ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Conakry, Guinea, 16–23 April 1984

Item 12 (a) of the Provisional agenda

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON OTHER RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

Summary*

* The present summary constitutes the main document for consideration.
At the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, held in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee Anniversary Celebrations of the Commission at Addis Ababa from 27 April to 2 May 1983, the Conference of Ministers adopted 27 resolutions, in addition to the Addis Ababa Declaration. These resolutions appealed to States-members and the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General and the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, to take measures with a view to the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference of Ministers. The action taken with regard to the resolutions addressed to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly is reported in document E/ECO/CM.10/20. The other resolutions are reported on in two ways: the first set relates to the resolutions which, because of the request for specific action contained in them, are dealt with in separate documents. These are: resolution 462(XVIII): report on the intensive study to ascertain the cause of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of the sector; resolution 463(XVIII): progress report on the perspective studies in the livestock sector; resolution 473(XVIII): report on the Scientific Round Table on the Climatic Situation and Drought in Africa; resolution 467(XVIII): progress report on the establishment of the African Monetary Fund; resolution 477(XVIII): report on the evaluation and harmonization of the activities of the African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU.

The present document concerns the second set, or all other resolutions adopted at the eighteenth session of the Commission, and describes the various actions taken towards their implementation. These are:

Resolution 460 (XVIII): Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of this resolution, the secretariat sent to all member States a questionnaire requesting information on the economic and social situation for the period 1982-1983 (main economic variables, trade, prices, education, health, planning, etc.). This questionnaire was to be returned by 30 September 1983. To date the number of answers received leaves much to be desired and a further appeal to member States to provide the required information seems to be in order.

Resolution 465(XVIII): Freedoms of the air in Africa

In paragraph 2 of this resolution, the Conference of Ministers requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of OAU, AFCAC and the Association of African Airlines, to convene in 1984 a conference of representatives
of African Governments and African Airline companies to examine ways and means of implementing the resolutions on freedoms of the air.

As a result of presentations made by ECA, the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session has allocated £64,920 to enable ECA organize a Conference on Freedoms of the Air in Africa. The Conference will be held in Swaziland from 8 to 12 October 1984. At present ECA, is liaising with AFCAC, AFRAA and ICAO for the organization and servicing of the Conference.

Resolution 468(XVIII): Interregional economic and technical co-operation

In resolution 468(XVIII) the Executive Secretary of the Commission was requested to perform the following functions:

Paragraph 3: to collaborate with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America in intensifying the efforts to assist member States in the implementation of action-oriented proposals in respect of mineral resources development and trade promotion;

Paragraph 4: to continue to render assistance to member States of the Commission in their co-operation with countries of Western Asia and of Asia and the Pacific;

Paragraph 5: 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;

Paragraph 6: 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.

Efforts to assist African and Latin American countries to implement action-oriented proposals in respect of mineral resources development and trade promotion

As a follow-up on the understanding reached at the 1982 meeting between Latin American and African experts on co-operation in the field of mineral resources development, the secretariat, in collaboration with the secretariat of ECLA, prepared a joint project document and submitted it to UNDP for possible funding.
Another area in which co-operation between Africa and Latin America was strengthened during the period under review was transport and communications. The development of this sector is crucial to mineral resources development and trade promotion. In September 1983, the Executive Secretary, accompanied by one of his senior colleagues in charge of transport and communications, paid an official visit to Brazil.

From discussions with government officials, businessmen and public agencies in Brazil, it became clear that over the last two decades Brazil had acquired wide-ranging experience in many fields, and had created or adapted advanced technology which could be successfully applied to the solution of problems facing other developing countries. In particular, it was recognized that there was considerable potential for fruitful co-operation between Africa and Brazil in the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa. At the request of ECA, Brazil agreed in principle to carry out studies on the establishment of an inter-modal master plan for transport in Africa, as well as an appraisal of the implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunications Programme (FANAPTEL). Consequently, a Brazilian delegation visited Addis Ababa in November 1983 to discuss and agree with the secretariat on the terms of reference of the studies to be undertaken by Brazilian experts, within the context of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa.

In addition, the delegation held discussions with staff in the fields of natural resources, industry, development of information systems and socio-economic research on possible areas of co-operation. The Brazilian delegation expressed keen interest in assisting in the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade programme.

Assistance to member States of the Commission in their co-operation with countries of Western Asia and of Asia and the Pacific

During 1983, an exploratory mission consisting of an expert from the ECA-based FAO Food Industries Advisory Group (FIAG) and a staff member of ECA visited nine countries in North Africa and the Middle East, including the Gulf States, which are known for their high consumption of high-quality wood and joinery products, which are at present largely imported from Europe. As there are many countries of Eastern and Southern Africa which could supply high quality wooden furniture and joinery products (instead of logs) on competitive terms, the secretariat recognized the need to explore this untapped potential for stepping up interregional trade between African and Arab countries. The outcome of the study is still being evaluated, but already a number of profitable opportunities have been identified of which businessmen of both sides can take advantage.

The secretariat broke new ground in interregional co-operation when it organized and led a team of experts from 15 African States on a study tour of the People's Republic of China during August/September 1983. Participants visited important installations and centres of biomass conversion, solar energy and mini-hydropower in
different parts of China and attended a seminar at which they discussed with their Chinese counterparts the Chinese experience in the energy field, against the background of their own experience in Africa. The dawning realization of the immense potential for fruitful co-operation which exists between China and Africa has generated considerable enthusiasm on both sides and the secretariat will continue to fulfil its role as an effective liaison between the two sides in the sustainment of the momentum which has been generated. As a step in that direction, it is intended to negotiate a basic agreement between ECA and China, which will both delineate common areas of priority and provide a broad framework within which future collaborative activities can be pursued.

Contribution to the dynamic development of Afro-Arab co-operation

During the period under review, the ECA secretariat and that of OAU participated in the preparation for the meetings of the policy-making organs of Afro-Arab Co-operation, notably the eighth session of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Co-operation and the second session of the Afro-Arab Ministerial Conference (both of which were held in Addis Ababa in December 1983). Preparation of the agenda for these meetings, particularly on matters pertaining to Afro-Arab economic, technical and financial co-operation, was the subject of prior consultation between the ECA and OAU secretariats. In addition, the secretariat invited officials of the League of Arab States (LAS) to visit Addis Ababa for consultations with ECA officials on ways of strengthening Afro-Arab co-operation. These consultations prepared the ground for the Executive Secretary's visit to the headquarters of the League of Arab States in December 1983 during which an Agreement on Co-operation between ECA and LAS was signed.

The secretariat also participated in a United Nations/League of Arab States Meeting in Tunis in June/July 1983. This was a high-level meeting organized pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/17 of 16 November 1982 on co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. The Meeting was co-chaired by the United Nations and the League of Arab States and the fact that it was attended in person by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and by the top executives of a number of both United Nations and Arab specialized agencies, indicated the importance that was attached to it by both sides. The report adopted by the Meeting spelt out specific areas of co-operation in which the competent organizations of both the United Nations and the League of Arab States could work together.

Assistance to member States in conducting multilateral negotiations in the framework of the Group of 77 Caracas Agreement

(i) UNCTAD VI and its preparatory regional and interregional meetings

As in the past, the secretariat continues to play an active role in the ongoing process of international negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order.
In preparation for UNCTAD VI, held in Belgrade in June 1983 and at which it was represented at the highest level, the secretariat attended and serviced the Inter-governmental Expert Meeting and the Conference of African Ministers of Trade held in Libreville in February 1983. The Conference adopted the "Libreville memorandum", stating the African position with regard to the forthcoming UNCTAD VI meeting.

The secretariat attended also the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held in Buenos Aires in March/April 1983 which reviewed the whole question of South-South co-operation, including in particular the Caracas Programme of Action. The Buenos Aires Meeting adopted a common position of the Group of 77 regarding UNCTAD VI which incorporated the African view as expressed in the Libreville memorandum.

(ii) Meeting on the Multisectoral Information Network, New York, May 1983

The Meeting was an informal consultative meeting of experts called jointly by the special Unit of TCDC of UNDP and the Group of 77 in New York to discuss a report on a proposed multisectoral information network for TCDC prepared by UNDP.

The report was the subject of intensive discussion and close scrutiny by the small assembly of experts which included four additional consultants invited in their personal capacity because of their wide knowledge and experience with the establishment and management of data exchange systems. Questions raised revolved around such issues as the proper definition and identification of required TCDC information, the role of existing systems both within the United Nations and elsewhere, the nature, role and scope of INRES, the relatively meagre resources of the Group of 77 secretariat, and the need for the proposed multisectoral information network that would not duplicate already existing systems. Emphasis was laid, on the one hand, on the contrast between the technological sophistication of modern satellite telecommunication systems used by advanced countries, and, on the other, the extremely poor situation in Africa where most countries cannot afford even basic telex and telephone facilities.

(iii) Meeting of the Inter-governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee of the Group of 77, Tunis, September, 1983

The secretariat attended the meeting and presented a note on ECA activities on ECDC/TCDC. The note covered subregional, regional and interregional activities in which the Commission is currently involved. An outline of future activities and suggested ways of strengthening ECDC/TCDC was also presented.

(iv) Meeting on Commodity Markets Surveillance, Addis Ababa, October 1983

The secretariat hosted and serviced this meeting which was attended by a number of delegates from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe (Romania).
The meeting discussed three important papers: one entitled "Primary commodities in the world economy"; the second entitled "Commodity market structures, pricing policies and their impact on African trade"; and the third paper on "Pricing mechanisms in commodity markets".

The meeting adopted a number of recommendations aimed at improving the bargaining power of developing countries through:

(a) The exchange of market information, with a view to undertaking various studies at every level of product of interest to them for export purpose;

(b) The establishment of a suitable mechanism to co-ordinate all important aspects of activities in the field of commodities and raw materials;

(c) The creation of producers' associations and trade associations among developing countries to counter-balance the domination of transnational corporations (TNCs);

(d) The formulation of export credit guarantee and insurance schemes;

(e) The integration of multilateral co-operation schemes or agreements among producing developing countries into national plans and policies.

Meeting on Tendering in Development Projects Undertaken by Developing Countries, Rio de Janeiro, December 1983

At the request of the Government of Brazil, a representative of ECA attended a meeting of the Group of 77 held in Rio de Janeiro from 5-9 December 1983. This meeting discussed issues concerning development projects and international public tenders. For this, and at the request of the Government of Brazil, which was organizing the meeting, ECA prepared and presented a paper entitled:

"Problems of a juridical nature which have occurred with respect to the participation of companies from developing countries in the planning, implementation or operation of development projects in the third world, as well as in respect of the production of equipment for such projects and legislation in developing countries, which affects the participation of foreign companies as suppliers of services and manufacturers of equipment required for the planning, implementation or operation of development projects."

The meeting adopted several recommendations designed to facilitate the participation of companies from developing countries in the planning, implementation and operation of development projects, including the supply of raw material and equipment, in other developing countries. These recommendations relate inter alia to:
(a) Survey and inventory of the potential supply and demand of engineering services, capital goods, as well as the respective basic financing conditions in each country of the Group of 77;

(b) The promotion of the exchange of specifications and bidding terms on development projects as soon as possible among firms from countries of the Group of 77;

(c) The establishment of a data bank;

(d) The exchange of information on an ad hoc basis through the direct delivery of documentation among the Missions of the Group of 77 in New York (and/or other meeting points where a great number of diplomatic missions of the Group of 77 are concentrated);

(e) Simplification of the bureaucratic procedures so as to facilitate the participation of the Group of 77 countries in public tenders;

(f) The formation of multinational consortia of the Group of 77 countries to participate in very large bids to stimulate the hiring of consultants and consultancy firms from developing countries by the international financing bodies;

(g) The full acceptance of the guarantees furnished by central financial bodies of the Group of 77 countries;

(h) Preference for proposals presented by firms coming from the Group of 77 when other conditions are equal;

(i) The harmonization of technical norms and quality control standards on regional and Group of 77 levels.

Resolution 469(XVIII): African statistical services

It may be recalled that the resolution urged Governments to take specific actions to improve statistical infrastructures and identify data applications as a basis for determining priorities for data collection and analysis, etc. It also recommended that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should, inter alia, continue existing efforts to co-ordinate technical co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information and extend international statistical recommendations to include guidelines on data analysis and applications.

A number of follow-up actions have been taken in the implementation of this resolution. The attention of all national statistical and planning agencies have been drawn to it and it is to be discussed further at the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (Addis Ababa, 5–14 March 1984).
At the seventeenth session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities in June 1983, a formal presentation of the resolution was made by the Chief of the ECA Statistics Division. The points of concern, which were highlighted to this inter-agency body, were the requests for continuing efforts to co-ordinate technical co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information and the extension of international statistical recommendations to include guidelines on data analysis and applications. It was pointed out that both requests call for greater inter-agency co-ordination and the second would also involve non-statistical agencies. The resolution was generally well received even though there was some concern that guidelines on data analysis and applications might well increase the workload of some of the agencies or may be beyond their present terms of reference. It was stressed that both requests should also be regarded as forming part of the national government responsibility.

At a meeting in Luxembourg in June 1983 of the steering committee which considered the draft report on the EEC/ACP/ECA study on statistical training needs in Africa, the resolution was again discussed and it was agreed that it could serve as a useful basis for further efforts to develop training.

It should be stressed that the part of the resolution dealing with government action can only be implemented satisfactorily if governments insist on the preparation of specific national work programmes in the fields of planning and statistics with precise outputs to be delivered by specified deadlines. This approach will be discussed at the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

Resolution 470 (XVIII): Perspective studies in African countries

In compliance with the provision of Resolution 470(XVIII), the ECA secretariat has circulated the study to African Governments, universities and research institutions, with a view to stimulating initiatives and actions for the efficient implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in African countries. As the study is to be updated every five years in order to serve as a tool for assessing the degree of implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, it was intensively discussed by the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The Conference made clear and far-reaching recommendations regarding the expansion of the activities on multisectoral quantitative studies and their implementation in African countries.

Resolution 471 (XVIII): Africa and the ongoing international economic negotiations

Pursuant to resolution 471(XVIII), the following major international negotiating conferences have taken place:

(a) The sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) The annual meetings of the Board of Governors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
(c) The negotiations between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP) with the European Economic Community (EEC) and the successor Agreement to the Lome II Convention; and

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

Details of the activities of the secretariat in providing technical backstopping and advisory services to the African groups participating in these negotiations are given below.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Trade preparatory to the sixth session of UNCTAD was held in Libreville, Gabon, from 24 to 26 February 1983. After a thorough examination of the documents prepared by the secretariat, the Conference adopted the Libreville Memorandum on Trade and Development (E/ECA/OAU/TRADE/1) and a package of draft decisions on all major issues on the agenda of UNCTAD VI.

To assist the African group in their task of defining the problems and mapping out a strategy and in their conduct of negotiations, the joint secretariats of ECA and OAU organized and serviced the extraordinary session of the African Group in Libreville. Documentation were prepared and presented on all substantive issues. The joint secretariat was in Buenos Aires throughout the period of the meeting of the Group of 77, providing technical service to the African Group. This service was made available to the African Group throughout the course of UNCTAD VI negotiations as well.

Following the regional preparatory meetings of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the fifth ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 met in Buenos Aires from 28 March to 10 April 1983. At this Meeting, the positions of the constituent groups were reconciled, integrated and adopted as the common position of the Group of 77 in two documents. These were the Buenos Aires Declaration, which was basically a policy declaration and called for dialogue between the various groups towards achieving a consensus, and the Buenos Aires Platform, which consisted of resolutions and decisions on all substantive issues on the UNCTAD VI agenda, forming the basis for negotiations between the developing and industrialized countries. Thus, in Belgrade, the developing countries, members of the Group of 77, were, unlike in the past sessions of UNCTAD, well prepared at a time when the developed countries were too preoccupied with their economic recession, unemployment and other domestic problems to respond in a mutually satisfactory way.

Although a number of meetings were held among the developed countries including the well-publicized Williamsburg Summit and those of the centrally-planned economies of Eastern Europe, the developed countries had neither the desire to seriously negotiate nor the inclination to grant any concession to the Group of 77 on the major issues of concern for the developing countries. Therefore, in reality, there was no meaningful
dialogue between the developing and developed countries at UNCTAD VI. On many issues there was a widening of the gap between South and North. The developed countries of Group B responded to the South's conciliatory approaches with their traditional tactics of obstruction, while the centrally-planned-economy countries of Eastern Europe provided no constructive input except on issues of basic interest to themselves, where they actively led the developing countries to attack Group B countries.

The 1983 Annual General Meeting of the IMF/IBRD

As in the past, the Working Party of the African Governors of IMF and IBRD met in Addis Ababa, from 25 to 29 July 1983, to prepare for the Annual General Meeting of IMF/IBRD at which the joint secretariats of ECA and OAU assisted the African Governors in the preparation of the draft memoranda addressed to the President of IBRD and the Managing Director of IMF. Furthermore, in the course of the negotiations during the Annual Meeting of IMF/IBRD, the staff of both ECA and OAU was available to assist the African countries to participate effectively in the negotiations.

The Meeting which took place in Washington from 27 to 30 September 1983 had four major issues before it. The first was the financial flows and levels of lending by multilateral institutions and the implications of their capital base. Towards this end, the World Bank was invited to put forward proposals with due regard to financial prudence, that would allow an expansion of its lending programme. It is expected that, as a result of this initiative, new proposals will be made during the Eighth General Review of Quotas of the Fund.

The second issue concerned the status and funding of the International Development Association (IDA). Developing countries feel that the importance of IDA in financing development programmes was being undermined by the new proposals for the sixth replenishment of IDA, which resulted in the reduction of the annual IDA commitments by the major contributors, such as the United States. This situation had unhealthy implications for negotiations of the contribution of the seventh replenishment of IDA, which is under way.

The third issue was external indebtedness. The Governors pointed out that, in this particular case, many smaller borrowers, mostly among the poorer countries in sub-Saharan Africa, rescheduled their external debt to official creditors through the "Paris Club" in 1981 and 1982. The Governors recognized that the rescheduling process had been accompanied by an increase in service charges, because the interest rate charged on the rescheduled debt was higher than on earlier loans. For those countries, the Governors recommended that, in their adjustment programmes, they should keep in mind their external payments, so that they would maintain the capacity to pay their debts and avoid a perpetual rescheduling process. Lastly, the Governors recognized that a lasting recovery in the world economy was crucial to the successful solution of the financing and adjustment problems, without going into the examination of possibilities of institutional reforms as called for, in particular, by the developing countries during UNCTAD VI negotiations in Belgrade.
Negotiations on ACP-EEC Successor Agreement to Lome II

As part of its continuing assistance to the African countries, the secretariat provided assistance to the African group in the ACP in Brussels and to the ACP secretariat in the form of studies and advisory services. To this end, prior to the formal opening of the negotiations for the Successor Agreement to Lome II Convention on 6 October 1983 in Luxembourg, the Secretariat undertook preparatory work in collaboration with the ACP secretariat. Two staff members participated in the preliminary meeting in Brussels in May and October 1983. The efforts were directed towards formulating objectives, strategy and sharing of responsibilities regarding preparation of technical data and information likely to assist the African Group in the course of their negotiations. A study entitled "Stabilization of Export Earnings (STABEX) under the ACP-EEC Convention of Lome II: A preliminary appraisal", was submitted to the Government of Ethiopia at their request, as an input to the work of the ACP.

The secretariat also analysed the ACP Secretariat's "Memorandum on the forthcoming negotiations on a new ACP-EEC Agreement" and made exhaustive comments and proposals. During the course of the second round of negotiations in January/February 1984, the secretariat was also represented at senior level. The following three papers were prepared and presented:

(a) "Suggested negotiated strategy and techniques on regional/intra-ACP Co-operation", prepared in response to the request by ACP Working Group No. 8 on Regional Intra-ACP Co-operation in the framework of a Successor Agreement to Lome II Convention;

(b) "Working Group No. 8: Suggested Institutional Machinery/or Regional, Intra-ACP Co-operation"/ACP/00114/84/MEG (Annex), prepared in response to request from the ACP Committee of Ambassadors negotiating with EEC for the Successor Agreement to the Lome II Convention;

(c) "Questions of Guaranteed Markets and Remunerative prices for Exports of ACP Products".

In addition to the above studies, work is in progress on the study: "Assessment of ACP-EEC Trade and Financial co-operation under Yaounde and Lome Conventions", jointly undertaken by ECA and OAU.

Negotiations for a code of conduct on transnational corporations

Since the negotiations started, some degree of understanding has been reached on a few aspects of the code such as the obligations of TNCs in matters relating to consumer and environmental protection; ownership and control; effects on balance of payments of operations by TNCs; respect by TNCs of socio-cultural and development objectives of the host countries; and disclosure of information by transnational corporations.
Despite this progress, widely divergent views continue to exist on some of the issues considered to be fundamental to the economic interests of the parties involved in the negotiations on the draft code. Among the outstanding issues where major differences exist include the "Preamble and objectives", "Definitions and scope of application", "Activities of transnational corporations" including the question of southern Africa and "Treatment of transnational corporations". Consequently, the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the eighth session of the Commission, decided in its resolution 1982/68 of 27 October 1982, that a special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations should be held to discuss exclusively the outstanding issues of the code. Such a session would be open for participation of all States Members of the United Nations. The session duly took place in two sittings in March and May 1983 in New York.

In order to assist the African countries to participate effectively in these negotiations, the ECA secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, organized the second African Regional Meeting on a Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations.1/ The purpose of the meeting, which was attended by 22 countries, was to brief the African countries on the progress which had been achieved in the work towards the formulation of the code. This meeting acted as a follow-up on the first African regional meeting on the same subject which was held in Addis Ababa in 1977. 2/ A paper was prepared by the secretariat and presented at the Addis Ababa meeting analysing the issues of the Code from the African perspective.3/

Resolution 472(XVIII): Women in development in Africa

Paragraph 5 of this resolution calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit the document on the institutional framework governing relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development to 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. The document has been sent to member States for comments. Replies have started coming. They are being compiled and will be submitted for consideration to the fifth meeting of ARCC, from 16 to 18 April 1984, in Conakry.

Paragraph 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. Contacts have been made with OAU/PAHO and ARCC and discussions are continuing. A status report will be presented to the fifth meeting of ARCC, from 16 to 18 April 1984, in Conakry.

**Resolution 474(XVIII): Strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters**

For the implementation of ECA resolution 474 (XVIII), the secretariat made a proposal at the second meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, held in Addis Ababa, 16 to 19 January 1984. In considering the progress report on environmental matters (E/ECA/ENV/14), the Joint Committee accepted a questionnaire to be sent to all ECA member States for the preparation of a "Directory of national environmental specialists and list of institutions on environmental matters in Africa". The directory will provide needed information for the exchange of expertise in order to promote TCDC for solving urgent and serious environmental problems in any African country in the spirit of self-reliance.

**Resolution 475(XVIII): Human settlements**

Paragraph 5 of resolution 475(XVIII) requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps, in consultation with member States, UNDP and 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.

The secretariat held a working meeting with the Chief of the UNDP Liaison Office in Addis Ababa and drew his attention to the need to continue the building materials and construction industries development programme and the need for continued UNDP assistance. The Chief of the UNDP Liaison Office expressed the satisfaction of UNDP with the programme but stated that UNDP no longer favoured regional activities.

The secretariat also held discussions with certain organizations with a view to determining the exact modalities of co-operation. These organizations are:

- The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat) for the reformulation of building codes and pilot projects in local building materials;
- FAO, for the promotion of local building materials;
- ILO, for preparing training programmes in building;
- UNESCO, for techniques of cost reduction in building materials.
Resolution 476(XVIII): Development of cartographic services in Africa

This resolution has six components. The following actions were undertaken in implementing them.

Due note has been taken of the decision to convene the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1986. Letters were sent out to all member States inviting them to make voluntary offers to host the Conference. Only Liberia and Algeria responded and made enquiries about the financial implications. No positive offer has as yet been received from either of them. Failing this, the sixth Conference will be convened at the ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa in 1986.

The sensitization missions organized by the Governing Councils of the Regional Centres for Cartography and Remote Sensing, in which the secretariat played an active part, have resulted in greater awareness among a large number of member States through their active participation in the Centres. In 1983 Cameroon deposited its instrument of adhesion to the Agreement establishing the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys, Ille-Ife (Nigeria). Payments of participating members' contributions to the budgets of the Centres are becoming regular. The secretariat also assisted in preparing project-oriented budgets.

With a view to the preparation of a directory of cartographic training centres in Africa, and also for the purpose of appraising the training requirements of each member State, the secretariat, as well as the African Association of Cartography, sent out questionnaires to all member States. Due to the poor response, the assignment was postponed until the 1984-1985 biennium.

The secretariat assisted the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing, Nairobi, in preparing a project document which was submitted to the OAU for financing. The Centre, together with the secretariat, continues to search for "sister countries" to help with the doppler positioning observations in those member States still without donors.

In accordance with the request of the Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, the secretariat conveyed to the Acting Secretary-General of OAU the wishes of the Conference that 1986 should be declared the "Year of Cartography in Africa". It is working out the modalities and activities during the period with the African Association of Cartography.

In December 1983, the secretariat convened and serviced the meeting of the Conference of Chief Executives of ECA Regional and Subregional Institutions, which was hosted by the Government of Senegal in Dakar. The group on Earth Sciences, consisting largely of the Directors-General of the institutions with responsibilities for surveying
and mapping, including remote sensing, met and discussed the issue of harmonization of the structures of the institutions with overlapping disciplines in order to improve their viability and effectiveness. An ad hoc Committee appointed by the ninth ECA Conference of Ministers, in which the Secretariat is strongly represented, is also looking into the same issue. The ad hoc Committee will be reporting to the ECA Conference of Ministers in Conakry in April 1984.

Resolution 478(XVIII): Development of resources-of-the-sea

No resources were made available to ECA by the General Assembly for the implementation of the resources-of-the-sea programme. The General Assembly, of course, acted on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Economic and Social Council, which endorsed an earlier recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-third session that the Council and the General Assembly should adopt a new programme in marine affairs, as revised, for inclusion as chapter 25 in the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-89. The Council, in its resolution 1983/48 on Marine Affairs, also requested the Secretary-General to continue the programme within existing budgetary resources. Since no resources had earlier been allocated to the resources-of-the-sea programme at ECA at the time of its initiation, in 1976, by the General Assembly [see ECA resolution 340 (XIV)], none was made available for the implementation for the 1984/85 programme at ECA.

Resolution 479 (XVIII): Strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs)

Paragraph 1: Implementation of resolution 37/138 of General Assembly establishing 13 professional and 6 local posts for MULPOCs under the regular budget of the United Nations

The secretariat wishes to report that in the intervening year since regular budget posts were established for the four sub-Saharan MULPOCs, sustained efforts have been deployed to recruit suitable staff to fill the MULPOC posts. The choice of candidates has not been easy, given the long recruitment process and the rigorous selection criteria generally applied in pursuit of the high professional standards of the United Nations Secretariat. Nevertheless, we have successfully managed, to-date, to fill almost all the posts.

Paragraph 2: Financial support from UNDP to the operational activities of the MULPOCs during the 1982-86 programming cycle

With the exception of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, which is co-ordinating a US$1.4 million multi-agency programme of assistance to CEPGL for the implementation of 10 projects in the field of trade and finance, industry, energy, transport and communications and agriculture, not much has been achieved by way of implementing this provision. UNDP has made it clear that funds could be made available to inter-governmental organizations
for specific projects for which a MULPOC could act as executing agency. The secretariat is currently holding consultations with IGOs in each subregion in order to identify those projects either from the MULPOC work programme or from an IGO's work programme that could be presented to UNDP for funding for which ECA through the MULPOCs would act as executing agency.

Paragraph 3: Pledges of member States to UNTFAD. Part of their contribution for the MULPOCs and secondment of staff at member States' cost to the MULPOCs on a short-term basis for the implementation of specific projects

(a) During the fourth Pledging Conference held in Addis Ababa, on 2 May 1983, the following specific pledges were made in favour of the MULPOCs:

- Gisenyi-based MULPOC: Rwanda: US$15,000
  Zaire: US$35,000
- Lusaka-based MULPOC: Kenya: US$25,000
  Benin: US$ 2,500
- Niamey-based MULPOC: Benin: US$ 2,500
  Niger: CFAF 6 million (US$16,529)
- Tangier-based MULPOC: Tunisia: Dinar 20,000 (US$30,000) for the development and promotion of Afro-Arab trade and co-operation
- Yaoundé-based MULPOC: Cameroon: US$39,404

It is worth mentioning here that a number of countries including Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to cite only a few, were not able at the time of making their pledges to give details as to how their contribution should be used. Others such as Congo and Gabon, promised to disclose their country's pledges and their intended use later on, through diplomatic channels.

(b) With regard to the secondment of staff by member States, at their own costs, to serve on a short-term basis in the implementation of specific projects, little has been achieved so far.

Paragraph 4: Intensification of efforts to secure financial resources for operational activities of the MULPOCs from within the United Nations system as well as from multinational and bilateral donors

Within the United Nations system the secretariat has been in close contact with sister agencies such as FAO, UNCTAD/ITC and UNIDO in order to find out ways and means of implementing together with them some of the MULPOC activities. For example, FAO has been contributing in the implementation of the CARIS programme in the Yaoundé MULPOC countries and is prepared to do so in the Niamey MULPOC subregion; FAO is also contributing financially towards the implementation of the food security programme for CEPGL countries. However, in spite of the secretariat's efforts in exploring alternative sources of financial support for MULPOCs (multinational and bilateral), not much has been achieved so far.
Paragraph 5: Decentralization of the Commission's staff from its headquarters to the IULPOCs

During the period under review, the secretariat concentrated its efforts on the recruitment drive for the IULPOCs, bearing in mind that the decentralization of staff to the IULPOCs, whether on transfer or secondment, would be best effected after the professional core staff in each IULPOC — particularly the MULPOC directors — were firmly in the saddle. Since this exercise has been now completed the secretariat is determined to find the best ways and means of implementing this provision of the resolution.

Resolution 430 (XVIII): United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

It should be noted that since its inception, pledged contributions amounting to US$5,491,414 have been deposited by African countries and US$2,105,637 representing the unpaid contributions are still outstanding from the African countries. As in the past, the Executive Secretary is reminding the countries during his official visits, as well as through the embassies in Addis Ababa and the UNDP offices and also the ministries of planning in those countries. Countries are requested to deposit as soon as possible their unpaid contributions in order to ensure the execution of priority projects adopted by the Commission. The report on the progress of the implementation of the programmes during 1983 as well as the status of paid and unpaid contributions is made available to the participants.

Resolution 431 (XVIII): Measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in African Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

In paragraph 7 of resolution 481 (XVIII), the Ministers requested ECA, in collaboration with the lead agencies, to assist the African LDCs (a) in undertaking upon request by Governments, studies aimed at enabling the African LDCs to mobilize domestic resources for development and (b) in establishing national follow-up mechanisms to the review meetings and monitoring of the implementation of the SNPA.

With respect to the studies on measures for domestic resource mobilization, the secretariat prepared a project document for bilateral technical co-operation arrangements entitled: "Country studies on measures for the effective mobilization and utilization of domestic resources for development financing in African least developed countries", which will be submitted by ECA's Technical Assistance Co-ordination and Operations Office (TACOO) to interested donors for financing. The immediate objectives of the project studies will be (i) to identify the problems associated with, and all possible sources of domestic resources in order to enable these countries to devise appropriate measures for mobilizing these resources and to plan and draw up investment programmes based on concrete internal resource bench marking; and (ii) to examine the flow of external resources to the African LDCs.
With regard to the establishment of national follow-up mechanisms, the secretariat forwarded the report of the third Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs, along with the resolutions, to UNDP and the World Bank. Consultations were held on the best possible approaches in setting up an appropriate machinery at the country level for the follow-up of the review meeting. In order to give practical effect to the consultations, the ECA secretariat expects the African LDCs to submit official requests for the establishment of their respective national follow-up mechanisms. A letter has been sent to the African LDCs which are organizing review meetings to inform them of the availability of the secretariat to assist.

Resolution 482(XVIII): First round of review meetings for the African least
developed countries

In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 482(XVIII), the ECA Executive Secretary submitted to the plenary of UNCTAD VI, the proposal of the third Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs, to extend the deadline for convening the review meetings beyond 1983. The proposal was endorsed by UNCTAD VI and recommended to the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly to allow those African LDCs, which had not done so, to organize their country review meetings in 1984 without prejudice to the global mid-term review in 1985.