



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.9/14/SUMMARY
8 February 1983

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Fourth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-22 April 1983

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Eighteenth session of the Commission
and ninth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers of the Commission

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 April - 3 May 1983

Item 12 B. (iii) of the provisional agenda

THIRD CONFERENCE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ECA-SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS
ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive summary*

* The complete version of this report is contained in document ECO/IGO/III/11.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Sub-regional Institutions was held from 29 November to 2 December 1982 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Below, are highlights of the issues and recommendations of that Conference:

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF ECA-SPONSORED REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

2. The Conference stressed the importance of publishing a Bulletin on the activities of the ECA-sponsored institutions as a means of making the institutions better known to African Governments. The Bulletin, which would also emphasize what African Governments stood to gain by becoming members of the institutions, would assist in eliciting increased political and material support for the institutions from African Governments.

3. The Conference decided that the first issue of the Bulletin should be presented to the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

4. The Conference noted with satisfaction the common legal, administrative, management and audit service which ECA was providing to the institutions cheaply at costs below normal commercial rates.

5. The Conference urged ECA to continue to provide such assistance. With respect to legal services, it was decided that those institutions which did not have legal offices of their own, should avoid taking legal actions themselves but should put ECA in the picture right from the beginning so that, when legal problems arose, the ECA Senior Legal Adviser would already be familiar with the background of the matter in question and thus be able to provide legal assistance expeditiously.

III. CONSOLIDATED BIENNIAL REPORT OF ECA-SPONSORED REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE YEARS 1982 AND 1983: PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES INCLUDING PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

6. The Conference noted resolution 451 (XVII) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its eighth meeting which requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to continue to submit to it regularly a biennial consolidated report on the activities and programme of work and priorities of ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions. The next consolidated biennial report on the activities of the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions for the years 1982-1983 and the next consolidated biennial work programmes and priorities of the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions for the biennium 1984-1985 will be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers in the first quarter of 1984.

7. The Conference decided that Chief Executives should send the contributions of their institutions for the two documents to ECA by 31 July 1983 so that the consolidated versions of the two documents could be sent to them for their comments by 30 September 1983.

IV. OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BUFFER FUND FOR ECA-SPONSORED REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

8. In its resolutions 451 (VII), the ECA Conference of Ministers expressed its appreciation with regard to the Buffer Fund which was established by the second Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Regional and Subregional Institutions, held at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 1 to 5 December 1981 and which was to be used to tide over institutions in times of temporary financial need. The eighth meeting of the Conference of Ministers also appreciated the spirit of collective self-reliance whereby the institutions themselves were to make initial contributions to the Buffer Fund, and appealed to all African Governments and institutions to make pledges during the fourth and subsequent pledging conferences of African plenipotentiaries and institutions for the purpose of augmenting the Buffer Fund.

9. The third Conference of Chief Executives reaffirmed its decision to establish the Buffer Fund and decided that rules governing the management and operation of the Buffer Fund should be designed so as to induce more institutions to contribute to the Buffer Fund. It was decided that a committee composed of ADB, the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) and ECA should prepare detailed rules and procedures governing the operation and management of the Buffer Fund in accordance with guidelines which were laid down by the Conference, namely that the contribution of each institution to the Buffer Fund, which is to be known as "BUFESI", should not be less than \$10,000 for each of the years 1983 and 1984; that contributions would also be accepted from African Governments and multilateral financing institutions, the United Nations system, as well as bilateral and private donors; that ECA should mobilize external financial contributions and manage BUFESI until permanent arrangements were made.

V. THE ROLE OF ECA IN STRENGTHENING AND CO-ORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA-SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS

10. In its resolution 451 (XVII), the ECA Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to co-ordinate the activities of the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions and to submit to it regular reports on the matter.

11. With respect to co-operation generally between ECA and the institutions, the Conference agreed that the substantive divisions of ECA which had initiated the establishment of the institutions and whose activities corresponded with those of the institutions should be the focal points for co-operation with the institutions within ECA. Where institutions received no satisfaction from the substantive divisions of ECA or where the matter was important enough, the institutions could get in touch with the Executive Secretary himself and, for this purpose, the Executive Secretary had created a unit in his Cabinet to deal with the matter.

12. It was also pointed out that ECA was ready as always to co-operate in appropriate fields with the institutions to provide them with technical assistance and to mobilize political and financial support for them. It was agreed that the principal publications of ECA should be sent to the institutions on a regular basis so as to strengthen relations between ECA and the institutions and to enable the institutions to keep people informed of what ECA was doing.

13. The Conference agreed that the institutions including the MULPOCs, should strengthen links and contacts among themselves so as to avoid duplication of effort and, in this respect, to assist in moulding the decisions of each other.

14. The Conference agreed that since African institutions had an important role to play in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, an account of how the ECA-sponsored regional and subregional institutions were implementing or intended to implement the Lagos Plan of Action should be submitted to the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. It was also agreed that if the Institutions wished to be better known and recognized in the highest pan-African economic circles and in national ministries, Chief Executives should attend regularly the meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and the policy-making organs of the MULPOCs.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFORM SALARY STRUCTURE FOR ALL ECA-SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS

15. The Conference took note of the background paper presented on this subject and agreed that an indepth study on an equitable salary structure and conditions of service should be undertaken and submitted to a subsequent Conference of Chief Executives.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING/EDUCATION COMPONENTS INTO ON-GOING PLANNED TRAINING OF ALL ECA-SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS

16. The Conference was informed that UNEP had funds available for use in promoting environmental educational components of the activities of the institutions which wished to benefit from this.

17. It was agreed that those institutions which wished to take advantage of this offer should sent their proposals to the Environment Co-ordination Office of ECA by 15 January 1983.

VIII. THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMMES

18. The Conference was informed of the expertise available under the United Nations Volunteers programme, the conditions of service of the Volunteers and how they could assist the institutions. Copies of a related project document were also circulated to the Chief Executives attending the Conference.