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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN AFRICA

Resolution 106(VI) adopted by the Commission at its 112th Plenary  
Meeting on 29 February 1964

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering the concern expressed at its Fifth Session about the need to prepare a report on the problems of building up an adequate telecommunications system in Africa,

Reiterating the importance which the rapid establishment of adequate telecommunication facilities will have in supporting the economic development of the African countries, and bearing in mind the deliberations of the Commission during its present session,

1. Notes with satisfaction the arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation made between the Commission and the International Telecommunication Union as well as the work accomplished by ITU's Planning Committee for Africa (CCITT-CCIR) as part of the plan for a world-wide telecommunications network;

2. Notes further document E/CN.14/249 presented by the secretariat, which explains the steps taken so far by the Commission on this subject, lists the problems met and suggests some immediate as well as permanent long-term solutions,

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue the action taken so far in co-operation with the International Telecommunication Union aimed at the urgent solution of the telecommunications problems in Africa, and in particular:

- (a) To take all the appropriate measures in consultation with member countries and potential donor countries for the establishment of the equipment pool envisaged in document E/CN.14/249;
- (b) To assist member States in the co-ordinated utilization of the various sources of aid available in the field of telecommunications in order to obtain speedily the maximum benefit from such aid;
- (c) To negotiate with the appropriate agencies of the United Nations the provision of the necessary funds for the financing in 1965 and 1966 of the joint ITU/ECA ad hoc mission entrusted with speeding up the implementation of the African telecommunications development programme;
- (d) In close co-operation with ITU, to assist the member countries interested in participating in the pre-investment study relating to the implementation of the long-term, large scale African telecommunications network, in the preparation of the request for financial assistance from the Special Fund of the United Nations in accordance with its guiding principles and criteria;
- (e) To pay special attention to the urgent need for training personnel in the various branches of telecommunications, which is considered a prerequisite for the success of any development programme;
- (f) To ask the International Telecommunication Union to examine the question of tariffs relating to the telecommunications services in Africa.