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RURAL LIFE AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Resolution 117(VI) adopted by the Commission at its 113th plenary meeting on 2 March 1964

The Economic Commission for Africa,

Having reviewed the work programme and commended the programme proposed by the Executive Secretary, particularly in putting emphasis on rural life and community action as a means of promoting the economic and social development of the rural population with its fullest possible involvement,

Conscious of the need to improve both the levels of living and the welfare of the rural population,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 1915 (XVIII) on community action stressing the importance of community action in promoting economic and social development, particularly in the rural areas,

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to give special attention to the study of specific problems encountered by national Governments in the implementation of rural development programmes and to give assistance to Governments, at their request, in their efforts to generate the development of active rural life and institutions;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, to undertake studies and investigation, on a sub-regional basis, of socio-economic situations encountered in the process of rural development, including:

- (a) Land tenure and land distribution; improvement of land tenure systems as a means of redistributing income on more equitable basis;
- (b) Distribution of water for irrigation and drinking as a means of improving both agricultural production and the health of rural populations;

- (c) Improvement of credit facilities such as credit banks and co-operatives for production purposes;
- (d) Co-ordination of community action in such welfare programmes as home economics, adult education, road building, village construction and resettlement schemes;

3. Recommends that the Executive Secretary and the specialized agencies continue to provide regional advisers and technical assistance experts to the Governments of the region, at their request, to assist them in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes of rural development, embracing rural initiative and community action;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Special Fund, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the specialized agencies and the Governments of the region, to continue to organize as far as possible regional meetings, workshops, seminars, study tours and training courses, to bring together administrators or village workers to exchange ideas on various aspects of the planning, administration, financing and implementation of rural development programmes.