.

46. The policy measures adopted to tackle such adverse conditions had been diverse, but common traits included attempts to balance the external account, limit imports and public expenditure and apply structural adjustment programmes, often with the aid of the World Bank and IMF.

47. The prospects for 1983 were uncertain. There were some signs of an economic take-off in the developed countries, but the real drop in oil prices would affect Africa's exports adversely. Moreover, it was not at all sure that 1983 would be a normal agricultural year.

48. Remedial action was urgently required to restructure African economies and it was essential to make optimum use of all resources and productive investment. In that regard the Lagos Plan of Action remained the sole framework for viable development policies.

49. In the discussion which followed, all speakers praised the secretariat for document E/ECA/CM.9/20 and the companion document, the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1981-1982 (E/ECA/CM.9/5 and summary). They stressed that the tide of political independence had not been followed by a comparable tide of economic independence, and prospects for the future were bleak. The African economy was still far too outward-looking and dependent on external forces. Manufacturing was growing too slowly and revenue was concentrated in the hands of a small number of people which increased the propensity to consume to the detriment of the propensity to save. The performance of trade had been poor, owing to adverse fluctuation in the prices of raw materials as against increases in prices of industrial products on world markets, and intra-African trade was actually declining. The mining sector was of a primary nature and still largely foreign-dominated. The Committee noted the perennial dilemma about population policies. On the one hand, it was felt that in certain countries population growth should be encouraged so as to expand national markets and reduce dependence on the export trade. On the other hand, general concern was expressed about the high rate of population growth giving an increasingly young population and a high dependency ratio, causing social pressure in terms of unemployment and underemployment and making it increasingly difficult for States to formulate their human resources development policies rationally.

50. Various representatives also spoke with concern of the growing disparities between oil-producing, non-oil-producing and least developed countries and countries in the first category were urged to assist their less fortunate brothers in a spirit of collective self-reliance rather than having them look to the outside world for assistance. Considerable concern was expressed about the agriculture sector which had not benefited from the redistribution of land after independence and where production was stagnating and declining, partly because of adverse weather conditions in later years. Specific concern was expressed about the status of fishery development in the region. The region's rich resources in that important food item were being exploited by foreigners whom member States could not control. In that connection, a call was made for greater inter-country co-operation in the development of appropriate policies and technologies for dealing with the situation.

51. Other matters raised in the discussion included the causes of the low level of national savings, the inadequate transport and communications infrastructure, the sources of ECA data and the country classification system used throughout the document.

52. In general, the participants agreed that, just as a somewhat similar exercise had led to the preparation and adoption of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action, the present exercise confirmed the need to reduce dependence on the outside world and to establish true self-reliance and self-sustaining patterns of development, particularly in view of the meagre results achieved at such international gatherings as the Paris Pledging Conference for the least developed countries and the Cancun meeting and despite the efforts of the Group of 77 to relaunch the global negotiations. The time had come, as was noted by several participants, to stop harping on the past with its colonial legacy, which was not the sole cause of Africa's present economic doldrums, and take decisive action to implement the Lagos Plan through both appropriate national policies and subregional economic integration arrangements, for it did not appear that much had changed in the three years since its adoption.

53. In response to the points made by the participants, the representative of the secretariat explained that, as far as population policies were concerned, there existed various opinions. He believed that the best solution was to link the rate of population growth to the growth rate of the national economy. If the latter were to increase, the level of population growth would cease to be a problem. With respect to the question of causes of the performance of African economy over the past 25 years, there were of course differences among the various African countries which could not be taken into account in a study which gave only an overall picture. Again, although data were available within the secretariat on intra-African trade, it had been possible to include only a few figures in table 18 of document E/ECA/CM.9/20. However, those figures showed that intra-African exports were declining. With regard to the sources of statistical data, he explained that use had been made of the ECA Statistics Division as well as of data supplied by countries for the preparation of the annual Survey. The classification system was the one normally used in ECA and "developing Africa" meant the three groups taken together.

54. In his intervention, the Executive Secretary said that the recommendations contained in the 1981-1982 Survey reflected the cumulative effect of past policies. What was most important for African Governments to realize was that development was not normal. Rather, underdevelopment and stagnation were the norm. The fact that over the past 25 years, Africa had fared well in some respects and badly in others was only to be expected. The essential point was to learn from past mistakes in order to build a better future. It was only those individuals and societies who made extra effort that managed to make progress.

55. The challenge facing Africa was how to pull the continent together in view of the growing differentiation among African States. Whilst differentiation could create healthy competition, Africa's differentiation had come not from striving but from a difference in levels of resource exploitation. So far no country in Africa was anywhere near the goal of self-reliance. In that regard Africa had to stop blaming the colonial legacy and accept its responsibility for its fortunes or misfortunes. People had to realize that, had the continent's resources been managed as efficiently as they should, Africa would have been in a much better

position. Now there was the paradox of wastage in the midst of poverty, and he referred in that connection to ECA's recent preliminary work on financial leakages or avoidable expenditure. The final lesson to be drawn was that there must be equity in the development effort and in the enjoyment of the fruits of development, for the burden of development over the past 25 years had fallen on the rural sector, whilst the urban sector had been relatively pampered.

56. The Chairman said that the conclusion to be drawn from the assessment of Africa's performance over the past 25 years was that Africa still remained materially and technically the least developed continent, with the paradox of abundance in scarcity and extravagance in misery. The structure of production was backward, dominated, apart from the situation in the oil-exporting countries, by agriculture. The performance of the manufacturing sector had been disappointing and its share in GDP had not changed significantly. Linkages were weak. The physical integration of the continent was poor and Africa, which was heavily dependent on sea-borne trade, accounted for only 1.3 per cent of the world's merchant fleet. It had made efforts to develop its manpower, but it was a victim of the brain drain.

57. All such factors provided ample proof of the validity of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. However, the successful implementation of the latter required a set of policy instruments to ensure better management of resources and equity, particularly for the rural sector. Moreover, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act could not be realized at the normal pace of development. What was needed was an economic revolution in Africa.

58. The Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.9/20 and E/ECA/CM.9/5 and summary and adopted draft resolution 1 (IV) and 2 (IV) (see section D below).

Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos (item 5)

(a) Joint progress report by the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary

59. The Executive Secretary of ECA introduced the progress report prepared by the Secretary-General of OAU and himself (document E/ECA/CM.9/1 and summary). The report had been prepared in accordance with the instruction of the Heads of State and Government as contained in the OAU resolution on the Lagos Plan of Action. It had been prepared for submission to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in 1982 through the Council of Ministers and the Secretary-General of OAU and he had now decided to submit it to the meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

60. The document had concentrated on the activities that the two secretariats had been able to undertake towards implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, albeit with the collaboration of member States. All the usual economic and social sectors presented in the Plan had been covered.

61. He then highlighted what had been done with a view to establishing the African Economic Community in accordance with the Final Act of Lagos. Work already done included the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern Africa; assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and preparatory work for the establishment of the Economic Community of Central African States. The North African MULPOC was now establishing the framework for an economic community. He said that there was no inconsistency in the fact that member countries felt loyalty both to existing institutions such as UDEAC or SADCC and to the new ones, provided that their goals and objectives were the same.

62. In conclusion he informed the Committee that, as indicated in the report, the next report of the two secretariats would cover what the member States themselves were doing to implement the Plan and the Act as well as what the secretariats had done.

63. The representative of the Secretary-General of OAU concurred with the Executive Secretary of ECA and pointed out that the document covered progress only up to July 1982. He observed that the Lagos Plan had not been disseminated far and wide despite the two secretariats' popularization scheme. Such dissemination was largely the duty of member States and he advocated the establishment of national committees for that purpose. He recalled the close collaboration between the two secretariats in working towards the implementation of the Plan and the Act. He also recalled the co-operation agreement signed by the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA in 1982.

64. In the discussions which followed, the Committee, while commending the two secretariats for their first report on the implementation of the Plan and the Act, nevertheless drew attention to some of the shortcomings of the progress report. They included the fact that it had been written as far back as July 1982 and that its cover page needed changing; that in some cases approved MULPOC programmes had not been effectively launched; and that reference was made only to the operational and financial implications of the implementation of the Plan for OAU programmes whereas both secretariats had been called upon to collaborate in the implementation of the Plan. The possibility that the ECA secretariat would not proceed with the creation of the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre until all the countries eligible for membership had signed the constitution was queried since it was believed that, if five out of eight countries were willing to go ahead, they should not be stopped.

65. Suggestions were also made as to how to improve the progress report in future, for example by including in it the treatment of such burning issues as poverty, ignorance and unemployment, economic dependence, mobilization of natural resources as well as ignorance of the human resource base and manpower development. It was also pointed out that, instead of the secretariats' pleading lack of information on the activities of member States as the main reason for not covering the activities of member States in the report, they could have used such sources as national annual economic surveys, annual budgets and national development plans.

66. The need for effective co-ordination of the activities of member States was stressed and there was consensus regarding the old problems of capital and financial shortages including the problem of transport, all of which called for concerted effort on the part of all African States to help each other in the spirit of self-reliance.

67. A plea was made that the ECA/OAU Joint Committee should be strengthened and that conferences and meetings originating in Africa should be organized by both OAU and ECA as a means of ensuring the effective utilization of scarce resources.

68. Questions were also raised during the debate regarding the criteria for allocating fellowships under ECA's Expanded Fellowship Programme and the quota system referred to in paragraphs 121 and 122 of document E/ECA/CM.9/1, which was considered too rigid.

69. In response, the Executive Secretary explained that fellowships received from donors were not allocated a priori to all members but only to those which nominated qualified candidates. The problem so far was that there were not enough nominations by member States and therefore the question of allocation did not arise. He further explained that, in 1979, the Programme had been given a new dimension whereby fellowships were sought from ECA member States and made tenable within African national institutions of learning. Comments on the quota system of recruitment were probably addressed more to OAU than to ECA where the quota system was imposed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. With reference to the problem of the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre, he indicated that initially eight countries had participated in the plenipotentiary meeting called to establish the Centre and only three countries had later signed the constitution. A somewhat similar situation prevailed in the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre which had had problems for some time. He regretted that, where responsibility was not shared to sustain institutions already established, the burden always fell on the host Government. Hence the secretariat had been reluctant to proceed with the establishment of the Central African Centre. However, now that five countries had signed the constitution, in accordance with the condition laid down therein for establishing the Centre, it had been decided to hold the inaugural meeting of the Governing Council in June 1983 with a view to establishing the Centre. With respect to annual economic surveys and budgets as sources for identifying what member States were doing to implement the Plan and the Act, it was stressed that, in view of the importance of the recommendations in the Plan, the most effective way of ascertaining what member States were doing was to contact them through field work as was now being done by the OAU team visiting member States.

70. Finally, with regard to possible gaps in the joint progress report, questions relating to ECA-sponsored institutions, food and agriculture, transport, industry, economic co-operation, interregional economic and technical co-operation and statistics, were covered in items 5(b) to (i) of the Committee's agenda.

71. The Committee noted with satisfaction the action already taken by the secretariats of OAU and ECA in producing the progress report. It recommended that the document should be up-dated before submission to the OAU Council of Ministers. Subject to that reservation, the Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.9/1 and summary.

(b) Contributions by ECA-sponsored institutions to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos

72. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/21 on the contributions of ECA-sponsored institutions to the implementation of the Plan and the Act which had been prepared in accordance with the wishes of the Heads of State and Government who had recognized the important role of inter-governmental institutions in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act.

73. The ECA-sponsored institutions were in six groups - financial and banking services, earth resources services, industrial development and services, socio-economic development, planning and management services, trade and transport services and multinational programming and operational centres. Their assistance in implementing the Plan and the Act had consisted of loans and grants for projects, equipment servicing, collection, analysis and dissemination of information, training of experts, expert services in the evaluation of mineral resources and organization of workshops and other meetings.

74. In the discussions that ensued, ECA-sponsored institutions were urged to hold consultations among themselves so as to avoid the duplication of effort which was clear from reading document E/ECA/CM.9/21. It was felt that proper co-ordination should ultimately lead to a specialization of fields of endeavour and concentration.

75. The representatives of ARCEDEM, ARSO and AIHTTR described the work and objectives of their institutions. They were appreciative of the support so far received from the host Governments of their institutions and appealed to all member States, signatory or otherwise, for more support inasmuch as all benefited in one way or another from the services rendered by the two institutions. The representative of ARCEDEM reported that his institution was finding difficulties in filling its vacant posts whose job descriptions he had brought with him to the meeting. The representative of AIHTTR reported that his Institute had now reached the required minimum number of States to give a legal basis to it. The next stage of the work of the Institute could now begin.

76. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/21.

(c) Situation of food and agriculture in Africa

77. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/15 and summary entitled "Situation of food and agriculture in Africa, 1982: A synopsis". Broadly, the issues treated in the document covered food self-sufficiency; post-

harvest losses and food processing; economic research and inputs for increased food output; transport infrastructure for food self-sufficiency; food trade and marketing organizations; manpower development and training in project analysis; forestry; and fisheries. In addition, the document also dealt with perceived problems in the attainment of goals including inadequate finance and skilled manpower, inefficient markets, inappropriate pricing policies particularly in terms of remunerative prices, inadequate and unrelated research and transfer of technology, poor transport facilities and restrictive trade regulations and lack of other incentives. The document also had something to say about resources, their sources and the gap in terms of requirements. Nevertheless, prospects were good and African Governments were constantly striving to solve the problems defined.

78. In the discussions which followed, participants expressed the view that the document was too pessimistic and imprecise. They agreed that food self-sufficiency, defined as enough food for each country according to its natural resource endowment should be sought vigorously in line with the Lagos Plan of Action. One representative regretted that the document did not highlight the livestock sector which was very important in the economies of many countries. Participants were saddened by the persistently poor performance of agriculture in the past few years and noted that Africa's imports of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products had reached \$17.4 billion in 1981 whereas agricultural exports had brought in only \$9.8 billion. The pernicious role of transnationals, which frequently forced farmers to concentrate on export crops as opposed to food crops, was noted in that regard.

79. Since drought was thought to be a major cause of food and agriculture problems and was now even affecting coastal States, there was a consensus that there was urgent need to conduct technical studies to be followed by a series of meetings to discuss such studies, as suggested by the Executive Secretary in his opening address. Nevertheless, it was recognized that drought was not solely responsible for the situation. Greater attention had to be paid to making use of all available resources, including the potential of underground water and lake basins for irrigation. The Committee stressed that greater moral and financial support should be extended to the countries affected by drought and desertification and to the institutions dealing with the phenomena, to enable them to intensify their concrete action-oriented programmes.

80. It was felt that there was a need to study why food production continued to be low and the place which improved farm tools, better pricing, marketing and training policies for farmers and the proper choice between food and export crops would have in increasing production, reducing illegal trade and combating the rural-urban drift. The role of bad pricing policies resulting in smuggling and the consequent lack of desire on the part of farmers to incur costs of inputs into agricultural production needed to be investigated also.

81. A view was also expressed that the problem of agronomic research was to disseminate the results so far available and make them acceptable to the farmers. It was suggested much could be accomplished through programmes of subregional

and international co-operation between research centres by exchanging teachers and experience for example in food preservation methods, extension methods as well as in training, taking into account the high cost of research and therefore the need for co-operation among States.

82. The Committee recognized the problem of food substitution, for example wheat which had become popular in Africa probably as a result of free gifts of food under P.L. 480. An associated problem was the tendency to use expatriate experts in the management of food storage warehouses.

83. It was suggested that, for future documents, an attempt should be made to move from generalized to specific issues, for example problems of infrastructure and exactly where post-harvest losses were occurring, i.e. between the farm and the marketing boards or at home, etc. and in what quantity. In that connection, farmers should be trained in food security and loss prevention. An equally important matter which deserved special attention in a document of that kind related to a more in-depth analysis of how resources, especially financial ones, were being allocated to education and agriculture and how well they were utilized, as such an analysis would assist member Governments in revising their investment policies. With respect to manpower training, information should have been given on what existing institutions were producing. In any case, emphasis should be put on farmers and intermediate personnel rather than university graduates who usually migrated to other professions.

84. As to the conclusions to be drawn from the document, the Executive Secretary of ECA agreed, with respect to the coverage and outlook of the document, that there was need to move from general to specific issues by identifying subregional problems as had been the case in AFPLAN. The higher import value of food compared with lower export values was in itself cause for pessimism and the order of such trade values should be reversed to restore Africa to its position of 25 years earlier of being a net exporter rather than a new importer of food.

85. The second conclusion was that Governments should, as a matter of public policy, encourage changes in food habits, particularly by introducing corn, cassava or rice bread, since wheat represented the bulk of grain imports, and thereby save at least some \$5 billion in imports.

86. Thirdly, Governments should not rely on rain-fed agriculture, but explore underground water and lake basin potential for use in irrigation as was being done in North Africa. In the same vein, he suggested that the idea of fish farms and economic co-operation between coastal and land-locked countries should be reactivated. He also referred to the value and use being made of foreign aid.

87. In concluding the debate on the subject, the Committee agreed on the need to:

(a) Draw up measures to understand and combat drought and desertification and accordingly agreed with the suggestions made by the Executive Secretary in his opening address;

(b) Undertake an intensive study to ascertain the causes of the apparent discrepancies between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of that sector;

(c) Introduce appropriate price policies so as to encourage farmers who were responsible for producing food and agricultural raw materials to produce more;

(d) Strengthen and encourage agricultural research and share the results among member States with a view to ensuring a proper choice of agricultural crops;

(e) Increase production of oil-seeds and cereals to reduce the volume of costly imports;

(f) Establish agricultural commodity exchanges and promote intra-African trade in agricultural products.

88. Subject to those reservations, the Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/15 and adopted draft resolutions 3 (IV) and 4 (IV).

(d) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988

89. A representative of the secretariat introduced a progress report on the implementation of phase I of the Decade and briefed the meeting on the preparation of the draft programme for phase II, highlighting the outcome of the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning which had been organized in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 11 March 1983.

(i) Progress report on phase I, 1980-1983

90. The representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/7 summarizing progress so far achieved in the implementation of phase I of the Decade. The initial programme approved in 1979 had comprised 771 projects estimated at a total cost of \$US 3.85 billion and the programme had been revised after an updating exercise in August 1982 to a total of 1,091 projects estimated at \$15.45 billion. The exercise had been undertaken to incorporate in the programme country projects submitted for funding outside the Decade programme. The updating exercise had also resulted in the transfer to phase II of projects which could not be fully implemented during phase I as originally planned.

91. Reviewing the financing of projects under phase I, he indicated that, out of a total of \$8.7 billion for 642 projects, resources actually secured amounted to \$6.56 billion, out of which \$5 billion or 77 per cent came from African Governments.

92. The first Pledging Conference organized by the United Nations Secretary-General in November 1979 had managed to raise only \$158,588, pledged mostly by African countries, because developed countries preferred bilateral financing arrangements. Consequent on that disappointing result, the General Assembly had requested the Executive Secretary to find alternative means of raising funds for the Decade and had allocated \$400,000 for that exercise. In pursuance of those directives, ECA had organized four consultative technical meetings in Lome, Ouagadougou, Yaounde and Abidjan at which \$940 million had been mobilized. A fifth meeting of the kind was planned for North Africa, Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean island countries in October 1983.

93. He observed that during phase I of the Decade, regional and subregional projects had received much less financing than country projects. He emphasized that that pattern of financing was not in line with the priority of greater integration contained in the objectives of the Decade. In order to redress that imbalance, the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its third meeting had requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to explore other sources of financing for subregional and regional projects including the possibility of creating a special fund.

94. He regretted ECA's inability to provide an evaluation of the physical achievements of phase I at the moment because of the unavailability of data and information from member States. In that connection he appealed to those member States which had not done so to appoint an official within the Ministry of Planning to act as a focal point for the implementation of the Decade and to provide ECA with the necessary data and information for a physical evaluation.

95. The programme of the Decade as a whole was designed to attain all the objectives but he regretted the slow pace of implementation which precluded a comprehensive evaluation at the present time. Such an evaluation would be undertaken at the end of phase I as well as at the end of the Decade.

96. Turning to finance allocation by subsector, he indicated that road, railways and ports had received the most resources, while communications and air transport attracted very little. The low funding of projects in the air transport sector was attributed to the fact that those projects were mostly regional and subregional in character and therefore found less attractive by donors.

97. Concluding his remarks he re-emphasized the problem of securing resources for regional and subregional projects and indicated that, notwithstanding the problems encountered, the implementation of phase I was broadly speaking satisfactory. The international community, donors and African countries had all been sensitized about the vital role of transport and communications in overall economic development.

(ii) Draft programme for phase II, 1984-1988

93. The representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/8 which explained the preparatory activities for phase II of the Decade undertaken in accordance with the instructions contained in resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.18/14. Phase II of the draft programme had been prepared on the basis of projects presented by African countries as high priority projects and reviewed by consultants and member States' experts as well as by working groups of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee.

99. The draft programme consisted of 1,312 projects estimated at a total cost of \$US 31 billion. They comprised 700 new projects and 612 projects transferred from phase I. A breakdown of the projects showed that 358 projects estimated at \$12.3 billion were road and road transport projects, 54 estimated at \$8.1 billion were for railways and rail transport, 24 estimated at \$934.5 million for maritime transport, 79 estimated at \$3.2 billion for ports, 156 estimated at \$692.4 million for inland water transport, 11 estimated at \$43.1 million for multimodal transport and 591 projects estimated at \$4.3 billion for the communications programme (telecommunications, broadcasting, satellite communications, postal services and manpower). He stressed that, given the interrelated nature of the two phases, both programmes had to be implemented fully if the entire Decade objectives were to be achieved.

100. Taking into account the current world economic crises and the financial problems encountered during phase I, ECA had suggested reducing the total number of projects retained for phase II. That suggestion had been approved at the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning which had emphasized the need for greater harmonization and co-ordination of projects to be included in the Master Plan and urged Governments to incorporate projects selected for the Decade in national development plans. The Conference had requested member States to submit their revised projects to ECA by 30 June 1983 and directed ECA to revise the draft programme, taking into account subregional requirements, different modes of transport and continental integration. The final draft would be submitted to the fourth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport at its meeting in Guinea in February 1984 through the meeting of experts scheduled for Brazzaville in October 1983. The approved programme for Phase II would be formally launched on 11 February 1984.

101. Regarding the modalities for the implementation of phase II of the Decade, ECA had been requested to organize consultative meetings on postal services, broadcasting, railways and air traffic rights. For the latter meeting, it had been requested to invite the directors of civil aviation authorities and airlines to resolve problems related to landing rights.

102. Finally, he reported that ECA had been requested to expedite the establishment of a maritime organization for Eastern, Southern and Indian Ocean island countries.

103. In the discussion which followed, participants emphasized the cardinal role of transport and communications systems in national development and African economic integration. They stressed the need for urgent action to establish direct communications links among African countries in order to avoid the current unnecessarily expensive system of transiting through countries outside the region.

104. The Egyptian representative briefed the meeting on plans for organizing a ministerial meeting on maritime transport in Africa scheduled to take place in Alexandria to discuss inter alia matters related to transiting arrangements and facilities for land-locked countries. He also informed the meeting about training facilities available to African countries at the Egyptian maritime academy which had trained over 700 Africans. As an example of his country's preparedness to collaborate with land-locked countries he cited negotiations that had taken place with certain airlines which had resulted in air traffic rights being granted and in a reduction in fares. He also cited Sudano-Egyptian water communications links on lake Nasser as a further example of co-operation.

105. Some participants emphasized the inability of land-locked countries to resolve their transport and communications problems individually. Owing to the magnitude of the problems, the efforts of Governments of land-locked countries should of necessity be supplemented by the international community. In that respect, they stressed the need for the United Nations to increase the resources of the Special Fund for land-locked countries and they called for the establishment of a crash programme for land-locked countries.

106. Participants deplored the slow pace of project implementation in phase I of the Decade (below 50 per cent over all), particularly in the telecommunications, broadcasting, postal services, inland water and air transport subsectors. They regretted the meagre resources mobilized for regional and subregional projects, which were indeed the priorities for economic integration.

107. It was also observed that there were significant differences in project programming and implementation in the various categories of countries.

108. In view of the insufficiency of resources secured for phase I, participants emphasized the need for member States and ECA to double their efforts in obtaining funds for the high total cost of projects under phase II. They observed that donor countries, after pledging resources, tended to introduce so many obstacles during negotiations that the actual disbursement of funds was frustrated.

109. ECA was requested to provide an analysis of the economic, technical and political factors hindering the implementation of the Decade programme. It was also requested to include in its analysis feasibility studies on projects in the programme.

110. In order to facilitate the implementation of phase II, participants stressed the need for member States to take a number of measures, including the removal of intercountry physical barriers, harmonization of tariff systems, transit facilities and air traffic rights.

111. A representative of UNDP stressed the need for greater emphasis on manpower development to furnish the skills required for the Decade and future maintenance. In that connection, he urged the secretariat to prepare a manpower development programme for the rest of the Decade. He also urged African Governments to include Decade projects in their national development plans to facilitate UNDP support, especially in feasibility studies and manpower development under UNDP country programmes. If the countries so wished they could examine the possibility of financing some of their national transport and communications projects from funds reserved out of their respective IPFs for continuous programming.

112. The meeting concluded by re-emphasizing the need for greater efforts to mobilize adequate resources for phase II, to accord greater attention to manpower development and to undertake a comprehensive analysis of problems encountered in the implementation of the Decade programme. A suggestion to analyse the experience of raising funds through the technical consultative meetings for use in other sectors was also made.

113. The meeting took note of documents E/ECA/CM.9/7 and 8 and adopted draft resolutions 5 (IV) and 6 (IV).

(e) Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990

114. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/6 on the main activities undertaken by the ECA, OAU and UNIDO secretariats in implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA). He recalled that the industrial development master programme for the Decade, prepared by the African Ministers of Industry in 1981, had been submitted to the third meeting of the Committee. Subsequently, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Conference of Ministers had adopted resolution 442 (XVIII) on the formulation and the implementation of a programme for IDDA.

115. The programme for the Decade was available in printed form under the title "A programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa", chapter III of which dealt with modalities for the implementation of the Decade programme. He highlighted the actions to be carried out during the preparatory phase (1982-1984) at various levels.

116. At the national level, actions included the formation of national co-ordinating committees, the incorporation of the concepts and ideas of the Decade programme in national development goals and objectives and the review and adjustment of government machinery for industrial development. Agents of production and distribution were to be made more active; national technological machinery was to be strengthened or established; training requirements should be assessed and financial resources mobilized; and a national programme for the Decade should be prepared.

117. Proposals for action by subregional and regional organizations included the preparation of sectoral policies and programmes within strategic industrial branches, the identification of major industrial projects of interest to the countries in the subregion and the strengthening or establishment of institutions aimed at promoting subregional industrial integration. The proposals also included multinational co-operation arrangements and inter-governmental agreements. At the global level, the proposals included technical co-operation among developing countries, North-South co-operation and bilateral and multilateral economic co-operation agreements.

118. With regard to the role of the international agencies during the preparatory phase, proposals for action included reorienting the policies and programmes of the agencies to the framework for the Decade programme, assisting in popularizing and promoting the Decade, and undertaking preparatory high-level field missions to intensify technical assistance. In that context, document E/ECA/CM.9/6 summarized the activities undertaken jointly and independently by the OAU, ECA and UNIDO secretariats during 1982. An expanded version of that progress report would be submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the seventeenth session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO and through it to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-eighth session.

119. Specific areas covered in the document included the preparation and distribution of guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the preparatory phase programme at the national level which had been reviewed at the seventh meeting of the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa in Kigali in March 1983. The document also covered the identification and formulation of priority projects at the subregional level and the creation of mechanisms and specialized committees for facilitating intercountry co-operation in the fields of the chemicals and engineering industries, etc.; the development of manpower for industry; natural resources; energy; technological and financial inputs required for priority industries; support for inter-governmental arrangements for industrial co-operation; and technical assistance and technical co-operation among developing countries.

120. The document was submitted to the meeting for information and to seek the latter's continued support. However, any proposals that might be made by the meeting on the implementation of IDDA would be most useful to the ECA, OAU and UNIDO secretariats.

121. Supplementing the presentation by the secretariat, the representative of UNIDO emphasized the importance for African countries of accelerating the development of adequate skilled manpower required for the implementation of the Decade. He noted with satisfaction the indication by ADB that \$1 billion had been earmarked for financing industrial projects in Africa during its 1982-1986 lending programme and stressed the need for African Governments and organizations to intensify their efforts to mobilize both domestic and external resources for the Decade from, for example, UNDP, the World Bank and other sources. In spite of declining resources, especially funds from UNDP, UNIDO had readjusted its technical assistance programme to African countries in accordance with the priorities of the Decade. He expressed the hope that the meeting would accord high priority to industry in its draft declaration on the ECA Silver Jubilee.

122. In the discussions which followed, participants sought clarifications from the secretariat on paragraphs 14 and 17 of the document. Responding to a question on the respective roles of the member States concerned and ECA in the process of establishing the proposed Economic Community of Central African States, the secretariat explained that the initiative had come from the Governments of the subregion which had adopted the Libreville Declaration on its establishment. They had requested ECA, in collaboration with the OAU and UDEAC secretariats, to provide support and assistance for its implementation. In preparing the draft treaty and protocols for the Community, the secretariat was taking into consideration the priorities and objectives of the Decade. With regard to paragraph 17, the secretariat explained that problems included slowness in the establishment of national operational focal points for harnessing and co-ordinating national efforts and facilitating intercountry co-operation and information flows to the secretariats. It also regretted the inadequacy of resources and expressed the hope that pledges and contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development during the present session would give priority to programmes of the Decade.

123. An appeal was made to African Governments to speed up the establishment of national co-ordinating committees and national operational focal points in order to accelerate the implementation of the Decade programme.

124. The meeting called on ECA, UNIDO and OAU to increase their assistance to member States in the implementation of the Decade programme and stressed the fact that the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action depended on the extent to which the industrial sector was restructured and developed.

125. The meeting then took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/6 and adopted draft resolution 7 (IV).

(f) Establishment of an African Monetary Fund

126. A member of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/9 on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund and indicated that it had been prepared in pursuance of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Lagos in 1980 which had recommended its establishment by 1985. The background to that decision was the concern over the world monetary and financial crises and in particular the rising interest rates in developed countries and the collapse in commodity prices which had resulted among other things in aggravating balance-of-payments deficits, including a loss of about \$20 million and external debts problems of African countries which now stood at about \$48 billion. In addition, there was the question of the policies of international financial institutions with onerous conditionality clauses. He also indicated that, although IMF had made some improvements in its conditionality clauses, the impact had not been adequate for African countries. Those problems had greatly undermined the implementation of development plans in the region.

127. He expressed appreciation to the Government of Algeria for its grant which had enabled the secretariat to undertake, in collaboration with OAU, ADB, IDEP and the African Centre for Monetary Studies, preparatory work for the establishment of the Fund and for the funding of a high-level expert group meeting. The meeting had been held in October 1982 and had recommended that the broad objectives of an African Monetary Fund should be to assist in providing finance for balance-of-payments deficits on current account and for structural adjustments in the economies of member States, promoting the liberalization of trade, work towards the eventual elimination of payments restrictions among African countries and promoting co-operation in monetary policies among African countries.

128. Effort was being made to ensure that the proposed Fund would be established by 1985. A tentative work schedule for the implementation of the project had been agreed upon, which included ECA, OAU, ADB, AMCS and IDEP intersecretariat meetings to discuss division of labour related to the preparatory work involved. Activities included preparation of studies on matters such as the structure of the Fund, its objectives, financial resources, contributions by member States, external resources, relationship with IMF, conditionality clauses for borrowing by member States and a draft agreement establishing the Fund. A second expert meeting would be organized to examine the studies referred to above to be followed by a meeting of plenipotentiaries to be convened in 1985 to consider and sign the agreement establishing the Fund.

129. In the discussion that followed, participants observed that it was necessary to undertake a comprehensive study on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund, which should do much more than merely assisting African countries in resolving the problems stemming from the application of the IMF conditionality clauses. Mobilizing resources for the Fund would not be an easy task and, consequently, the Fund was likely to experience difficulties in obtaining the financial resources that would enable it to provide finance for structural adjustments in most African countries.

130. There was a need for African countries to have an autonomous monetary policy and that was a major prerequisite for an independent economic policy. The establishment of an African Monetary Fund was not intended to isolate the African region from the international monetary context, in particular from IMF. On the contrary, the proposed Fund would establish a relationship with IMF and would not be a substitute for it. It would supplement the resources available from IMF. It was realized that the establishment of the Fund would necessarily lead to some delinking but the extent of such delinking could not be determined until all the studies and recommendations on the establishment of the Fund had been completed.

131. It was observed that there was a need to establish an African unit of account and the identification of such a unit of account would be based on the findings of the studies. The meeting also requested the secretariat to make every effort to respect the timetable laid down for the establishment of the Fund.

132. The secretariat said that member States' help was needed in identifying a high-level African monetary expert to act as co-ordinator of the studies, field missions and other preparatory work required for the establishment of the Fund. The secretariat was requested to associate member States with the project at every stage.

133. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/9 and adopted draft resolution C (IV).

(g) Regional and subregional economic and technical co-operation and integration

134. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/10 which contained a progress report on economic co-operation and integration at the subregional level and technical co-operation at the regional level.

135. He reviewed the progress that had been made over the last two years in economic co-operation and integration in the various subregions with the help of the MULPOCs and what member States had done in that field. Thirteen States had now signed the Treaty of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) and Rwanda would do so in the course of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Nine of them had ratified the Treaty. He appealed to all those States which had not signed and ratified the Treaty to do so before the expert and plenipotentiary meetings to be held in December 1983. Concerning the proposed Economic Community of Central African States, he outlined the meetings that had taken place since the signing of the Libreville Declaration on the establishment of the Community. The Treaty and protocols establishing the Community should be signed at the second summit scheduled to take place in Libreville before the end of 1983. In West Africa, at the recent meeting of the Niamey-based MULPOC held at Cotonou, the Council of Ministers had agreed on a plan to harmonize the activities of the inter-governmental organizations in the subregion. He also informed the meeting of the activities being undertaken in North Africa to promote and facilitate intrasubregional trade.

136. With regard to technical co-operation at the regional level, he referred to the activities that had been undertaken to establish mineral resources development centres in the various subregions. A report on the proposal to establish a trade and development bank for Eastern and Southern Africa would be submitted to the relevant organ of the PTA.

137. He then briefly outlined the activities and problems of such centres as the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy, the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research and the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing. He described progress in the establishment of the African Monetary Fund (see also item (f) above) and of the African Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

138. In the discussions which followed, participants congratulated the secretariat on the progress report but rectified an error in paragraph 20 which had mentioned the United Republic of Cameroon instead of the Central African Republic. Equally, with regard to paragraph 38 it was noted that it was the States themselves which established institutions and not the MULPOCs.

139. Questions were raised on activities and the timing thereof for the establishment of a North African mineral resources development centre and on the desirability of establishing a liaison body to co-ordinate the activities of existing institutions as the first step towards the creation of an African common market.

140. One representative pointed out the need for an evaluation of the activities and services of existing institutions and the problems facing them since many of them suffered from financial and structural problems. The fact that in many cases the host country had to bear the greatest burden was also noted. Greater publicity, it was felt, would encourage countries to become members of the various institutions and donors to contribute to them. UNDP was also urged to help. The representatives of AIHTTR and ESAMDRRC both referred to problems of low membership and inadequate financial support notwithstanding the provisions of chapter VIII of the Lagos Plan of Action.

141. Concerning individual institutions, a view was expressed that work on the PTA was proceeding too slowly. The representative of ARCEDEM said that the first course on mechanical units and maintenance had been held. Letters of invitation for the second course, on plant design, had been sent out. It was free and would last three months. The representative of AIHTTR announced that the constitution of his Centre had now acquired the requisite number of signatures. It was envisaged that subregional centres might be established. The programmes of the various institutions in the industrial development and services group would also have to be linked to the Industrial Development Decade.

142. The representative of UNDP explained the financing policy of his Programme. UNDP assistance was meant only to supplement the Centres' regular resources. Centres had to have a minimum amount of funds of their own to start operations. Moreover, he reminded participants of the financial situation of UNDP, which did not allow him to make any financial commitments at the present time.

143. In reply to the questions raised, the representative of the secretariat said that the secretariat was aware of the need for creating links among the various subregions with a view to establishing the African Common Market. He referred in that connection to the establishment of a shipping line for Central and West Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, covering the Gisenyi and Yaounde MULPOC countries. The secretariat would continue to assist the PTA secretariat until the latter was fully established. In fact, ECA staff were being temporarily seconded to the PTA secretariat. He explained that the reason why no evaluation had been conducted of the various centres was that some had not really become operational, but such an evaluation could be conducted if the Committee so wished. The MULPOCs had been evaluated by UNDP. With regard to progress in the creation of the North African minerals centre, he advocated restraint, particularly in view of the difficulties already being experienced by the other Centres.

144. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/10.

(h) Interregional economic and technical co-operation

145. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/22 on interregional economic and technical co-operation (ECDC and TCDC). He reported on co-operation with Latin America. A Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation had been convened in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 June 1982. Under a project funded by the Netherlands, missions had been organized of African officials and especially businessmen to various countries in Latin America. Co-operation in the field of mineral resources development had been promoted. Turning to the promotional activities by ECA on ECDC and TCDC between Africa, Asia and the Arab world, a number of contacts with India had been organized to enable member States to learn from the Indian experience in the field of technology and industrialization. The ECA secretariat was keen to do its utmost to assist member States to revitalize the important aspect of Afro-Arab co-operation. The sixth session of the standing committee on Afro-Arab co-operation held in March 1983 in Tunisia had taken important decisions regarding co-operation in industrial, agricultural and other fields between Africa and the Arab world. As a result of those decisions, it was hoped that in 1984 a more comprehensive report on the matter would be submitted to the Committee.

146. In the discussions that followed, it was emphasized that there was tremendous potential for co-operation with other developing regions. However, the steps that were being taken to tap that potential were still very weak and needed, therefore, to be strengthened. Some participants pointed out that it would have been useful to include in the analysis by the secretariat information

on the Group of 77 and the Caracas Plan of Action. Other participants wondered why there was a tendency to limit co-operation between Africa and Latin America to only a few big countries in Latin America.

147. It was generally felt that, although Afro-Arab co-operation was a very important, albeit, sensitive area, no significant revitalization had been observed. Thus several participants referred to the need for a fuller analysis of the current status of Afro-Arab co-operation. It was further noted that the document before the Committee did not contain the important results of the sixth session of the Standing Committee on Afro-Arab co-operation. One participant requested OAU to outline its perception of Afro-Arab co-operation and ECA to brief the meeting on its initiatives in that field. Because of the political implications of Afro-Arab co-operation, the ECA secretariat should refrain isolated initiatives and should work through existing structures in order to harmonize its action with that of OAU.

148. A representative of the secretariat said that information on the Group of 77 was contained in another document dealing with international negotiations. He, nevertheless, briefed the meeting on the various ECA activities including logistic support to the Group of 77 and emphasized the fact that ECA always endeavoured to ensure that Africa maintained a favourable balance in its position with other developing countries. Since the ECA secretariat had always been mindful of the need to make co-operation as broad as possible, the efforts being undertaken at the level of ECA and ECLA included even the small States of Latin America. Indeed, the African businessmen had visited Latin America and had covered the small countries of that region. He expressed the hope that in future more information on Afro-Arab co-operation would be provided to the Committee.

149. The Executive Secretary underscored the importance that ECA secretariat attached to ECDC and TCDC. The efforts made to strengthen Afro-Arab co-operation included the regular attendance by ECA at the meetings of the standing committees of ADB, BADEA, OAU and the Arab League, the establishment in ECA of a standing inter-divisional committee on Afro-Arab co-operation, including the appointment of a co-ordinator in ECA specifically for Afro-Arab co-operation, and full co-operation with institutions such as BADEA, ECWA and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. Further, as a result of close collaboration between the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Arab League, a team was expected from the Arab League to visit ECA to work out concrete areas of action. However, the Executive Secretary pointed out that Afro-Arab co-operation efforts had tended to be more at the bilateral level. ECA had tried to inject the multilateral dimension in Afro-Arab co-operation through such action as the reactivation of the BADEA/ECA agreement and the invitation of all Arab funding institutions to the UNTFAD Pledging Conference of ECA. Finally, the Executive Secretary recalled the decisions of the seventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers requesting the ECA secretariat to make all efforts and take necessary action to strengthen Afro-Arab co-operation.

150. The representative of OAU informed the meeting that Afro-Arab co-operation was an issue of serious concern to OAU and a lot was being done to revitalize activities in that regard. He noted that for example, a symposium on the Lagos Plan of Action and the Amman Strategy was held recently at Khartoum, the Sudan, and that action was now being taken to implement the recommendations that came of that symposium. Also the current situation of Afro-Arab co-operation had constantly featured in many of the OAU fora.

151. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/22 and adopted draft resolution 9 (IV).

(i) Statistical support for development in Africa

152. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/11 on statistical support for development in Africa. He said that despite Africa's serious economic and social problems, planning was currently being carried out without adequate statistical and other information. That approach had resulted in the low demand for statistical data and even poor utilization of the meagre statistical resources available to the region. The Joint Conference of African Planners and Statisticians had concluded that better data analysis would not only make statistics easier to use but also ensure closer collaboration between data producers and users.

153. He then added that the necessary remedial action could be initiated by the Committee. He sought its advice and the Conference of Ministers' reaffirmation of its previous support for statistical development in the region and in providing guidelines for national Governments and international agencies, adding that the secretariat and other agencies would be prepared to provide the necessary assistance. The national household survey capability programme was making good progress, the national accounts capability programme was being extended to cover the whole field of economic statistics and a large regional project - the Statistical Training Programme for Africa - was in operation for the training of statisticians.

154. During the discussions that followed most participants commented on the shortness of the document and hence inadequate coverage of the issues and problems and wondered how they would recommend the document to their respective ministers. One participant also stated that the document was too general in its discussion of the low priority for statistics, and felt that the analysis of the problem should take into account the economic resources of each member State. Participants referred to the problems which they were facing in data collection such as lack of adequate human and financial resources, and stressed the need for data processing equipment. One even suggested the possibility of establishing subregional data processing centres which should be linked to member States, as a means of minimizing costs, standardizing and facilitating data collection and also enhancing economic co-operation at the regional level. Participants also felt that the training of statisticians was inadequately covered despite its importance. One representative explained that the document gave only a bird's eye view as the

problems had been discussed in detail at previous meetings of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. However, he hoped that a detailed document would be prepared for the next Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers since the issues involved must be continually discussed.

155. There was a consensus that there was a data problem and that statistical gaps existed at the national levels. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to collect and disseminate information in addition to providing technical assistance to member States. It also emphasized the need for a detailed document on the problems for submission to the next meeting of the Joint Conference. It was further noted that, within the resources available, it was possible to improve on present data collection and analysis. It was agreed that the justification for having the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was to promote co-ordination and better understanding between data producers and users.

156. In response to the questions raised by participants, the secretariat indicated that the paper entitled 'Summary' constituted the only document before the Committee and confirmed that the issues raised in the paper had been previously discussed by various working groups on statistical organization, on methodology and content of household surveys and meetings of Directors of Statistical Training Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa.

157. With regard to the possibility of establishing subregional data processing centres, the secretariat indicated that present experience showed that, even where central national data processing centres existed, the arrangements did not work with the result that many departments such as statistical offices were now establishing data processing centres within their departments or offices. The idea of regional data processing centres was not likely to work.

158. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of statistics for planning and pointed out that less than 0.5 per cent of central government budgets was spent on data collection. As a result, most statistical services lacked equipment and failed to retain statisticians. He also added that the problem of data collection could not be separated from that of data processing and hence there was a need for a network of data collection and processing to avoid delays in the dissemination of data. In the circumstance, he concluded that the problem of statistics was a legitimate one and there was a need to impress on Governments the urgency of the problem.

159. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/11 and adopted draft resolution 10 (IV).

ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study (item 6)

160. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.9/23 entitled "ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008: A preliminary perspective study", the Executive Secretary recalled that the first such perspective exercise by ECA had formed a strong basis for the discussions that had culminated in the formulation of the Monrovia Strategy. He also noted that most current perspective studies had been done by institutions outside Africa. He therefore felt that it was now time to examine the prospects of Africa in the next 25 years. In that respect he said that it was not so much the policy implications that made the paper very important but rather the picture that the document described since that was what the future generation would have to cope with.
161. The document described two scenarios, namely the historical trends scenario and the normative development scenario. The historical trends scenario assumed the continuation of the status quo with no significant changes in development trends and policies in Africa as well as in international relations. The normative scenario, on the other hand, was based on the principles underlying the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action. It called for stronger measures and determination on the part of member States including discarding past policies that would not bring about any appreciable change in the socio-economic conditions of the African region.
162. In a comparative description of the two scenarios of the study, the Executive Secretary took, as examples, the implications of rapid population growth and high urbanization rates. He then reflected on the implications they would have on vital social services such as health and education and infrastructural requirements like transport, urban housing, etc. He stressed that, if the normative scenario were to fail to materialize, then the crises of food, energy, balance of payments, etc. would reach inconceivable proportions. All factor inputs of the region would be coming from abroad implying that, over all, the African region would by the year 2008 be highly marginalized, being at the very periphery of the world economy. In calling upon participants to examine the study critically, the Executive Secretary indicated that it was planned to circulate the document as widely as possible throughout Africa including in particular, to government agencies, African universities and research institutions. He further indicated that it would be very useful if the ECA secretariat could make such studies periodically.
163. The Chairman thanked the ECA secretariat for its effort and even its courage in attempting to forecast the development of the African region 25 years ahead. He underlined the usefulness of having selected some critical indicators and remarked that, since planning was a dynamic exercise, the study would have to be updated periodically. In addition, there was need to translate the document into more powerful planning tools in the form of short- and medium-term plans. Since the study was only preliminary, comments and suggestions on it could also be only of a preliminary nature.

164. In the discussions that ensued, participants drew attention to the great importance of the document and congratulated the secretariat for having prepared such a useful and interesting study. Several participants also expressed their pleasure at the planned wide dissemination of the study. However, some pointed out that they had received the document rather late and, therefore, suggested that it could be discussed more exhaustively at the fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee. Noting that the document had economic and political aspects in its perspectives, some participants felt that it would be beneficial if the document were submitted to the Planning Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers for a thorough analysis from the technical point of view. Subsequently, the Conference of Ministers could consider the report of the Planning Committee on the study along with the political elements implicit in the perspective analysis.

165. One participant reflected on the study by giving some interesting aspects of the perspective plan that had been elaborated by his country so as inter alia, to illustrate concretely how the control and mastery of development was complex. His country had embarked on preparing sectoral plans covering the country's food strategy, the transport infrastructure to support the agricultural sector, an energy plan and a master plan on industrial development. Studies had also been undertaken on manpower development and training and a national data bank had been set up.

166. Other participants further noted the importance of the population factor that the study had rightly put at the centre of development both as the generator and beneficiary of the development process. However, some important comments were made with regard to the fact that the medium population variant outlined in the normative scenario was less likely to occur. In general, Africa was not likely to experience a significant drop in the fertility rates while, on the other hand, mortality rates would decline appreciably, implying that the high population variant of 3.2 per cent was more probable for Africa. The projected rural unemployment rate of 49 per cent under a normative scenario was also very high. Relative to the targets set in the Lagos Plan of Action it was also noted that there were some differences in the growth targets of the study in the field of agriculture and industry. Further, the projected investment rate of around 25 per cent of GDP seemed insufficient as was the projected meagre increase in the savings rate from 18 per cent to 20 per cent of GDP. Since the Lagos Plan of Action had outlined some time references, it would be useful to assess efforts being made to meet the objectives agreed for such time references.

167. Another important aspect pointed out by participants related to the need to make the study less global. It was stressed that African countries were at different stages of development and disparities had been observed. As a result, there was need to identify sectoral scenarios for the different groups of African countries. Further, it was important to highlight the evolution of income distribution in the various scenarios since it had been noted that, although the rural population supported the largest part of the development efforts, it did not receive commensurate benefits. One participant also noted that the study should have included fish as one of the food commodities since it was an important food item in many countries.

168. Over all, participants emphasized the fundamental element of change that underlay the analysis and conclusions of the study. The objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action in the fields of self-sufficiency in food, industry and the creation of an African Common Market were indeed predicated on change with new policies as outlined in the framework of the study in the various social and economic indicators. There was, therefore, need for African countries to examine the document so that each member State could identify areas of relevance to its situation and take appropriate action including individual country perspective studies.

169. The representative of UNSO expressed appreciation for the interesting study and noted that two elements required more elaboration. They were (a) the availability of arable land whose distribution was highly skewed and was threatened by the process of desertification particularly in the arid and semi-arid areas; and (b) the importance of fuelwood since Africa was unlikely to find technically, economically and socially acceptable alternatives to fuelwood in the near future and because deforestation was one of the main causes of environmental degradation with severe effects on agro-pastoral development. He suggested that a demand and supply analysis of fuelwood should be made.

170. The Executive Secretary indicated that one role of perspective studies was to provoke thought and induce people into taking action in the desired direction. He had been encouraged by the quality of the discussions which had brought out the five basic propositions of the study, namely (a) the need for change; (b) the urgency for action; (c) the modus operandi for bringing about change; (d) the assessment of the potential and capacity to achieve the required change; and (e) the determination to get on with the job. He expressed the hope that the preliminary exercise on Africa's prospects would stimulate countries to undertake individual country perspective studies. He also agreed on the need, as expressed by participants, for the ECA secretariat to update the study every five years so as to reflect any changes in the trends of the indicators and to analyse new ones. Further, he hoped that, with the broad dissemination of the study, workshops and seminars would be organized at the various levels for all to contribute to the analysis and to generate new ideas. He agreed that the study should be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

171. The Committee took note of the views expressed by the Executive Secretary and endorsed document E/ECA/CM.9/23. It also adopted draft resolution 11 (IV).

Africa and current international economic negotiations (item 7)

172. The representative of the secretariat, introducing document E/ECA/CM.9/12 on Africa and current international economic negotiations, drew attention to the fact that the purpose was to review the results of the current negotiations with a view to considering what action could be taken to promote the effective participation of African countries in the negotiations.

(a) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

173. He reminded the meeting that, while GATT was not always in a position to deal with the economic problems of developing countries, African countries should attach special importance to the GATT negotiations. At the last GATT Conference in November 1982, there had been a conflict of interest between the United States of America and EEC countries, particularly with respect to common agricultural policies and the subsidies applied by EEC countries.

174. He further emphasized that the problems of African exports in the markets of developed countries had been neglected on account of the protectionist and discriminatory policies of the industrialized countries.

175. He therefore drew the attention of African countries to the need for participating in the GATT negotiations in the same way as they participated in other international negotiations such as UNCTAD and the ACP negotiations with EEC.

(b) Sixth session of UNCTAD

176. He told the Committee that the Libreville Memorandum containing the African position at the forthcoming UNCTAD negotiations had been adopted by the Meeting of African Ministers of Trade and presented by the Chairman of the Libreville Meeting on behalf of the African Group in Buenos Aires during the meeting of the Group of 77.

177. The Buenos Aires Meeting of the Group of 77 had adopted a political declaration - the Buenos Aires platform - describing the world economic crisis facing the Group of 77. That political declaration, which was to be submitted to the forthcoming session of UNCTAD, contained certain points of concern to the African countries in general and the least developed countries in particular, especially in the commodities, shipping, finance and co-operation areas.

178. For the first time, the Group of 77 had taken a decision entitled "Follow-up to the decisions adopted in Buenos Aires". That decision laid special stress on the need to develop ways and means of providing support to the result of Buenos Aires, consolidating co-operation among non-aligned countries, seeking press support and using public and diplomatic channels to stress the urgency and importance attached to the Buenos Aires platform. Such action should be carried out at the bilateral as well as the multilateral levels so as to persuade the developed countries of the importance of the platform.

179. Finally, he praised the manner in which the African group had participated in the Buenos Aires meeting. He also stressed the importance of collaboration among the African countries in the negotiations at the sixth session of UNCTAD in order to ensure that their positions were taken into account.

180. The OAU representative emphasized the need for African countries to ensure consistency in the composition of delegations to international negotiations. Such delegations should include experts as well as political leaders. He also called for joint African positions always to be co-ordinated at the continental level.

(c) Negotiations for a new agreement between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group

181. He told the meeting that negotiations for the renewal of the Lome II Convention would start in September 1983. It would be desirable for proper consideration to be given in the forthcoming negotiations to access of African products to EEC markets. All negotiations should be carried out in the global perspective of economic development.

182. The ECA secretariat was in contact with the ACP secretariat in Brussels concerning preparation of technical working documents for future negotiations. The ACP representative would come to Addis Ababa to discuss the conduct of future negotiations.

(d) Negotiations on a Code of Conduct of Transnational Corporations

183. He told the Committee that the Inter-governmental Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations had finalized its report, which had been submitted to the eighth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations held in Manila from 3 August to 10 September 1982.

184. African countries as a whole were subject in varying degrees to the influence of transnational corporations in all their economic activities. The implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action could be endangered by the influence of transnational corporations which controlled the majority of the economic sectors in African countries, if the necessary measures were not taken by member States. The situation was even more critical for small countries which lacked the resources to negotiate with transnational corporations.

185. He reviewed the principal clauses in the draft Code and the definition of transnational corporations. The draft Code contained a number of points on which a consensus between developed and developing countries had not been reached and on which further negotiations were necessary. Another meeting was scheduled to be held in New York in May 1983 to finalize the Code.

186. In conclusion, he referred to the resolution annexed to the Lagos Plan of Action (A/S-11/14, annex III) inviting African countries to take an active part in the international negotiations and to make their voice heard.

187. In the discussions which followed, participants requested additional information on the areas in which negotiations would be conducted at the sixth session of UNCTAD and on the new ACP/EEC Convention.

188. Some participants requested clarification as to the form and type of mandate that ECA secretariat was seeking in paragraph 12 of document E/ECA/CM.9/12. Clarification was also requested on paragraphs 11 and 12 of the document. It was wondered whether Africa derived any benefit from GATT in view of its current philosophy and structure.

189. Regarding paragraph 11, participants asked for an account of the follow-up action taken on the "development contract" which had been the focal point of the Lome II Convention.

190. The representative of UNIDO drew the attention of the Committee to the preparations for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO to be held in July 1984 in Nairobi and to the negotiations regarding the conversion of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations. Nine of the items of the provisional agenda of the Conference related to African industrial development problems. The General Conference would be preceded by a series of five preparatory expert meetings and he requested that Africa should participate actively in the meetings. African countries would have to prepare and forward to the joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO secretariat country papers to be incorporated in the document that Africa would present to the fourth General Conference of UNIDO. He also stressed that an item specifically relating to the UNIDO conference should be included on the agenda of the next ECA Conference of Ministers.

191. In response to questions raised by participants, the representative of the ECA secretariat said, regarding the participation of African countries in GATT machineries, that if African countries were members of GATT, it was because they had some interest in the organization. However, they found themselves on many occasions at odds with the developed countries who controlled GATT. In the case of STABEX, as it appeared in paragraph 11 of the document, he recalled that the machinery was restricted to commodities and certain manufactures, which was all the more reason to assert that a development contract was far from concluded.

192. In response to the concern expressed by the meeting as to the type and form of mandate that the secretariat was seeking in order to assist African countries in forthcoming negotiations, the secretariat informed the Committee that the mandate it wanted conformed to the secretariat's practices and customs. The mandate would not give the secretariat prerogatives to replace member States in the negotiations but would create a framework within which it could assist them upon request. Furthermore, African missions to EEC had recognized the need to involve ECA in the preparatory technical work of negotiations in order to avoid dependence on the advice of consultants recruited and financed by the EEC Group.

193. The Committee accepted the explanations and decided to give ECA secretariat the mandate to provide technical assistance upon request, to countries members of the Commission.

194. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/12 and adopted draft resolution 12 (IV).

Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission (item 8)

(a) Report of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development

195. A member of the secretariat introduced the report of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC). The Committee had reviewed activities carried out in 1982-1983 and the proposed programme for the biennium 1984-1985 and the institutional framework which governed relations between national, subregional and regional structures set up to promote women's programmes. It had expressed appreciation of the contribution of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) in increasing awareness of women's role in the development process, but had stressed that much remained to be done.
196. It had stressed the need for systematic and sustained efforts to integrate women in development planning and policy-making processes in employment, education, health, resource allocation and other development activities and to give rural women access to services which would help them to produce more.
197. The demographic situation in Africa, with the high annual rate of population growth and the low expectation of life at birth, low median age at first marriage for girls and early child-bearing, was of major concern to African women.
198. The Committee had recognized the considerable work done by the MULPOCs with the limited material and human resources available to them. It was noted that the ECA programme for 1984-1985 would not be fully implemented unless more resources were forthcoming from member States and other organizations.
199. The Committee had recommended that the MULPOCs be closely associated with the preparations for the regional meeting prior to the World Conference in the Sudan in January 1984 and had stressed the need for a common African position that would focus on problems of special interest to the region such as the role of African women in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. It had urged closer collaboration among ECA, OAU, PAWO and the ARCC bureau in that exercise.
200. Finally, ARCC had elected a new Bureau consisting of Guinea as Chairperson, Swaziland as first Vice-Chairperson, the Congo as second Vice-Chairperson, Zaire as first Rapporteur and Morocco as second Rapporteur.
201. In the discussions which followed, participants expressed their appreciation for the structures and programmes which ECA had mounted for the integration of women in development and for the support which member States and donor agencies had provided to those programmes. While acknowledging progress so far made at the regional, subregional and national levels, the meeting called for educational reforms which would ensure equal access for boys and girls to available training programmes and which eventually would enhance women's participation in the development process.

Participants also called on member States to ensure the participation of women at all levels of decision-making and on those which had not done so to create national focal points which would speed up the implementation of women's programmes.

202. A call was made for member States to include in their development plans projects designed to cater for the particular needs of women and for a substantial percentage of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to be allocated for the programme of ATRCW.

203. Various participants briefed the meeting on women's programmes and anti-discrimination legislation in such areas as inheritance rights and housing allowances in their countries. They stressed lack of funds as a major impediment to programme implementation. Questions were raised as to why studies included in the work programme of the Yaounde MULPOC had not been carried out and why there had been no report from the Gisenyi MULPOC. The representative of Rwanda had explained that the major cause of the inability of the Gisenyi MULPOC to present its report to ARCC was because no meeting had been held. Explanations were given with regard to the Yaounde MULPOC work programme, where the shortage of staff assigned to the women's programme was a serious handicap.

204. ATRCW was commended for including in its work programme the provision of assistance to women in Portuguese-speaking countries to facilitate their participation in the activities of the MULPOCs.

205. The representative of OAU highlighted his organization's commitment to women's programmes in the region and indicated that, in accordance with resolution CM/Res. 876 (XXXVII) of the thirty-seventh session of the OAU Council of Ministers, OAU had allocated \$70,000 for the Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Conference.

206. In concluding its discussions, the meeting noted with concern the lack of resources for implementing women's programmes in the region and called on member States, UNDP and other donors to provide resources required for carrying out those programmes. The meeting further called for the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms which would permit the elaboration of special indicators for assessing progress made in integrating women in development. The meeting also called for greater initiative at the national and subregional levels to strengthen efforts in women's programmes. It appealed to countries to create and strengthen mechanisms for integrating women in the development process.

207. The Committee endorsed the report of ARCC and adopted resolution 13 (IV).

(b) Report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment

208. A member of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/TPCW.4/4 containing the summary report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Committee

on Human Settlements and Environment. He recalled that, by resolution 408 (XVI) in April 1981 the Conference of Ministers had decided to enlarge the terms of reference of the Committee on Human Settlements to include environmental issues and had changed the name of the Committee accordingly.

209. The Inter-governmental Regional Committee had noted that, seven years after the World Conference on Human Settlements held at Vancouver in 1976, the human settlements situation in African countries was still deteriorating. Africans, whose income was particularly low, were increasingly unable to secure decent housing because of the high costs of construction.

210. Those costs were increasing especially because of Africa's dependence on imported building materials, the price of which rose constantly. In addition, most African Governments were not in a position to create the economic base and the physical framework necessary for developing rural areas. External aid, which had increased substantially since the Vancouver Conference had only made it possible to carry out isolated projects and meet urgent needs, leaving basic problems unsolved.

211. The Committee, drawing on the experience of the past few years, had concluded in particular that in order to be effective, all external aid had to fit into the priorities laid down and the programmes formulated by the African countries themselves, and no longer be used for isolated or even contradictory activities. The Committee had also concluded that it was necessary, for each priority programme, to define a global framework consonant with the socio-economic context of the African countries and taking into account the cultural and traditional attitudes of the people, whose voluntary participation in development could not be obtained while a human need as fundamental as housing remained unsatisfied.

212. Concerning the environment, the Committee had reviewed the activities carried out since the adoption of the Stockholm Plan of Action and had examined the ecological perspectives in Africa with a view to formulating a regional programme for Africa for the year 2000. To that end it had made an analysis of future trends, particularly of the relationship between population, resources, environment and development, so as to ensure that development campaigns did not result in an unhealthy environment unfit for living. In that connection, the Committee had recommended that studies on environmental prospects should be undertaken with a view to establishing a regional environmental programme as part of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa.

213. Furthermore, the Committee considered that high priority should be given to environmental teaching and training, to formulating legislation for the protection of the environment and to drawing up a work programme that would allow ECA to assist and support the efforts of member States.

214. He referred to the resolution adopted by the Inter-governmental Regional Committee, launching an appeal for increased international support for the victims of apartheid and drew attention to the increasingly acute problem of desertification which was coupled with those of drought and climatic changes. Those were alarming problems that needed immediate safeguard action as well as long-term action based on scientific analysis of disasters and their causes.

215. In the discussions that followed, participants inquired what programmes had been actually implemented on the very serious issue of drought and desertification since the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and with what results. They felt that most efforts had been doomed to failure. They pointed out the effects of demographic growth on human settlements planning, particularly with regard to the rural/urban balance in Africa and noted the difficulty of having access to adequate health care, potable water and decent housing particularly in rural areas. They expressed concern that only half of the member States had attended the first Inter-governmental Regional Committee meeting. That was a reflection of low priority African Governments attached to such matters. It was pointed out that, even though the Sahel drought had brought world attention to focus on desertification problems, the same problem was causing serious environmental degradation such as soil erosion even in the subequatorial Africa. Regarding the problem of desertification control, the secretariat was requested to provide a progress report on the implementation of Conference of Ministers resolution 446 (XVII) and on the establishment of an UNSO-type mechanism for the Eastern and Southern African region. Participants emphasized the need to pay greater attention to environmental pollution in Africa which was related more to lack of sanitation than to industrialization which was still at its infancy. The vital role of co-operation among member States in their efforts to control drought and desertification as well as environmental pollution was stressed. Participants observed that building plans in most cases were designed by non-African experts and did not suit the socio-economic conditions and environmental requirements. They therefore stressed the need for a cadre of African experts in architectural planning referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the executive summary. They noted that the costs of building materials, particularly imported ones, were escalating and seriously affecting the lower and middle classes' ability to improve their housing. Participants requested information on what ARSO had achieved in setting up building codes for urban slum improvement and the environmental standards for quality and pollution control. The representative of ARSO explained that a technical committee on building materials had been established. It would commence operation in 1983 and deal with building codes for the improvement of human settlements in Africa. He further pointed out that work of the technical committees on environmental and other standards had been hampered by postponement of UNDP's programme of assistance to ARSO and appealed to UNDP to reconsider the matter.

216. Participants raised the point that one of the main causes of desertification was the adverse effects of human activities not only in marginal lands but also in apparently self-sustaining subequatorial forest ecosystems. It was observed that climatic variability, leading to recurrent drought, accentuated the desertification process and could lead to serious soil erosion and loss of farmland as in Rwanda, Lesotho and Swaziland which were outside the desertification area strictly defined.

217. In response to the points raised, the secretariat indicated that, since the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, ECA had been involved in developing and implementing regional projects, such as the Joint ECA/UNEP/UNESCO mission to the seven countries in the Kalahari desert area, the Regional Workshop on Combating Desertification in Africa held in Khartoum in October 1982, and the establishment of the Regional Inter-governmental Committee for Combating Desertification in Africa that would comprise experts from countries in the three areas (Northern Saharan, Sudano-Sahelian and Kalahari desert) affected by drought and desertification. Reports on those activities as well as the follow-up to Conference of Ministers resolution 446 (XVII) would be considered at the second meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee planned for early 1984. It was hoped that participation of African Governments at the next meeting would be better than 50 per cent.

218. In concluding their discussions, participants called for an increase in resources available for drought and desertification control at national, sub-regional and regional levels as well as for strengthening subregional and regional co-operation in these areas among member States.

219. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/4 and adopted draft resolutions 14 (IV), 15 (IV) and 16 (IV).

(c) Progress report on the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy

220. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/TPCW.4/3 and indicated that the Constitution of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy had been approved at the fifth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1979. The Centre was established in pursuance of the relevant recommendation of the Lagos Plan of Action on new and renewable sources of energy. Eighteen African countries had become members of the Centre between July 1979 and September 1982.

221. The programme of work of the Centre was divided into five phases of activity for the period 1983 to 1985. However, the Council of the Centre had approved the budget for only the first two phases scheduled for the 1983 financial year and devoted solely to the recruitment of staff and the preparation of design studies for the administrative buildings, laboratories and workshops and the technical

specifications of equipment. Expenditure for those two phases was estimated at \$1,563,050 while the total package for all activities up to December 1985 was estimated to be in the order of \$10,246,450.

222. Highlighting the problems encountered in launching the Centre, he reported that no consensus had been reached on the choice of headquarters. Initially four countries had offered to host the Centre. They were Burundi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan and Djibouti. After Djibouti had withdrawn its candidature, the three remaining countries were requested by the extraordinary meeting of the Council held in Addis Ababa in January 1983 to hold consultations at the highest level in order to get out of the impasse. The Executive Secretary of ECA was requested to assist the three member States in their consultations, the results of which should be formally brought to the attention of ECA and subsequently submitted to another meeting of the Council for consideration. Should the consultations fail, the Council would have to accept other candidates and solve the problem by voting.

223. No member State had paid its contribution to the Centre and the Council had appealed to all States members of ECA and OAU to sign the Constitution of the Centre.

224. In the discussions that followed, participants regretted that membership of the Centre had remained unchanged since September 1982. Consequently, they stressed the need for African countries to sign the constitution of such a vital Centre.

225. They also reaffirmed their support for the objectives of the Centre as contained in its Constitution. They urged the three countries which were offering to host the Centre to demonstrate a good spirit of compromise and solidarity so as to reach a consensus on the choice of a host country as soon as possible. They observed that, if the issue remained unresolved, it would delay and even impede the signing of the Constitution of the Centre by more African countries.

226. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/3.

(d) Report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa

227. A member of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/TPCW.4/6 on the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa which had taken place at Cairo, Egypt, from 28 February to 7 March 1983. He indicated that the objectives and agenda for the Conference had been specifically oriented towards the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action on natural resources and manpower development. In that regard, the Conference had examined the ways and means of developing and utilizing cartographic maps to meet national needs in view of the fact that a number of African countries needed to

develop their national cartographic institutions to enable them conduct geodetic surveys, carry out mapping and publish their own maps in a spirit of self-reliance. A review of cartographic development trends in Africa was made and suitable technology, equipment materials and skills were recommended.

228. The Conference had adopted a number of resolutions and he summarized the contents of the most important ones. The resolution on co-operation had recommended the setting up of a standing committee to assist in the organization of future cartographic conferences for Africa. It had also requested ECA to collaborate with other organizations in looking into modalities for the publication of basic topographical maps which were prerequisites for geological work, as well as in supporting the hydrogeological map of Africa project. It also recommended that a report should be published on how best to integrate and co-ordinate the training programmes of the existing regional cartographic centres and to regionalize national training facilities.

229. The resolution on geodesy put emphasis on the support that the African Doppler Survey (ADOS) project and called for financial assistance for its completion as well as for the establishment of geodetic data banks in the African region.

230. Another resolution recommended that a study should be undertaken urgently to compile and publish a directory of cartographic training centres in African countries. The directory would form a basis for determining skilled manpower needs in cartography as well as for the possible regionalization of certain national training centres.

231. Two other resolutions expressed appreciation for the efforts of ECA and UNESCO to co-publish the atlases of the cartographic inventory for Africa project. Member States were urged to facilitate the continuous updating of the inventory by providing the relevant data and to intensify their efforts to standardize geographical names, in particular, by setting up national geographical names committees.

232. The Conference had, in particular, requested the ECA Conference of Ministers at its ninth meeting in 1983 to declare 1986 as the "Year of Cartography in Africa".

233. The fifth United Nations Cartographic Conference for Africa had focused on strengthening means of achieving self-sufficiency in manpower for all branches of cartography and institutional infrastructures for undertaking surveying and mapping projects essential for the development of natural resources in Africa. It had recommended the promotion of co-operation in that area, including the pooling of national, subregional and regional training facilities among member States and institutions and supporting the existing subregional and regional institutions.

234. In the discussions that followed, it was recognized that, from both the qualitative and the quantitative points of view, cartography was an important tool for the development of natural resources in Africa especially for undertaking inventories of such resources as recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action. Member States were therefore urged to take the necessary steps to implement the resolutions of the fifth United Nations Cartographic Conference, related, inter alia, to the conduct of geodetic surveys, the preparation of hydrogeological maps, the establishment of geodetic data banks, and the implementation of the "Year of Cartography in Africa" which was to be proclaimed by the Conference of Ministers at its 1983 meeting.

235. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/6 and adopted draft resolution 17 (IV).

Third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-Sponsored Institutions /item 9(a)/

Harmonizing and sustaining Africa's institutions for effective development /item 9(b)/

236. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/14 entitled "Third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-Sponsored Institutions: Issues and recommendations". He reviewed the steps taken since the sixth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers to secure political and material support for the institutions and co-ordinate their activities.

237. The adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action had led to the convening of the first Conference of Chief Executives in December 1980. At that and subsequent Conferences, the issues raised had been broadly speaking the same, namely to enhance institutions' contribution to the implementation of the Plan and tackle the perennial problems of low membership, inadequate financial resources due to the non-payment of members' contributions and structural problems.

238. The major decisions taken at the third Conference related to:

(a) The publication of a bulletin to publicize the institutions and thereby enhance support for them (the bulletin would be issued in the course of the Silver Jubilee sessions);

(b) The procedure for the preparation of the consolidated biennial report on ECA-sponsored institutions for submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1984;

(c) The operation of the Buffer Fund intended to tide institutions over temporary financial difficulties, to which every institution should contribute \$10,000 in each of the years 1983 and 1984;

(d) The co-ordinating role of ECA, including the provision of common audit, management and legal services, the establishment of a co-ordination unit in the Office of the Executive Secretary and the use of the relevant substantive divisions as focal points. Lateral co-operation was also to be strengthened.

239. The representative of Nigeria introduced the paper entitled "Harmonizing and sustaining Africa's institutions for effective development" (E/ECA/TPCW.4/7), which his delegation had submitted in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure.

240. In view of the low level of social and economic development of the continent, he agreed that, as was recognized in the Lagos Plan of Action, Africa's institutions had a crucial role to play. However, there were over 36 of them and there were some instances of overlapping of functions and activities, and almost all of them had financial problems. The aim of his delegation's initiative was thus to seek to harmonize the functions and activities of those institutions in order not to waste the meagre resources at the disposal of African countries. Efforts should not be dissipated.

241. He drew attention to the proposals contained in paragraph 17, calling for (i) the Executive Secretary to implement a decision already taken by the Conference of Ministers in 1980; and (ii) the introduction of a single consolidated budget for all the institutions.

242. In the discussions which followed on document E/ECA/CM.9/14, all participants welcomed the publication of the bulletin. They believed that wider publicity of the institutions should encourage more countries to join them. They urged that the bulletin should be issued on a regular basis, not sporadically, and that it should be disseminated widely. While participants generally endorsed the establishment of the Buffer Fund, questions were raised as to its implications. The view was expressed that it might not be able to operate effectively with the \$10,000 contribution from each institution, which in itself could lead to an increase in member States' contributions to the institutions. It was also not clear whether its management would be entrusted to ECA or ADB or whether a new body would be set up for that purpose. Concerning the establishment of a uniform salary structure, mention was made of the need to be able to recruit and retain qualified staff taking into account the differences in functions and responsibilities of the staff of the various institutions. With regard to paragraph 16, UNEP was commended for providing funds for environmental training. Concerning United Nations Volunteers, one participant noted that their level of expertise at times left much to be desired. The representative of ARSO described the functions of his institution, appealed for greater membership and increased support from UNDP.

243. All participants welcomed the Nigerian initiative. It in fact constituted a response to both Conference of Ministers resolution 390 (XV) and to chapter VIII of the Lagos Plan of Action, and more specifically, to paragraph 264 thereof.

The concerns it reflected had also been discussed at the 1981 meeting of the Conference of Ministers where criteria for the establishment of new institutions had been proposed. Hence, the idea that some form of rationalization was necessary was far from new. The item should be kept on the agenda of the Conference of Ministers until a satisfactory solution was found.

244. Participants stressed the perennial problems of low membership in and non-payment of contributions to the various institutions, which had led to the host countries bearing the lion's share of the burden. It was recognized in that context that in some cases contributions were voted in the national budgets but were not transmitted to the institutions because of administrative problems. Another cause was the attraction of extra-African institutions to the detriment of African ones.

245. While no one questioned the value of existing institutions, the rapid proliferation in recent years had, it was felt, led to some overlapping, and possibly a drop in their effectiveness and efficiency and the level of contributions. It was pointed out that many of the institutions had been established in an isolated fashion by either ECA or OAU but, the Lagos Plan now provided a true framework for their co-ordination and rationalization. Such a rationalization exercise should also take into account the perspective study (E/ECA/CM.9/20) so as to be sure that the institutions would respond to Africa's needs in the year 2008. It was also felt that member States should overcome any purely nationalistic sentiments and agree to the closure of those institutions which were not of proven usefulness. The representative of Lesotho pointed out that the information in paragraph 15 of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/7 was inaccurate. He said that since the mandate and terms of reference of the Lusaka-based MULPOC, the PTA and SADCC were different, there was no risk of duplication. However, every effort was being made to avoid possible operational overlap.

246. Turning to the Nigerian proposals in paragraph 17 of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/7, there was general agreement that OAU should be involved in any study undertaken because of its technical and financial inputs to such institutions as ARCT for example. Certain representatives wondered whether it might not be advisable to involve non-ECA bodies also. In that regard, they referred to the recent decision to study the harmonization of SADCC, PTA and MULPOC activities in the Lusaka MULPOC area and the evaluation of inter-governmental organizations in the Niamey MULPOC area. A suggestion was made that a small ad hoc committee should be set up to undertake the evaluation since the exercise required political judgement as well as technical expertise.

247. Most participants however had difficulties with the second proposal on the consolidated budget. Many considered it premature. Others felt that such a formula would impinge on States' sovereign right to decide which institutions

they wished to join. It would also strain the already limited resources, and, in view of their different levels of development, not all countries would benefit from all institutions.

248. Statements were also made by the representatives of AIHTTR, ARSO, ARCEDEM, ESAMDRC and IDEP. They all deplored the low level of membership and lack of financial support, including cuts in UNDP's assistance to the institutions. Attention was drawn to the value of personal contacts in encouraging member States to pay their contributions. Such contacts should not be affected by a consolidated budget. They also felt that institutions should be represented in any ad hoc committee as they knew best where the problems lay. One of the representatives of the institutions explained a mechanism of budget consolidation that would ensure that a member State's contribution went only to those institutions that it wished to support.

249. The representatives of institutions stressed the need for and value of their respective institutions and described how they were already trying to co-ordinate their activities in the framework of the groupings established by the Conference of Chief Executives. The representative of ARCEDEM, speaking on behalf of the Industrial Development and Services Group mentioned that the assignment of those institutions were specific without any overlap; nevertheless, the ad hoc committee was welcome to study the operations of the institutions and make constructive recommendations.

250. The representative of UNDP pointed out, as had been explained to all Governments, that his organization had been forced to cut the Programme's resources by 45 per cent. The percentage cuts shown in paragraph 6 of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/7 had been based on discussions with the agencies concerned. The 100 per cent cut related to a project which had been postponed. Because of the financial situation, he could not earmark additional funds for the evaluation exercise. Perhaps 1 per cent or so could be lifted from the \$18 million allocated for ECA-executed projects.

251. In explanation, the representative of Nigeria stressed that his delegation was asking no more than the Heads of State had done in paragraph 264 of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was also clearly stated in paragraph 17(ii) of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/7 that the question of the consolidated budget could be considered after the evaluation exercise. He pointed out, however, that at present institutions received only 49.3 per cent of their total financial target because of non-payment problems. African institutions could not rely on outside help; they had to be self-reliant.

252. The Executive Secretary said that he personally favoured the idea of an ad hoc committee rather than entrusting the study of the ECA, OAU and UNDP secretariats because of the political implications. However, the exercise should be confined to ECA, and possibly OAU-sponsored institutions, since he had no jurisdiction over the others and could not report to the Conference of Ministers on them. He felt that the best way to finance the exercise would be for each country or organization to pay for its own participation, in a spirit of self-reliance. Some remedial action was essential in view of the extremely precarious financial situation of the institutions and particularly IDEP and IFORD.

253. In conclusion, the committee agreed that:

(a) The study on harmonization and sustainment of the institutions should be undertaken as a matter of urgency by an ad hoc committee of 10 members to be designated by the Conference of Ministers assisted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of OAU and the Administrator of UNDP;

(b) In view of the statements made by the Executive Secretary of ECA and the representative of UNDP, members of the ad hoc committee would finance their own participation in the work of the committee;

(c) In view of the comments made during the discussions, the second proposal, namely the establishment of a consolidated budget for the institutions was judged premature. Its further consideration should await the results of the study. 1/

254. The meeting took note of documents E/ECA/CM.9/14 and E/ECA/TPCW.4/7 and adopted draft resolution 18 (IV).

Preparatory activities for the International Youth Year (item 10)

255. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/13 on the preparations for the International Youth Year, 1985, which had been so proclaimed by General Assembly in resolution 34/151 of 17 December 1979.

256. In the African region, where the population consisted mainly of the young, such a Year would contribute to mobilizing efforts at the regional, subregional, national and local levels so that young people would have better opportunities for study and employment, to ensuring the active participation of youth in the overall development of society; and to promoting co-ordinated and comprehensive youth strategies for incorporation in national development plans.

1/ The representative of Tunisia expressed reservations concerning the concept of a consolidated budget.

257. The programme of activities in preparation for the Year was designed to back up activities at the national and local levels and sensitize the public to the objectives of the Year. In June 1983, the secretariat would convene a regional inter-governmental meeting on the Year which would review and evaluate the situation of youth, bearing in mind the similarities and differences among the various countries. States would then improve and update existing policies and programmes on youth and execute them, particularly in education and employment, housing, health and social welfare. Such programmes would cover rural and urban youth and the special case of refugees and slum-dwellers. In response to resolution 34/151, the Secretary-General had established a Special Fund for the Year and had appealed to States to contribute thereto. Finally the representative of the secretariat appealed to member States to participate actively in the programme for the Year.

258. In the discussions which followed, participants expressed their appreciation for the special importance attached to young people, who were called upon to play an important role in the development of Africa. They were grateful to the General Assembly for having proclaimed 1985 the International Youth Year.

259. One representative thought that, at the African level, the programme of activities should take account of changes in the family unit, the problem of unemployment, professional expectations and socio-economic development objectives. Another representative said that his country was already preparing to sensitize public opinion on the Year. It was also noted that the secretariat was working in close collaboration with member States, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, specialized agencies of the United Nations and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region. Another participant thought that paragraph 5 of the document should have referred to specific programmes of the activities to be undertaken prior to, during and after the Year.

260. The representative of the secretariat took note of the comments made by members of the Committee and stressed that a youth strategy should aim primarily at integrating young people in the development process and fully mobilizing that valuable resource to contribute effectively to all aspects of national development.

261. The Chairman said that, in view of the creative force of youth, young people had to be integrated in the development process. He therefore welcomed the proclamation by the General Assembly of 1985 as International Youth Year and the establishment of Special Fund for the Year.

262. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/13.

Programme of work and priorities (item 11)

(a) Medium-term plan 1984-1989: Resources of the sea programme

263. The Committee had before it document E/CN.14/806/Corr.1: E/CN.14/TPCW.11/23/Corr.1 on the medium-term plan, 1984-1989, dealing with the resources of the sea, which represented a revised version of an earlier text submitted to the seventh meeting of the Conference of Ministers at Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1981.

264. In introducing this document, a representative of the secretariat explained that the reformulated version was in response to recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its twenty-second session, which was accepted by the General Assembly. The decision by CPC to recommend a revision was based on the need to incorporate the requirements of the Convention on the Law of the Sea adopted in April 1982. The subprogramme, now revised according to the requirements of the General Assembly, was being presented for consideration by the Committee and approval by the ECA Conference of Ministers before it was finally resubmitted to CPC for consideration and to the General Assembly for adoption at its thirty-eighth session.

265. The representative of the secretariat responsible for the subprogramme explained that efforts to get the programme off the ground had been frustrated since 1978 owing to lack of personnel, a matter which the Committee should now consider seriously.

266. In the ensuing discussions, the Committee underscored the importance of the resources of the sea as a valuable source of food and raw materials self-sufficiency for many African nations. It was, nevertheless, one of the neglected areas of concern. Those resources continued to be exploited by foreign interests which member States had no scientific and technical power to control. Therefore it was necessary that resources should be provided to the Commission so that it could assist member States in that regard.

267. A view was expressed that perhaps there might be a need for an African inter-governmental authority on the resources of the sea. There was need to establish research institutions on marine science and technology as well as incorporate the subject matter in national educational programmes. It was suggested that ECA and OAU were better placed to give guidance as to how to approach the matter in order to protect African sea-beds from further exploitation by outsiders.

268. In concluding, the Committee stressed that time was against Africa particularly now that a Convention on the Law of the Sea had been adopted. Thus, convinced that the main problem facing African Governments was lack of capability for the exploration and exploitation of resources of the sea, the Committee supported the idea of creating awareness of the problem through concerted programmes of training, seminars and study tours at the national, subregional and regional levels with a view to halting the exploitation of those resources and using them for Africa's own development, as reflected in the work programme of the secretariat.

269. The Committee took note of document E/CN.14/806/Corr.1: E/CN.14/TPCW.II/23/Corr.1 and adopted draft resolution 19 (IV).

(b) Implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1982-1983;

(c) Implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the MULPOCs for the biennium 1982-1983

270. The Committee decided to consider the two items together.

271. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/18 on the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 whose main purpose was to provide background information to the Committee for the discussion of the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985. He further explained that the report presented an analysis of actual and anticipated programme performance at the output level, i.e. of goods and services to be delivered to member States and their national and inter-governmental institutions during the review period. The focus of the report was, however, on those outputs which were planned to be terminated in 1982-1983 or postponed to 1984-1985, with reasons being given for such terminations or postponements.

272. The Chairmen of the Yaounde, Lusaka, Niamey and Tangier-based and the Vice-Chairman of the Gisenyi-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) in turn reported on the implementation of the work programme of their respective MULPOCs for the biennium 1982-1983 (E/ECA/TPCW.4/5).

273. In their respective introductory statements, they stressed that, according to their terms of reference, the MULPOCs were required to work together to promote subregional economic integration and as such they had a fundamental role to play in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action especially the Final Act of Lagos.

274. It was explained that during the period under review, the activities of the MULPOCs in the fields of trade and finance, agriculture, industry, research and rural development, transport and communications, integration of women in the development process, energy, manpower development and training, natural resources, social development, economic integration, water resources, human settlements, statistics and demography, activities to strengthen economic co-operation, and other special projects had produced remarkable results.

275. Nevertheless, the Chairmen of the various MULPOCs were unanimous in stressing the problem of inadequacy of both financial and human resources with which to implement key programmes. The Chairman of the Yaounde-based MULPOC Committee of Officials appealed to donors for additional funds to sustain the programme of the Yaounde MULPOC. He also hoped that generous pledges would be made for the MULPOC work programmes within the context of UNTFAD. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Officials of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC made a special plea for ECA to increase its assistance to that MULPOC in the key area of energy. The Chairman of the Committee of Officials of the Niamey-based MULPOC appealed to UNDP to continue to fund existing programmes of his MULPOC which could provide a sound basis for the development of the subregion.

276. In the discussions which followed on document E/ECA/CM.9/18, the Committee noted the impressive high rate of performance (91.7 per cent) whereby 597 outputs out of the 651 programmed for 1982-1983 were anticipated to be implemented in light of the prospects for the remainder of the biennium. However, it expressed disappointment at the termination of certain projects of importance to some MULPOCs and called for an explanation of deviations from programmed activities, particularly in the fields of industry and science and technology. In response, the secretariat informed the Committee that projects terminated were those considered no longer capable of contributing to the solution of problems addressed and hence the objectives as defined at the planning and programming stage. In some cases also, certain additional projects considered more urgent had been introduced in fulfilment of legislative decisions that they should be carried out in 1982-1983. But, in general, most of the outputs being terminated or postponed were those for which financial resources were not available. In 1980, when the programme was formulated, it had been expected that sufficient financial support would come from such big supporters of ECA projects as UNDP. Unfortunately, their subsequent financial difficulties had prevented that.

277. In the discussions on document E/ECA/TPCW.4/5 on the implementation of the programme of work and priorities of the MULPOCs for 1982-1983, the Committee noted the similarity of the work programmes of the various MULPOCs as well as the important progress so far achieved in implementing them including the efforts to harmonize their activities, noting in particular the efforts being made in that regard in the Niamey and Lusaka-based MULPOCs. It urged that all future reports on the implementation of work programmes of the MULPOCs should be

accompanied by tables showing comparative achievements. The Committee noted the concern expressed by the representative of Chad that his country was not covered in the programme of the Yaounde-based MULPOC despite its continued support for that Centre as well as the request of its representative that a MULPOC mission should be mounted soon in order to identify needs in his country. An assurance was given by the secretariat that, as a result of the recent Libreville MULPOC meeting, Chad would be accorded top priority during the 1983-1984 biennium. It was felt necessary to avoid artificial boundaries when discussing transport links and the MULPOCs should make use of existing training institutions in other MULPOCs as a measure of furthering intra-African co-operation. The Committee noted with satisfaction the suggestion made within the framework of the Yaounde MULPOC to establish a special assistance fund within the Banque de développement des Etats de l'Afrique Central (BDEAC) for Sao Tome and Principe and Equatorial Guinea.

278. The Committee noted with disappointment the reduction in UNDP funds to the MULPOCs in general, particularly following the General Assembly's decision in resolution 37/138 to finance the MULPOCs on an established basis, although regular budget resources were not adequate. The Committee stressed the need for the MULPOCs to set priority core programmes based on well thought out criteria for resource allocation to them.

279. The representative of UNDP, appreciating the concern of member States about the declining funds of UNDP for the support of their programmes, underscored the fact that, with its limited resources, UNDP had recently been criticized for expending \$8 million to finance staff posts in MULPOCs. UNDP had continued to finance operational projects which unfortunately had received no mention in the document. Nevertheless, it looked at the future in a realistic manner and would not refrain from studying such projects. It would continue to support the women's programme but ECA and other agencies, together with UNDP, should start exploring other possible sources of financing e.g., from Governments and donor countries.

280. The representative of ARSO drew the attention of the various MULPOCs to the information now readily available within ARSO on standardization, quality control and certification and metrology. Action had already been taken to exchange such information with the Niamey-based MULPOC and he urged all MULPOCs to co-ordinate and liaise their activities in those areas with ARSO.

281. The representative of ARCEDEM observed the need to promote the public sector without which other sectors could not be promoted on a self-reliant basis. He urged protection of local industries and intra-African trade in order to cut down costs of imported capital goods. Hence, rationalization, with the help of ARSO was seen as a priority for all MULPOC centres. He also urged ECA to consider the possibility of integrating the work of ECA-sponsored institutions with the ECA work programme, perhaps as a separate section or a supplement.

282. With regard to a question on where the training programme for Namibians actually took place, the secretariat explained that training took place both within and outside Africa and the fact that the Executive Secretary himself was a Board member of the Institute had ensured that Namibian nationals participated in in-service training programme within ECA.

283. In response to matters raised during the discussions, the secretariat welcomed the suggestions on how to rationalize the activities of the MULPOCs and also the proposal of including indicative tables of achievements in future progress reports of the MULPOCs. On a point of clarification, it was explained that it was not the intention of ECA to integrate the Gisenyi-based MULPOC with the Yaounde-based MULPOC as implied in one of the papers submitted to the Committee. In conclusion, the secretariat thanked UNDP for the support so far rendered to the centres and again drew its attention to Conference of Ministers resolution 450 (XVII) on financing of the MULPOCs on an established basis.

284. In view of the importance of the programmes of the MULPOCs in furthering the economic and social development of the African region there was a consensus in the Committee to address the following recommendations to the Conference of Ministers:

(a) An appeal would be made to all member States to pledge generously in support of the programmes of the MULPOCs and in particular the programme for women;

(b) ECA should implement fully and without delay the Rabat resolution on decentralization of resources to the MULPOCs;

(c) Once again UNDP should be urged to continue to render assistance to the MULPOCs in the spirit of Conference of Ministers resolution 450 (XVII);

(d) The ECA Executive Secretary should be requested to explore all possible sources of finance for the implementation of the programmes of the MULPOC centres.

285. Subject to those comments, the Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.9/18 and E/ECA/TPCW.4/5 and adopted draft resolution 20 (IV).

(d) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985
(including substantive programmes of work of the MULPOCs)

286. In introducing document E/ECA/CM.9/3 on the programme of work and priorities for 1984-1985, a representative of the secretariat informed the Committee that the work programme was the first biennial work programme to be prepared within the framework of the United Nations 1984-1989 medium-term plan. He explained

that the draft proposals of the plan had been examined by the Conference of Ministers at its seventh meeting at Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1981 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/93 requesting, in part, that measures be taken to involve more closely the sectoral, regional and functional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process.

287. The medium-term plan document had now been adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, taking into account the views and suggestions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), the Economic and Social Council and the relevant Committees of the General Assembly, and now it constituted the principal policy directive of the United Nations. Some degree of flexibility was assured in that the plan would be revised every two years in order to incorporate any developments and programme changes.

288. The work programme had been prepared on the basis of a General Assembly policy of maximum budget restraint and austerity and programme activities had been mainly proposed within the level of resources of the approved programme budget for 1982-1983. The underlying strategies of the medium-term plan were those of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

289. The work programme laid emphasis on, among others, regional self-sufficiency in food, establishment of a sound industrial base, institutional infrastructure, intra-African co-operation, physical integration and the attainment of a substantial share of intra-African trade in the total trade of Africa. It reflected the need for rapid, simultaneous and interlinked advances on several strategic points and took into account the present low level of self-reliance and self-sustaining growth and structural diversification characteristic of most countries of the region. The work programme for the staff of the MULPOCs who were now financed under the regular budget was also included in the document.

290. In conclusion, he called upon the Committee to consider the document before it and give their constructive views which would later be communicated to CPC for consideration during its next session in May 1983, which would subsequently submit its recommendation on the work programme for 1984-1985 to the General Assembly for approval during its thirty-eighth session.

291. In the discussions that followed, the Committee welcomed the work programme and its format and recommended it for support by all agencies including the MULPOCs. The secretariat was in particular urged to support the latter's work programme. It hoped that all the outputs planned would be completed.

292. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the inclusion of the programme of activities for the least developed countries and the measures envisaged for their implementation and urged the secretariat to continue in that direction.

293. Clarification was sought on certain points, notably the absence of identifiable priorities as well as of an indication of the budgetary implications of the work programme. In answer to the first question, the representative of the secretariat indicated that, with respect to identifications of priorities in general, the Conference of Ministers' response in 1981 to the request that it should determine relative priorities among subprogrammes within a programme as requested in General Assembly resolution 34/224, was that all subprogrammes in ECA's medium-term plan for 1984-1989 were of high priority. However, with specific reference to the least developed African countries, the fact that there was a specific subprogramme on them in the programme on development issues and policies, apart from the fact that other programmes also catered for them, was an indication of priority setting. As far as the question of budget implications was concerned, he stated that the Conference of Ministers was not expected to deal with budgetary aspects of the programme which were the responsibility of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, on the advice of the ACABQ. The Conference of Ministers could only deal with programme formulation.

294. Further clarification was also sought with regard to the criterion which the secretariat followed in determining which countries should be given technical advisory services and also how the secretariat intended to disseminate and implement the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations.

295. With regard to the question of advisory services, the secretariat explained that as normally indicated for every output in the work programme document, technical advisory services were solely to be rendered upon specific requests of member States and were provided on a first-come-first-served basis. As far as the work programmes of the MULPOCs were concerned, the secretariat assured the Committee that they would be supported just as they were in the past.

296. The Code of Conduct would be distributed to member States after it had been adopted. At the January 1983 meeting on the subject, only 22 member States had attended. However, negotiations had been held in March and would continue in May. Copies of the document had been sent to the African Group in New York and, after the adoption of the Code, ECA's programme would be aimed at monitoring the implementation of that Code by the member States.

297. In answer to another question on whether inter-governmental organizations could seek funding for projects directly from UNDP, the representative of UNDP explained that the basic principle was that UNDP could react to such a request either from one Government or a group of them and therefore, inter-governmental

organizations were qualified to present projects to his organization provided such projects were to be implemented on behalf of the Governments which must have authorized such organizations to sign on their behalf. That was not the case for the MULPOCs.

298. In conclusion, the Committee commended the secretariat on the work programme and took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/3.

The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (item 12)

- (a) Report on the utilization of pledges for 1981 and 1982
- (b) Projects for funding in the biennium 1984-1985

299. A representative of the secretariat introduced documents E/ECA/CM.9/16 on resources required for 1984-1985 and E/ECA/CM.9/17 on pledges and payments by member States and institutions, project implementation and expenditures for the period 1981/1982. He stated that the implementation of approved programmes was characterized by a perennial problem of resources. He informed the participants that of the total amount of \$7 million pledged to date, \$2 million was still outstanding, and he also indicated the declining trend in the amounts pledged as well as the delays in payments. He then informed the participants that the resource requirements for 1984/1985 amounted to \$9 million and hoped that member States would pledge generously at the next Pledging Conference on 2 May 1983. He then informed participants of General Assembly resolution 37/139 of 17 December 1982 on special measures for the social and economic development of Africa in the 1980s which allowed non-African donors to make pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development.

300. In the ensuing discussions, participants congratulated the secretariat for the brief and lucid presentation. Some participants informed the secretariat that payments against previous pledges had already been remitted or were in the pipeline, others said that they would make pledges at the forthcoming pledging conference, and others indicated that inspite of current economic difficulties they expected to pledge more than they had done on previous occasions. Some participants explained that they had experienced administrative problems relating to the transfer of funds but such problems had now been resolved.

301. One participant sought clarification from the secretariat in respect of his country which was listed as not fully paid during 1980/1981 and further requested a full tabulation of all relevant payments since 1977. Another enquired about the criteria for allocations from the General Fund to projects requiring funding. Differences in the figures for resources required for the biennium 1984-1985 were observed between document E/ECA/CM.9/16/Summary and the complete version of that document and clarification was requested.

302. In response, the representative of the secretariat indicated that he was very encouraged by statements made by participants. He had taken note of the intention of some countries to increase their pledges at the forthcoming Pledging Conference. He then provided clarification to the questions raised by participants. On the amounts listed as outstanding in respect of one country, he explained that the data were based on records currently available at the secretariat and these gave the correct information. The allocation of funds to individual projects from the General Fund was on the basis of the approved programme of work and in accordance with the priorities of member States. Finally, he explained that the discrepancy observed between the summary and main document arose because the main document contained the latest information which had not been available at the time the summary document was prepared.

303. The Executive Secretary appealed to the participants to remember the spirit of Kinshasa when the United Nations African Trust Fund had been established and added that the objective was not only to meet current shortfalls but also to finance activities which would normally not be financed by other donors. He appreciated the financial difficulties experienced by member States and added that there was, nevertheless, a need for sacrifice, otherwise the situation would get worse. He then added that, as the General Assembly had now appealed to international community to pledge to the Fund, there was an even greater need, particularly in the spirit of self-reliance of the Lagos Plan of Action, for the African countries to bear most of the burden and increase their pledges. In this respect, he appealed to participants to send messages to their countries so that ministers would come with instructions to pledge.

304. The Committee took note of documents E/FCA/CM.9/16 and 17 and adopted draft resolution 21 (IV).

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session that are of interest to the Commission (item 13)

305. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/24 which reviewed the various resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, specifically those recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 on the basis of the report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers at its eighth meeting.

306. He drew the Committee's attention to the extremely important role played by the African Group in getting the resolutions and decisions of concern to the Commission submitted to and adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, and by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

307. Lastly, he recalled that, following the Secretary-General's eloquent report on the dramatic economic and social situation in the African continent, and the discussions and recommendations of the First, Third and Fifth Committees, the General Assembly had adopted resolutions 37/138, 37/139, 37/140, 37/212, 37/214, 37/224, 37/245, 37/246, 37/136, 37/444 and 37/237 all of which were of direct concern to the Commission.

308. During the ensuing discussions, the representative of Zaire thanked the Executive Secretary and the Economic and Social Council for the favourable consideration given to questions concerning his country's specific problems with respect to transport, transit and access to international markets. His country had agreed to act as host to the Transport Donor Conference.

309. The Executive Secretary emphasized the role played by the African Group and the Group of 77 and their efforts in supporting the resolutions and decisions of the Conference of Ministers. As a result of the determination shown by those groups, all such resolutions and decisions had received the support of the international community in the United Nations. Appreciations should be expressed to the two Groups for their keen support for those resolutions and decisions.

310. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman commended the African Group of the General Assembly and the Group of 77 for their efforts in that respect.

311. He expressed the hope that the Executive Secretary would continue and redouble his efforts to secure the adoption of the Commission's resolutions and decisions in the United Nations in the future.

312. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/24.

Follow-up action on the resolutions and decisions of the Commission at its seventeenth session (item 14)

313. The Executive Secretary introduced document E/ECA/TPCW.4/2 entitled "Follow-up action on the resolutions and decisions of the Commission at its seventeenth session". The document would enable the meeting to have a clear view of the efforts undertaken by the secretariat, within the limits of its meagre resources, to implement the decisions and resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers as well as the problems, if any, encountered in that respect.

314. The meeting expressed the importance it attached to the document especially in view of the fact that every year different resolutions were adopted. It was further pointed out that the opportunity cost of attending meetings by member States was increasing from year to year, thus necessitating a clear demonstration of the concrete outcome of the work of the meetings. It was, therefore, pertinent to examine the extent to which the various resolutions had been implemented.

315. Several participants raised questions on a number of resolutions. One requested additional information on resolution 433 (XVII) on IDEP, since his country had not received adequate information regarding the implementation of the said resolution. Another referred to resolution 440 (XVII) on the external indebtedness of African countries and expressed the hope that the relevant study would soon be completed and distributed to the member States. On resolution 456 (XVII) and 458 (XVII) relating to the least developed countries, one participant pointed out that, although his country had requested assistance from ECA in the preparation of his country's review meeting, no such assistance had yet been received. He also wished to know whether the secretariat had followed up resolution 458 (XVII) on the financing of the programme for least developed countries by inter alia bringing it to the attention of all the States Members of the United Nations.

316. Several participants made reference to resolutions 433 (XVII) on PADIS. One participant noted that the report on the follow-up of the resolution contained some errors, which he had brought to the attention of the secretariat. Another participant asked for additional information regarding the technical assistance that was planned to be provided by PADIS to national centres particularly in cases where the latter lacked sufficient resources for the installation of computer and reprographic equipment. He wondered whether such technical assistance was in the form of training or equipment. Another participant questioned the accuracy of the French title of PADIS, feeling that it dealt at least for the time being more with data processing than with information sciences. He wondered if it intended to break into the more advanced field of information sciences. He also pointed out, with regard to document E/ECA/TPCW.4/2, that his country had not received any assistance from PADIS.

317. The representative of UNDP paid tribute to the tremendous personal efforts that had been made by the Executive Secretary in following up resolutions 430 (XVII) and 441 (XVII), especially in respect of securing funds from UNDP. With regard to resolution 430 (XVII), he noted that the agreement referred to in the follow-up report had been reached before the UNDP budget had been reduced by 45 per cent in November 1982. Concerning resolution 441 (XVII), he informed the meeting that, although there had initially been some misunderstanding between ECA and UNDP, the mission that the Executive Secretary had sent to UNDP had led to UNDP's acceptance of the project. Finally with regard to resolution 452 (XVII) he apologized for not having been able to submit a document on the progress on the implementation of UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa. That was due to the reduction in the budget which inter alia, had made it necessary for UNDP to review programmes with other relevant organizations. A preliminary draft of the document had, however, been completed and the final version would be sent to individual member States through the UNDP offices.

318. In responding to the various comments, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the implementation of resolution 433 (XVII) was very important since the financial situation of IDEP was very serious owing to the reduction in UNDP assistance. The Director of IDEP had been doing his best to mobilize resources including calling upon member States that had not paid their contributions to do so urgently. He promised to circulate the study on indebtedness long before the ministerial meeting on African indebtedness scheduled to be held in

Kinshasa in December 1983. Regarding resolution 441 (XVII), he reiterated the importance of intra-African trade and noted that, thanks to the voluntary pledges and the support of Algeria, the secretariat had kept up activities in intra-African trade. He also applauded the efforts of Gabon in supporting the work on the Central African Economic Community. He appealed for specific support of the project on intra-African trade. As for resolution 452 (XVII) he hoped that the progress report would be soon available and that it would be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee. Finally, on resolution 438 (XVII), he noted that in some MULPOCs decisions had been reached to set up regional centres. Also, PADIS could, on request, support national centres usually with the help of UNDP and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology Development.

319. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/TPCW.4/2.

Staff and administrative questions (item 15)

320. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/ECA/CM.9/25, entitled "Personnel and administrative questions". The item had been included in the Conference agenda in order to keep member States informed of the achievements and difficulties of ECA staff and administrative questions. Statistics as at 31 December 1982 showed that 77 per cent of regular posts and 70 per cent of posts financed from extrabudgetary resources were occupied by Africans. In the general services cadre, 554 out of the 615 posts were occupied by Africans. Thus 84 per cent of total posts were now occupied by Africans. The policy of Africanizing the senior staff grades had been pursued with determination. Regarding consultants, there had been a net increase in the number of Africans whose services had been secured on a temporary basis to reinforce the permanent staff. He announced with satisfaction that the Commission's interpretation services were now 100 per cent Africanized.

321. However, the objective of an equitable representation of member States in the secretariat was yet to be achieved. An appeal had been launched to countries under-represented or not represented at all to encourage their nationals to apply for jobs in the secretariat and its affiliated agencies, for otherwise the posts which could have been filled by them might be occupied by non-Africans. He described the secretariat's endeavours to promote Arabic, the one official language of the United Nations that was authentically African, to the same status as French and English and thanked the countries that had responded to the appeal launched in 1981 and 1982 to meet part of the requirements of the Arabic group.

322. Regarding staff welfare, the meeting was informed of the secretariat's efforts to improve the living and working conditions of the staff and of the increase of 3.7 per cent in the operating budget by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

323. Finally he told participants of the decisions taken by the United Nations General Assembly to help to solve the problem of the present inadequate conference facilities in Addis Ababa. He thanked the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the African Group and the Group of 77 without whose help those results could not have been achieved.

324. During the discussions that followed, representatives of member States congratulated the Executive Secretary on the efforts to Africanize the secretariat and also for the efforts to promote the use of Arabic within the ECA secretariat.

325. Some representatives of underrepresented countries expressed their willingness to respond to the call to put forward candidates for vacant posts and wondered whether posts now occupied by non-Africans would revert to Africa in the future. It was also wondered why D1 posts occupied by non-Africans had increased from two in 1974 to three in 1978 and to four in 1982. One representative wished to know whether the secretariat envisaged the rotation of senior posts on a geographical and linguistic basis, particularly at D1 and P5 levels among the countries because he noticed an imbalance in their distribution.

326. Yet other representatives wished to know how consultants were identified and recruited and whether it was possible to have a roster of African specialists that could be called upon in time of need. Experience had shown that most non-African experts working in certain African countries were hardly familiar with the problems facing those countries. Attention was also drawn to the large number of consultants, whose services were extremely expensive.

327. Other participants pointed out that the appropriation for technical studies to solve the problem of inadequate conference facilities was very substantial (\$400,000). For the sake of economy, studies should be entrusted to African engineering consultancy firms.

328. The representative of OAU congratulated the Executive Secretary for the effort made in staff Africanization and exhorted the secretariat to continue to increase the number of permanent African professional staff and to have less recourse to the services of non-African consultants.

329. In response to the question of the number of consultants, the representative of the secretariat pointed out that consultants were recruited only when the work required could not be done by professionals on board. Non-Africans happened to be recruited because ECA was part of the United Nations secretariat. When a post became vacant, it was announced in all regions of the United Nations system. If the African region failed to present a suitable candidate, the post would be occupied by a non-African. Regarding the roster of African experts, UNDP and ECA were already preparing such a roster which would be circulated shortly.

330. The decrease in the number of 'D1 posts held by Africans in 1982, was due to firstly the departure over the years of two Africans whose posts had subsequently been given to deserving staff members within the secretariat. Even though nationality was an important consideration for entry into United Nations service, staff members were promoted only on the basis of performance. There were nine African countries yet to be represented within the secretariat.

331. The Committee took note of document E/ECA/CM.9/25 and adopted draft resolution 22 (IV).

Any other business (item 16)

332. One participant suggested that the secretariat should issue a document showing all ECA's achievements during its 25 years of activity and its internal work programme and prospects.

333. Another participant stated that the Committee was too broad for dealing with all the technical problems submitted to it. It would facilitate the work of the Committee if it were to consider only certain agenda items such as items 1 to 5(a) for the 1983 meeting and have the other items dealt with by sub-committees.

334. One representative raised the question of documents which failed to reach countries within the requisite time. That meant that some delegations arrived at the Conference inadequately prepared.

335. In reply, the Executive Secretary stated that an exceptional effort had been made during the current year to send conference documents to all countries. They had been circulated at the MULPOC meetings, and more copies had been transmitted through embassies and UNDP offices and by all other possible means. The real problem did not lie in the transmission of documents but in the fact that composition of delegations was not known in the countries concerned until the last moment.

336. The suggestion that the Committee should split into sub-committees would have to be considered since the proposal had both advantages and disadvantages. It must be noted, however, that some of the documents to be considered by the Committee had first been studied by various specialized bodies. The Committee should therefore undertake only the discussion of documents specially prepared for its examination. A publication entitled "Twenty-five years in the Service of African Development and Integration" would be available shortly.

Date and venue of the next meeting (item 17)

337. The Executive Secretary informed participants that the Conference would take place about the same time of year. As to the venue, a member State would have to offer to host the Conference, and according to the principle of rotation, the offer should come from an Eastern and Southern African or Central African country. The final decision would be announced at the Conference of Ministers.

Adoption of the report, draft resolutions and draft Declaration for submission to the Conference of Ministers (item 18)

338. After making the necessary amendments, on 23 April 1983 the Committee adopted its report, draft resolutions and draft Declaration for submission to the Conference of Ministers.

Closure of the meeting (item 19)

339. The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of all members of the Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to the Government of Ethiopia not only for its assistance during the present meeting but also for its unfailing support over the past twenty-five years. [see draft resolution 23 (IV)]

340. The representative of OAU expressed his profound appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its efforts to assist the Commission over the last quarter of a century. He also congratulated the Chairman and officers at the fourth meeting of the Committee, who, together with all participants, had shown their dedication to the development of Africa. On behalf of the Secretary-General of OAU he hoped that they would ensure that the initiatives taken by the Committee and the conclusions it had arrived at would be fully followed up on their return to their respective countries. Again, he wished to express his full appreciation to the Executive Secretary and staff of the Commission and to all the authorities of the host country, Ethiopia, for their relentless support to the cause of Africa.

341. The Executive Secretary said that, at the closure of such a historic meeting, he wished to congratulate all delegations for the seriousness with which they had lived up to their responsibilities and for the richness of their ideas. The meeting of the Committee, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, was indeed unique in the history of the Commission and of the continent. On his own behalf and on behalf of all his colleagues, he wished to thank the Chairman, the bureau, and all representatives for the way in which they had discharged their tasks. Particular thanks were due to the Government of Ethiopia which had never failed to support the Commission. He recalled in particular that the very precinct in which the present meetings were being held, Africa Hall, was a gift of the Ethiopian Government.

342. He called upon each and everyone to rededicate themselves to the task ahead so that, at the time of the Golden Jubilee, 25 years from now, Africa would be vibrant, resilient, progressive, dynamic and a true and faithful partner in the world economy.

343. The Chairman said that the meeting had indeed been a historic one, not only because it had taken place on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Commission, but also because of the extremely high level of participation and exchange of views which had taken place. It represented an ideal opportunity for African countries to renew their commitment to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. He was confident that, with such dedication as had been shown at the present meeting, by the year 2000, Africa would have achieved a self-reliant and self-sustaining economy.

344. He then declared closed the fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole.

D. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION BY
THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

1(IV). Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 404 (XVI) of 10 April 1981,

Emphasizing once again the importance of the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa for a continuous assessment of the economic and social situation of African countries and in assisting member States to identify appropriate policy measures to deal with their current and long-term development problems,

Congratulating the secretariat for preparing the document entitled "Economic and social Survey of Africa, 1958-1983"^{1/} and the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1981-1982, ^{2/}

Noting with concern the difficulties that the secretariat continues to encounter in preparing the Survey,

1. Calls on each member State to provide the secretariat with the information required to prepare the Survey as called for in resolution 404 (XVI);
2. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the secretariat to broaden the scope of the Survey by including short-term forecasts of the major macro-economic variables for the region as a whole, for subregions and for country groupings;
3. Requests the secretariat to improve the quality of the forecasting exercise in the Survey;
4. Further requests the secretariat to do everything in its power to ensure the realization of the Survey.

2 (IV). Support to African land-locked countries

The Conference of

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling the global strategy and programme of action adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as by the Economic and Social Council in May and July 1979 respectively,

^{1/} E/ECA/CM.9/20.

^{2/} E/ECA/CM.9/5.

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African region within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted on 18 July 1979 by the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers in resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII),

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for implementation of the Monrovia Strategy, in particular the chapter on transport and communications, adopted by African Heads of State and Government on 29 April 1980,

Conscious of the need to reduce the adverse effects experienced by land-locked countries,

Noting with concern that the initiatives taken so far in favour of land-locked countries have not been very effective,

1. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members of ECA and international organizations to take effective measures in order to mobilize financial and technical resources for the benefit of land-locked countries;
2. Requests that appropriations under the United Nations Trust Fund for land-locked countries should be increased in order to expand their capability to respond positively to development needs;
3. Requests the Commission secretariat to co-operate with all relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system in implementing an appropriate programme of action in favour of land-locked countries.

3 (IV). Situation of food and agriculture in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 4/78 on the Regional Food Plan for Africa adopted by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in September 1978,

Recalling also its resolution 351 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 in which it appealed to member States effectively to implement the Regional Food Plan for Africa,

Further recalling the decision taken, by the Heads of State and Government in April 1980 in the Lagos Plan of Action, 1/ to the effect that African Governments, in their efforts to develop food, should focus their attention on most urgent programmes and activities, namely the reduction of post-harvest losses, establishment of food security programmes, and increased production of food crops, livestock and fisheries and adopt policies and measures to increase investments,

1/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

Noting with deep concern the continued decline of the food self-sufficiency ratio and the shortfall in domestic inputs and external financial assistance,

1. Calls on the Governments of the region to intensify their efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to adopt and implement policies and measures for expanding food production, reducing food losses and setting up food security systems;

2. Further calls on the Governments of member States to give special emphasis to price and other incentive measures and to adequate water and other resource utilization in their efforts to increase food crops, livestock and fisheries production;

3. Requests Governments of member States to accord priority to research, to the exchange of information on scientific research and to technological progress for food development;

4. Calls on international financial institutions and donor countries to increase substantially their investment in the agriculture sector in Africa;

5. Calls on the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to intensify efforts to assist member States in the implementation of the African Food Plan and the Lagos Plan of Action;

6. Calls on the Commission to update the document on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa in the light of the discussions and recommendations made at the fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole before submitting it to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

7. Requests the Commission, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, and other United Nations specialized agencies to undertake an intensive study to ascertain the cause of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of that sector;

8. Calls on the relevant United Nations agencies to assist the countries of the region to mount action-oriented programmes to improve the food situation in Africa and in bridging the technological gap;

9. Requests the Food and Agriculture Organization to continue to strengthen its support to the Commission and, through the latter, to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, for implementing the Regional Food Plan for Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels.

4 (IV). Assistance to the livestock sector in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa of July 1979,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980, 36/186 of 17 December 1981 and 37/245 of 21 December 1982,

Convinced of the need for the rapid implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report by the Commission secretariat on the situation of food and agriculture,

Bearing in mind the need to develop the livestock sector as an essential component of food and a support for agriculture,

Aware of the worrying state of the livestock sector deriving from the destruction of herds by scourges such as drought, desertification and bovine diseases and taking into account the importance of the sector in the national economies of African States in terms of both food and trade,

1. Congratulates the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and other institutions within the United Nations system such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant organizations for their research work in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors with a view to increasing production of food crops and animal products;

2. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to conduct, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture, perspective studies in the livestock sector, evaluate progress and work out a specific approach to the development of this sector in order to increase the contribution of the livestock sector to food and agriculture development;

3. Calls on the States members of the Commission to pay special attention to this sector when drawing up national economic development programmes.

5 (IV). United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977, Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Referring to resolution 1982/54 of 29 July 1982 of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 37/140 of 17 December 1982 of the General Assembly,

Considering that the programme of the Decade requires constant adjustment during the entire period of the Decade,

Having considered the progress report on the implementation of the programme of the first phase of the Decade (1980-1983) and the report on the draft programme of the second phase (1984-1988),

Noting with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in the preparation of the programme of the second phase and the timetable set up in this regard,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in his quest for ways and means to finalize the programme of the second phase in a satisfactory way and to secure its financing,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support which they have provided for the organization of the fifth consultative technical meeting and the preparation of the plan of action of the second phase of the Decade;

2. Appeals to donor countries and financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the fifth consultative technical meeting scheduled to be held from 11 to 14 October 1983;

3. Notes with satisfaction the progress so far made in implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade and the efforts made towards the preparation of the programme for the second phase;

4. Endorses resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.83/23 of 11 March 1983 of the third Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

5. Recommends that, in view of the success of the consultative technical meetings organized for the mobilization of resources for financing the programme of the first phase, other consultative technical meetings be organized as soon as possible after the launching of the second phase of the Decade in 1984 and in any event not later than the middle of 1985 for the following subsectors of transport and communications:

- (a) Broadcasting;
- (b) Postal services;
- (c) Air transport;
- (d) Railways and rail transport;

6. Appeals once more to donor countries and financial institutions to lend their substantial financial support to the Decade projects and to accord particular attention to the programming, financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries;

7. Supports the decision of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to organize an informal round table to be held in Paris from 21 to 24 June 1983 on problems related to the implementation of the Decade programme;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure a better co-ordination and harmonization among the various modes of transport and communications so as to avoid duplication and competition in drawing up subregional and regional master plans for each mode of transport and communications as well as an integrated master plan for all modes;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to:

(a) Organize the four consultative technical meetings referred to in paragraph 5 above;

(b) Undertake studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications;

(c) Prepare, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, a study of manpower needs of all African countries for all modes of transport and communications;

(d) Draw up a priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked countries;

(e) Organize in January 1984 the fourth Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the present resolution and to submit regularly to the Conference a report on the implementation of the Decade programme.

6 (IV). Problems of freedoms of the air in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.79/6 adopted in May 1979 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.81/19 adopted in March 1981 by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.890 (XXXIII) on freedoms of the air adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at Nairobi in 1981,

Noting that little progress has been made in the implementation of these resolutions by member States,

Convinced that non-implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions has constituted a major obstacle to the harmonization of air transport schedules in Africa and, hence, is impeding the development of air transport in Africa,

Having noted the report of the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

1. Urges African States to implement the Above resolution of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as well as the various recommendations approved by the Conference of Ministers within the framework of the Decade programme;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the African Civil Aviation Commission and the Association of African Airlines, to convene in 1984 an African conference of representatives of African Governments and African airline companies to examine ways and means of implementing the resolutions on freedoms of the air;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to organize this conference.

7 (IV). Implementation of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/66 B of 15 December 1980 proclaiming the 1980s as the Industrial Development Decade in Africa, resolution 1 (VI) of November 1981 adopted by the sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, its own resolution 442 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade in Africa and resolution 55 (XVI) of 28 May 1982 of the Industrial Development Board on the Industrial Development Decade in Africa,

Considering that the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action will, to a large extent, depend on the sustained development of industry as a supplier and user of goods and services and, therefore, on the structural adjustment in the industrial sector with emphasis on selected strategic core industries,

Convinced that the effective and rapid implementation of the Decade programme will reduce the vulnerability of African countries to the deepening world economic crisis,

Concerned with the fact that the funds originally earmarked by the United Nations Development Programme as its minimum contribution towards the implementation of the Decade objectives are not likely to be available,

1. Urgently calls upon member States to intensify their individual and collective efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of the Decade at the national, subregional and regional levels;

2. Notes with appreciation the allocation of \$US 1 billion by the African Development Bank and the promise of future expansion beyond this initial amount to finance industrial projects in African countries during the period 1982-1986;

3. Urges African countries to participate actively in the meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme with a view to emphasizing the high priority accorded to industry by African countries in the Lagos Plan of Action. 1/

8 (IV). Establishment of an African Monetary Fund

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned at the fact that the world economic situation, especially the international financial and monetary crisis, has aggravated the problems faced by the African countries as reflected in the mounting external indebtedness, balance-of-payments deficits and the depletion of their external reserves,

Mindful of the fact that the contribution made by the International Monetary Fund in assisting African countries to overcome their financial and monetary problems and in particular their balance-of-payments problems has been very limited and inadequate to overcome such problems,

Aware that presently no effective mechanism exists in Africa for ensuring that sound and regional monetary and financial policies are adopted to protect the African countries from the adverse effects of the world monetary crisis and to overcome the problems of the multiplicity and inconvertibility of African currencies as well as the absence or inadequacy of financial markets,

Recalling the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity taken at the Economic Summit held in Lagos, Nigeria, in April 1980 to establish an African Monetary Fund by 1985 as a means of assisting member States in overcoming these problems,

1/ A/S.11/14, annex I.

Noting with satisfaction the progress so far achieved towards the establishment of the Fund as reflected in the outcome of the meeting of senior officials of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks held in Addis Ababa from 4 to 7 October 1982, and the preliminary technical work done by the co-operating secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the African Development Bank and the African Centre for Monetary Studies,

Noting further the delay in carrying out the studies on the establishment of the Fund, keeping in mind the difficulties experienced by the Executive Secretary in recruiting an African co-ordinator for such studies,

1. Appreciates the financial support provided by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for carrying out the feasibility studies on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund and for the convening of the meeting of senior officials of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks;

2. Appeals to the African Governments to lend their political and financial support for the establishment of the proposed Fund;

3. Urges the African regional financial institutions, such as the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund, also to make financial contributions towards the realization of this objective;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the co-operating African regional institutions to expedite the preparation of the feasibility studies and the convening of the related meetings, in line with the schedule of activities recommended by the above-mentioned meeting of government officials and to report on the progress made on the establishment of the African Monetary Fund to the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of the Commission to be held in 1984.

9 (IV). Interregional economic and technical co-operation

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in March 1977, in Cairo, Egypt,

Recalling its resolution 301 (XIII) of 28 February 1977 calling for co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling further its request made in March 1981 in Freetown to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to invite the secretariat of the League of Arab States to attend as an observer, meetings organized by the Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering the Amman Strategy for Arab States,

Recalling further the Arusha Declaration of February 1979 on collective self-reliance for relaunching South-South dialogue and the Caracas programme on economic co-operation among developing countries of May 1981,

Noting the efforts made by the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre concerning the development of Afro-Arab co-operation and calling upon the other Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to act in the same way,

Aware of the fact that the Executive Secretary of the Commission should pursue his efforts to promote interregional co-operation with the Arab world within the framework of the memorandum of agreement between the Commission and the Economic Commission for Western Asia and in active collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States in the course of the meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation and other Afro-Arab solidarity organizations such as RADEA,

Aware also of the current economic and technical co-operation activities between States members of the Economic Commission for Africa on the one hand and those of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the other hand,

Recalling the report of the Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation, 1/ held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 June 1982, and the action-oriented proposals in three priority fields, namely interregional trade, human resources development and utilization, and science and technology for development which the Meeting agreed to implement jointly,

Recalling in particular, resolution II adopted by the meeting which, inter alia, urged the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting and, to that end, to establish an appropriate mechanism for consultation at the interregional level and also to create or strengthen national focal points for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries,

1/ ECO/ETC/1/5.

Noting that the study tour of African specialists in mineral resources development to five Latin American countries in October 1982 to study the organization, financing and management of mineral resources development activities, and the visit by the African representatives are among the initial steps taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America with a view to implementing the joint action-oriented proposals,

Appreciating the assistance given by the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of the Netherlands in financing economic and technical co-operation among developing countries activities and thereby promoting interregional co-operation,

Conscious of the limitations imposed on the development of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, by the inadequacy of resources,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa on having convened the first Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation;

2. Recognizes the joint action-oriented proposals as contained in the report of the meeting, including those in resolution II annexed to the report, as constituting the basis for interregional co-operation between member States of ECA and ECLA, and urges the two Executive secretaries to assist the member States of their respective regions to implement them fully and speedily;

3. Commends States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America on the steps already taken to implement the action-oriented proposals in respect of mineral resources development and trade promotion, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, to intensify the efforts in assisting member States in this regard;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue rendering assistance to member States in their co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to contribute effectively to the dynamic development of Afro-Arab co-operation by collaborating fully with the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and by participating in meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation, and to assist specialist bodies dealing with Afro-Arab co-operation in implementing concrete projects and programmes for strengthening Afro-Arab co-operation;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to assist member States in conducting multilateral negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences and related economic matters within the framework of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as agreed at meetings of the Group of 77 in Caracas and elsewhere;

7. Commands the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of the Netherlands for their support to the Commission's interregional technical and economic co-operation activities, and appeals to them, and to other funding agencies which have not yet done so, to render generous support to the Commission's interregional economic and technical co-operation programme;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the nineteenth session of the Commission on progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

10 (IV). African statistical services

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the urgent need to improve economic and social policy formulation, planning, administration and analysis in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action 1/ which aims to promote African development through collective self-reliance,

Recognizing that the effective organization of these activities requires adequate quantitative information at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting that many African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information in a satisfactory and timely manner because of significant inter-related constraints which include low data demand for non-technical planning, statistical brain drain, management weaknesses, data processing difficulties and failure to regard data applications as a principal guide in organizing data collection, processing and analysis,

Further noting that there is still a lack of co-ordination in external assistance to statistics and international recommendations in this field do not adequately cover data analysis and applications,

1. Urges Governments of the region to:

(a) Accord higher priority generally to the improvement and strengthening of their statistical services so as to provide data which will assist in assessing current economic and social problems and in accelerating development;

(b) Identify data applications as a basis for determining priorities for data collection and analysis in each subject field;

(c) Utilize fully available training facilities to provide staff for statistical services and ensure that these services are efficiently managed;

1/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

(d) Take steps to overcome existing data processing difficulties through the provision of adequate equipment and by ensuring that statistical personnel play a more direct and active role in computerized data processing;

(e) Make increasing use of national statistics co-ordinating organs for the planning and co-ordination of activities and for the preparation of realistic and integrated statistical development programmes, which should be incorporated in national development plans as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action;

(f) Within the context of their development programmes, ensure that statistical services prepare annual work programmes for issuing regular publications and reports on surveys, etc. and for conducting other activities in a timely manner;

(g) Encourage both central planning agencies and those dealing with particular subject fields to adopt a more technical and analytical approach to plan preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review;

2. Recommends that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should:

(a) Continue existing efforts to co-ordinate technical co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information;

(b) Extend international statistical recommendations to include guidelines on data analysis and applications;

3. Appeals to inter-governmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations to:

(a) Continue to assist in strengthening the operation of statistical infrastructure in the region;

(b) Support activities designed to improve the utilization of statistical data for development;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all necessary steps to assist the improvement of African statistics along the lines indicated above.

11 (IV). Perspective studies in African countries

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African Region in the International Development Strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade adopted in resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII) by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on 18 July 1979,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action 1/ for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy, adopted by the Second Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 29 April 1980,

Bearing in mind the necessity for African countries to undertake periodic perspective studies with a view to devising and assessing alternative ways of implementing the Lagos Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Commission secretariat on a preliminary perspective study for the African region by 2008 which highlights the prospects of critical areas such as population and human resources, food, energy, industry, transport and external trade and finance,

Also taking note of the increasing number of African countries which have embarked on perspective studies with a view to laying the foundations of proper and efficient planning,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary of the Commission for having taken the initiative to prepare a comprehensive study on the perspective of the region by 2008;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) circulate the study widely to African Governments, universities and research institutions with a view to stimulating initiative and actions for the efficient implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in African countries;

(b) provide, on request, technical assistance to governments in devising tools for perspective studies on their respective economies;

(c) update the study, every five years, to serve as a tool for assessing the degree of implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the African Region;

(d) include the study in the agenda of the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

3. Calls upon member States to examine critically the study with a view to identifying areas of interest to them and taking appropriate action for perspective studies on their economies.

1/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

12 (IV). Africa and the on-going international
economic negotiations

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the resolution on the participation of Africa in international economic negotiations adopted by the African Heads of State and Government as contained in annex III to the Lagos Plan of Action,^{1/}

Recognizing that the on-going and forthcoming international economic negotiations conducted within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the successor agreement to Lome II; and the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations are likely to have a deep and far-reaching impact on Africa's socio-economic development prospects,

Aware that it is in Africa's own interest to participate fully and effectively in these and other on-going negotiations,

Noting with disappointment the results of the Meeting of the Ministers of External Trade of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held in Geneva in November 1982 and the failure of such negotiations to take full cognizance of the development problems facing the African countries, the problems experienced in the implementation of the Lome II agreement, and in the negotiations on the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations;

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the adoption of a common African position on the issues to be discussed at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as reflected in the "Memorandum of Libreville" and of the harmonization of positions of developing countries on these issues that was arrived at the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77 held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 5 to 9 April 1983;

2. Urges the African Group members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to effectively follow-up on the issues that were unresolved at the recent Meeting of Ministers of External Trade of the Agreement within the framework of the permanent machinery of the Agreement to safeguard their interest in these negotiations;

3. Appeals to all member States of the Commission to participate fully and effectively in all international economic negotiations and in particular the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to ensure that they harmonize their positions and that where possible there is continuity in the individuals representing African countries in each set of negotiations;

^{1/} A/S-11/14, annex III.

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to continue to provide technical, logistic and advisory support to the African Groups participating in such negotiations;

5. Calls upon the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on International Trade and Finance for African Development to assess the outcome of the above-mentioned negotiations, on the basis of studies to be done by the secretariat of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to make available to the Conference of Ministers, at its tenth session, the results of such an assessment.

13 (IV). Women in development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 360 (XIV), 361 (XIV) and 362 (XIV) of 27 March 1979, 407 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 and 447 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the implementation of programmes and mobilization of resources for the advancement of women in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 332 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on the Development Strategy for Africa for the Third Development Decade,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980,

Conscious that the Lagos Plan of Action^{1/} not only places importance on human resource development and utilization but also calls for special action to promote the technical, social, economic, cultural and political advancement of women,

Aware that women had been largely left out of the mainstream of development and suffered from an imbalance of opportunities for the development and application of their latent capabilities as well as social attitudes,

Aware also that progress in the integration of women in development at the national, subregional and regional levels had been hampered by serious constraints in human and financial resources,

Having considered the report of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11 to 13 April 1983,^{2/}

1/ A/S-11/14, annex 1.

2/ E/ECA/TPCW.4/8.

1. Endorses the report and recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

2. Urges member States and national machineries for the integration of women in development to take necessary steps to assess the contribution of women to national development and to meet their needs effectively through national policies, legislations and development programmes;

3. Calls upon member States to ensure greater and more effective participation of women in the decision-making process at the national, subregional and regional levels;

4. Calls upon African governments, national machineries for the integration of women in development, the United Nations and other international development agencies to intensify their efforts to train women and girls in all socio-economic fields;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit document ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8 on the Institutional Framework governing relations between the various organs established to promote the Integration of Women in Development to the member States for their views and comments which should be incorporated in a revised version of the document to be submitted to the next meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

6. Appeals to member States to contribute adequate human, material and financial resources for the strengthening of the national machineries for the integration of women in development to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively;

7. Appeals further to member States, African inter-governmental organizations and the international community to continue to contribute to the subregional and regional women's programmes and to accord special privilege to projects concerning women at the Silver Jubilee (Fourth) Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for the African Development;

8. Calls upon the secretariats of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity, the Bureau of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the Pan-African Women's Organization to collaborate closely in the preparation of the third Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development in 1984 which should define Africa's position at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace due to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985;

9. Urges member States to give their fullest support to the above-mentioned third Regional Conference and World Conference.

14 (IV). The climatic situation and drought in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 239 (XI) of 23 February 1973 on the Sahelian drought,

Aware that drought, which had affected the Sahel region in the 1970s is now seriously affecting 34 African countries, 24 of which are among the least developed and some of which are located outside the Sudano-Sahelian region and the Kalahari desert region,

Realizing that drought is now a chronic, natural phenomenon whose causes, frequency, trends are currently difficult to control and must be studied scientifically,

Conscious of the linear relationship between drought, desertification and under-development,

Further recalling its resolution 446 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Deeply concerned about the worsening climatic situation and dire effects of recurring drought, erosion and famine on the peoples of Africa and on the African economy in general,

1. Urgently requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to organize special scientific round table to which all member States of the Commission would be invited. The round table would consist of nationals from the invited countries as well as international experts on climate, land, water and soil resources, ecology and the environment, on the problems of the climatic situation in Africa with a view to examining the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economy and to proposing measures that can be taken in the short-, medium- and long-terms to deal with the problem;

2. Appeals to the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies such as the World Meteoroglogical Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization of African Unity and other relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate actively with the Economic Commission for Africa in this urgent task;

3. Calls upon Governments to give high priority, through both financial and manpower allocation, to the problem of understanding climatic variability in their countries in order to facilitate advance planning for drought, erosion, famine and its related effects;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide additional resources to the Commission to enable it undertake this most important task;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report on the outcome of the scientific round table on the climatic situation in Africa to the nineteenth session of the Commission/tenth Conference of Ministers.

6. Calls upon the international community, bilateral and multilateral aid donors to grant increased financial resources to the countries affected by drought and desertification and to the institutions engaged in combating these phenomena.

15 (IV). Strengthening of African capabilities
in environmental matters

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 378 (XV) of 12 April 1978 and 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which decided to establish an inter-governmental regional committee on environmental matters jointly with human settlements,

Further recalling its resolution 498 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which established the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979,

Aware that the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa^{1/} provides inter alia priority areas of environmental concern for the African region which has been supported by decision GC.9/12 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on priorities for serious environmental problems in developing countries,

Noting General Assembly resolutions 36/192 of 17 December 1981 and 37/217 of 20 December 1982 on international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Further noting the catalytic role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision GC.10/26 of 31 May 1982, for raising, inter alia, additional resources to the Environment Fund to assist developing

1/ A/S-11/14, annex 1.

countries in dealing with serious environmental problems and while recognizing the arrangements being made for the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme by its Governing Council decision GC.10/2 of 31 May 1982 to strengthen environmental capabilities, especially in the African region,

Having considered the report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and the first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,^{2/}

1. Takes note of the report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and resolutions 1(1), 2(1) and 3(1) on the strengthening of environment co-ordination capabilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, in the African region, and environmental education and training in Africa respectively;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue to strengthen the environmental capabilities of the Economic Commission for Africa within the framework of the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme, for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of inter-governmental activities dealing with serious environmental problems such as drought, desertification and erosion in the continent when the present project ends for the 1982-1983 biennium;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to co-operate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the latter's decision GC.10/25A to promote environmental education and training in Africa for manpower development on environmental matters, taking into account the findings of the meeting of experts from Governments and the scientific community in Africa, the existing national training institutions in the region offering environmental courses to strengthen them where appropriate, and the activities of the International Labour Organisation and other United Nations organizations in environmental education and training in the region;

4. Calls upon Governments in the African region to:

(a) Strengthen their national environmental capabilities to cope with the assessment of natural resources exploitation and pollution control during rapid industrialization of the Industrial Development Decade by incorporating

^{2/} E/ECA/HUS/ENV.1 of 20 July 1982.

environmental considerations into national development planning, reviewing the terms of reference of various licensing boards and corporations for exploiting natural resources, setting up national standards boards for an industrial code as well as health criteria for industrial workers, establishing supporting analytical laboratory facilities and strengthening the legal and legislative machinery for implementing environmental policies into environmental laws and regulations with the infrastructural support for effective law enforcement;

(b) Organize intensive human resources development programme to train the scientists, technicians, planners, policy-makers, industrial managers in environmental assessment and management techniques, needed for the industrial development decade;

(c) Endeavour to plough back some of the profits of economic growth to provide national services for meeting basic human needs especially through programme for mass education, primary health care and nutrition, in order to improve the quality of life of mass of the African population and provide the work force needed for sustainable economic development;

5. Calls upon the international community and financial institutions as well as the competent United Nations organizations, organs and bodies to respond positively to the African initiative on environment and development by providing the necessary funds, trained manpower and technological expertise;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the second meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment on the matter.

16 (IV). Human settlements

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and 358 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on institutional arrangements for human settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which extended the mandate of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to include environmental matters,

Further recalling resolution 8 (IV) of the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry dated 26 November 1977,

Having examined the report^{1/} of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment held at Addis Ababa from 28 June to 2 July 1982 and the resolutions adopted at that meeting,

Noting with concern that the support of UNDP to the building materials and construction industries development programme is to be terminated by the end of 1983, which would seriously affect the continuation of ongoing activities and the implementation of projects planned in the framework of the Programme with the result that the objective of self-sufficiency in this sector by the year 2000 would hardly be achieved,

1. Endorses the report and resolutions adopted at the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

2. Approves the emphasis on physical planning, housing financing mechanisms and building materials policies and programmes as necessary priority issues for the development of a regional human settlements policy and programme in pursuance of the objectives and strategies of the Monrovia Declaration^{2/} and the Lagos Plan of Action,^{3/}

3. Urges member States to take steps to implement the specific actions defined in the resolutions adopted by the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

4. Calls upon the Commission on Human Settlements to assist the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment in the implementation of the regional human settlements priorities decided by the said Committee;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps, in consultation with member States, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations and international organizations, to ensure the speedy and successful implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions, and particularly the continuation of the building materials and construction industries development programme far beyond its present termination date until the objective of self-sufficiency in building materials and construction industries enshrined in the Lagos Plan of Action is achieved;

^{1/} E/ECA/HUS/ENV.1.

^{2/} Conference of Ministers resolution 332 (XIV).

^{3/} A/S-11/14, annex 1.

6. Invites member States to take measures aimed at strengthening regional co-operation for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

17 (IV). Development of cartographic services in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa,^{1/} held at Cairo, Egypt, from 28 February to 7 March 1983 and the resolutions adopted by the Conference,

Conscious of the urgent need to strengthen cartographic institutions in the member States as the services required of them constitute the bedrock for the exploration and inventorying of their national resources,

Noting with satisfaction that the resolutions of the aforementioned Conference are consistent with the tenets of the Monrovia Strategy ^{2/} for the Economic Development of Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action, ^{3/}

Mindful of the crucial role which modern space geodesy plays in the accurate and rapid fixation of control points which are basic to the preparation of maps and charts and which in turn are the prerequisites for effective planning and execution of development projects,

Bearing in mind that United Nations regional cartographic conferences for Africa provide a forum for the transfer of the technology essential for the development of cartographic capabilities as well as for facilitating the exchange of experience including assisting the Economic Commission for Africa in the formulation of its programme of work,

1. Endorses the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the resolutions contained therein;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to convene the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1986 and requests the Economic and Social Council to establish systematic and effective collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa in order to provide budgetary backstopping in the organization of future regional cartographic conferences;

^{1/} E/ECA/TPCW.4/6

^{2/} Conference of Ministers resolution 332 (XIV).

^{3/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

3. Invites member States which are yet to render their full support to the regional centres for cartography and remote sensing to do so, thereby justifying their faith in technical co-operation among African countries;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Collaborate with the African Association of Cartography to undertake an assessment of the training requirements of each member State in the various fields in cartography as recommended in resolution 6 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa;

(b) Publish a directory of cartographic training centres in Africa which would form a basis for possible regionalization of certain national cartographic centres;

5. Urges member States to give moral, political and material support to the African Doppler Survey project and to make available all relevant data at their disposal for the establishment of regional and subregional African geodetic data banks;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to encourage member States and interested bodies to give financial support to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing for the execution of the African Doppler Survey project;

7. Endorses resolution 13 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa on the declaration of a year for cartography in Africa, and accordingly declares 1986 as "The Year of Cartography in Africa";

8. Further requests the Executive Secretary to convene during 1983 a meeting of all regional and subregional organizations in Africa with responsibility for surveying, Mapping and remote sensing matters with a view to harmonizing their structure to ensure their viability and effectiveness.

18 (IV). Evaluation and harmonization of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos 1/ adopted by Heads of State and Government in April 1980 in Lagos, notably in chapter VIII,

Recalling also the importance which the Heads of State and Government attach to the role of African inter-governmental institutions in the implementation of the Plan and the Act,

1/ A/S-11/14, annexes I and II.

Still believing that inter-governmental institutions constitute a conditio sine qua non for effective self-reliant development in the region,

Conscious that existing inter-governmental institutions face acute financial and other problems which constrain them from pursuing effectively the goals and objectives for which they were established,

Convinced that the harmonization and/or integration of these institutions could be more beneficial to African countries and better enable the commission to lend to the institutions its effective support,

Having examined the document prepared by the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the subject 1/ and the associated recommendations prepared by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole at its fourth session, 2/

1. Thanks the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for its initiative;

2. Decides to establish an ad hoc committee consisting of ten member States to be appointed by the Conference of Ministers on the principle of equitable geographical representation, assisted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to undertake an assessment of the objectives and operations of the various existing multinational institutions established under the aegis of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which the activities may be better rationalized, co-ordinated, harmonized and/or integrated in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 390 (XV) of 12 April 1980 and the instruction of the Heads of State and Government as contained in paragraph 264 (i) of the Lagos Plan of Action;

3. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit its report to the nineteenth session of the Commission and tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of OAU to give every technical support to the Ad Hoc Committee;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to ensure that no new multinational institutions should be created unless their creation has been thoroughly examined and after the possibilities offered by national institutions, or existing multinational ones, have first been fully considered.

1/ E/ECA/TPCW.4/7

2/ E/ECA/CM.9/... .

19(IV). Development of resources of the sea

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 340 (XIV) of 27 March 1979,

Noting with satisfaction the resolution on development of national marine science, technology and ocean services infrastructures adopted by the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea at its 181st meeting on 30 April 1982,

Aware of the need for member States, in the light of the recently adopted convention on the Law of the Sea, to individually and collectively move expeditiously in making provisions for the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea,

Welcoming the preparation of a medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and a programme budget for the biennia 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 designed to undertake activities to assist member States in this regard,

1. Strongly urges member States to give high priority, individually and collectively, to the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to assist member States in this regard;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to similarly assist member States in the implementation of provisions of the Convention on the Law of Sea relating to land-locked States;

4. Appeals to the 38th session of General Assembly of the United Nations to provide the Commission with all the financial and human resources needed with effect from January 1984 to enable the Commission to fully discharge its responsibilities as they relate to the resources of the sea programme during the medium-term plan period 1984-1989 and beyond.

20(IV). Strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 335 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 and 418 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recalling further resolution 450 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Noting with appreciation General Assembly resolution 37/138 dated 17 December 1982,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the General Assembly for the support it has given to the Centres by allocating to them regular budget resources;
2. Appeals once more to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to render financial support to the operational activities of the Centres during the 1982-1986 programming cycle;
3. Urges member States to continue to pledge generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, earmarking part of their contributions for support to the Centres and to second staff at their own costs to the Centres on a short-term basis wherever feasible for the implementation of specific projects;
4. Urges the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts to secure financial resources for operational activities of the Centres from other United Nations organizations and organs as well as from multinational and bilateral donors;
5. Further urges the Executive Secretary to speed up the implementation of resolution 335 (XIV) on the decentralization of the Commission staff from its headquarters to the Centres.

21(IV). Support to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report on pledges and payments by member States and institutions and on project implementation and expenditure for the period 1981/1982 1/ as well as the report on resources required for the biennium 1984-1985, 2/

Recognizing the efforts made by the Executive Secretary in collection of pledged contributions,

Taking note of the results of the fourth Biennial Pledging Conference, 3/ and reaffirming its support for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development,

1/ E/ECA/CM.9/17 and summary.

2/ E/ECA/CM.9/16 and summary.

3/ E/ECA/CM.9/...

Appreciative of the goodwill of member States and African financial institutions as well as non-African Governments in contributing to the Fund,

1. Thanks those member States, African financial institutions and non-African Governments for their generous contributions to the Fund;

2. Appeals to those member States, African financial institutions and non-African Governments and financial institutions which have not contributed to the Fund to do so as soon as possible in order to provide the full measure of resources needed for the implementation of the high-priority work programme adopted by the Commission within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action; 1/

3. Appeals further to all contributors to the Fund to make prompt payment of their unpaid pledged contributions in order to ensure the implementation of the priority projects of the Commission;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue to keep member States informed of the utilization of the resources of the Fund.

22 (IV). Activities of the secretariat

The Conference of Ministers,

Welcoming the Commission's increasing involvement in efforts to solve the problems impeding the development of the African continent,

Noting with satisfaction the Executive Secretary's constant efforts to promote intra-African co-operation and economic integration and to Africanize the secretariat staff,

Considering the active role played by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and African delegations, who have encouraged the United Nations General Assembly to give all the necessary favourable consideration to requests for financial resources to implement the Commission's priority programmes,

1. Takes the opportunity, on the occasion of the Commission's Silver Jubilee anniversary, to congratulate the Executive Secretary and his colleagues, to express its confidence in the dedicated work being undertaken, and to urge them to continue their efforts in the service of Africa and the international community;

2. Thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his continued support to the Executive Secretary and the Commission and urges him to strengthen that support;

1/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

3. Expresses its appreciation to the African Group and the Group of 77 at the United Nations for their support for the Commission during United Nations General Assembly sessions;

4. Requests the Chairman of the 18th session of the Commission and ninth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers to transmit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of member States of the Commission.

23(IV). Vote of thanks to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply appreciative of the generous and genuinely African hospitality offered by the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia throughout the series of conferences held in the beautiful and historic city of Addis Ababa,

Deeply appreciative also of the facilities and services made available to the Economic Commission for Africa over the past twenty-five years, for all the meetings it has organized,

Aware of the fact that the services provided by the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for the holding of all the meetings in Addis Ababa provide a unique opportunity for the representatives of States members of the Commission and other organizations to exchange views on various aspects of Africa's economic and social situation and proposed measures to expedite Africa's development within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

1. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their warm hospitality and for the facilities and services that they so generously made available to the meetings and those who participated in them;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit this resolution to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia.