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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Sixth session

COMMITTEE II

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE FOUR MEETINGS

held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa,
from 21 February to 29 February 1964

Chairman:

Mr. KAMITATU (Ghana)

Secretary:

Mr. ESPERANCKOV (U.S.S.R.)

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FIFTH MEETING

Friday, 21 February 1964, at 3.15 p.m., in New Lisbon, Portugal

Chairman: Mr. KAMITATU (Congo, Leopoldville)

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Zayati (Tunisia) was elected Vice-Chairman.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A DRAFTING COMMITTEE

A Drafting Committee was established, composed of Mr. Savi de Tové (Togo), Mr. Sebti (Morocco) and Mr. Bako (Nigeria).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN AFRICA AND REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (agenda item 5)

(b) Social development (E/CN.14/241, 244, 269)

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) described the new structure of the Social Affairs Section of the secretariat, its proposed objectives for the years 1964-1965 and the years ahead, and how it hoped to attain those objectives. The Section would be glad to have the Committee's comments, advice and instructions on the new phase of its work. In particular, the Committee might wish to adopt a recommendation that a standing committee on social development be established.

The structure of the Social Affairs Section had been reorganized and its objectives and programme of work and priorities redefined. The Section would in future consist of four interrelated operational units: the Social Investigation Unit, the Social Welfare Unit, the Social Policy and Development Unit, and the Rural Life and Institutions Unit.

The Social Investigation Unit would be responsible for: general and country case studies of patterns of social service organization and administration in the African region; investigations into organizational and operational problems of specific urban and rural welfare services to determine the scope of the problem, the measures to be taken and methods of operation; studies of problems of social origin affecting industrialization or arising from industrialization or urbanization, or both; and the production of monographs from the studies and investigations undertaken.

The Social Welfare Unit would concentrate wholly on operational problems and projects of social work organization and administration. It would be responsible for: arranging regional meetings, training courses and workshops; maintaining close relations with national correspondents on social work appointed by ECA; and maintaining close liaison with international voluntary social work agencies with which ECA had established regular contact. In 1964 a regional meeting on social defence would be organized as a joint ECA/BSA (Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations) project; in 1965 the Expert Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development would be convened to consider the types of social welfare services needed in Africa; and it was hoped that a workshop on the organization and administration of family, child and youth services would also take place that year. Plans had been made for a regional workshop on the organization and administration of programmes for the rehabilitation of the disabled and for a study tour on social defence, to take place in 1966.

The Social Policy and Development Unit would be advised and assisted by representatives of the specialized agencies and of UNICEF and would work in close collaboration with the ECA/FAO Joint Division of Agriculture. It was expected that a regional adviser on social development would be appointed to assist the Unit. The Unit would be responsible for: assistance to governments in the planning of social programmes needed to accelerate economic development; comparative analysis and evaluation of social aspects of African development plans; collection and exchange of information on the experience of ECA member countries, and other countries with regard to social policies and programmes dealing with the problems of urbanization; assistance and advice to the Section's Social Welfare and Rural Life and Institutions Units in that programming; and advice to the region in all social welfare service fields. The programme of the Unit would involve co-operation with UNICEF and WHO in defining the problems of high infant and child mortality rates, particularly in rural Africa, the main communicable diseases afflicting African children, and the appropriate measures to be taken in meeting the health needs of African children.

The Rural Life and Institutions Unit had formerly been known as the Community Development Unit. Its work and philosophy had been refashioned, and in future it would concentrate on assisting governments to develop active rural life and rural institutions in order to meet contemporary needs, with the fullest possible involvement of the local rural people themselves, and on undertaking studies and investigations of

socio-economic situations encountered by national and local governments in the process of rural development. The new policy was based on knowledge of the basic contemporary needs of rural communities in Africa and on the wish to find ways and means whereby the levels of living and welfare of rural people could be improved through their increased participation in development. The basic contemporary needs of rural African communities were: the need for sufficient land and improvement of the land to ensure a minimum decent living for the peasant and his family; water for irrigation and for drinking; adequate credit facilities for production purposes; access roads to markets; health and satisfactory nutrition; and schools and educational facilities. The Unit's work would consist of: field studies in depth of socio-economic problems encountered by member governments in the development and improvement of rural life and institutions to meet contemporary needs and possibilities, including the study of agrarian structure, rural resettlement and land reform, rural water supplies, agricultural extension, nutrition and health extension, home economics, co-operatives and rural credit; the collection and exchange of information; assistance to member governments in the planning, implementation and evaluation of unified rural development programmes; and regional meetings, including workshops and seminars, and also study tours for administrators and directors of national, regional or local unified rural development programmes.

The role of the Section with respect to the training of social workers would gradually shift from actual training projects to improving existing schools and institutes, preferably on a sub-regional basis to enable each sub-region to meet its own training needs. The immediate objectives of the Section would be: the establishment of sub-regional training centres for social work; training of instructors in social work and specialized training of administrative, professional and technical staff responsible for the organization and operation of social welfare programmes; and assistance to individual member governments in the organization of periodic in-service training courses for social workers, including voluntary and auxiliary workers.

In 1964, a technical training course on the institutional treatment of juvenile offenders would be organized at the Cairo National Centre of Social and Criminological Research. A second training course for instructors in social work and administrators of in-service training programmes had also been scheduled.

A directory of social welfare activities in Africa would be compiled, together with a register of institutes and schools of social work in Africa. It would be the constant concern of the various units of the Social Affairs Section, working as a team, to review from time to time the various objectives and programmes outlined.

Mr. BROUCH (Kenya) wondered whether it really was necessary to set up a new standing committee on social development. There had been a move at the fifth session to reduce the number of standing committees.

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) observed that there was as yet no standing committee in the field of social affairs.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia), supported by Mr. BAKO (Nigeria), welcomed the reorganization of the Social Affairs Section, but felt that the consideration of the question of setting up a standing committee should be deferred.

Mr. SEBTI (Morocco) said that the question should be discussed by the Committee at the current session. Although he was not for the time being taking a stand either for or against the establishment of a standing committee on social development, he believed that the consideration of such a matter should not be indefinitely deferred, because of the many and varied problems for Africa currently arising and likely to arise in the future with regard to the social situation. The subject might, however, be further discussed at a future meeting of the Committee by way of having further light thrown upon it.

Mr. KONE (Mali) said that his delegation could not express an opinion on the matter until it had had time to reflect upon the statement made by the representative of the secretariat.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that the question should be discussed at once.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion on the Social Affairs Section should be adjourned in order to allow delegations time to reflect upon the statement by the representative of the secretariat.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of UNESCO to introduce the paper on adult literacy and economic and social development (E/CN.14/269).

Mr. OCHS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) emphasized the importance of literacy as a factor in economic and social development. Widespread literacy was crucial for the emergence of a modern society, and the absence of adequate adult literacy activities was likely to be conducive to the failure of development plans. The fact that at one and the same session the General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the Development Decade and another on co-operation for the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world was significant.

The document under discussion examined the illiteracy situation in Africa, suggested ways of remedying it and studied the role of literacy in development. It ended with a series of recommendations to which delegations, it was hoped, would pay particular attention.

Any recommendations the Committee might make would be submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Education which UNESCO was organizing at Abidjan in March 1964, and would be a valued contribution to the planning of education.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Congo (Leopoldville), said he strongly supported a campaign for adult literacy along the lines recommended in the paper presented by UNESCO, but would appreciate clarification on three points: whether the responsibility for action was to lie with individual governments; whether countries were expected to contribute 5 per cent of their national budget towards financing the campaign, for it would be difficult for countries like his own, whose budgets were already heavily committed for education, to make such a large contribution; whether UNESCO had, in co-operation with ECA, considered ways of obtaining finance for the programme.

Mr. OCHS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) replied that while his organization would give all the help it could by making available its experience elsewhere and by co-ordinating activities in the regions, the campaign would essentially rely on national action, because of the large number of problems which were peculiar to particular countries and could therefore only be handled by the countries themselves. The figure of 5 per cent referred to national education budgets. Negotiations on finance were in progress between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO.

Mr. THOMAS (Guinea) stressed the importance of including both full child education and adult literacy in any scheme for economic and social development. There could be no progress without literate adults, because only literates could acquire the necessary technical and professional qualifications. The ECA should be asked to co-operate with UNESCO and OAU in launching a campaign for literacy in Africa and in providing experts to help governments with their special problems.

Mr. KONE (Mali) suggested that together with the recommendations contained in the final paragraph of the document (E/CN.14/269) consideration should be given to the statement of the Addis Ababa Conference on the Development of Education in Africa quoted in paragraph 23 of that document.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that the importance of literacy in economic and social development was particularly relevant to the African countries. He suggested that the question be deferred to the next meeting because he understood that a draft resolution on the subject was being contemplated by certain delegations. He would consider the details of the item when the draft was before the Committee.

Mr. EDOKPAYI (Secretariat) introduced chapter XIV of the Report on the World Social Situation^{1/} dealing with development in Africa (E/CN.14/244). During the 1950's, the period covered in the document, there had been substantial, if uneven, progress, particularly in education and health, while per caput income had risen to over \$120 and living standards generally had greatly improved. But levels of social advancement still remained pitifully low.

The traditional social structure had been modified by the expansion of a money economy, the rise of new political systems and the spread of Western education, culture and ideas. New social and economic groups had grown up which no longer had their roots in the traditional ties of kinship. Greater emphasis was being placed on the individual, and the character of family and group leadership was changing. Efforts had been made to adapt traditional African institutions and ways of life to Western systems, while retaining the essence of traditional social structure and communal fellowship. The process had not, however, been easy, and African social life had shown considerable resistance to Western-induced forces of change. The problem now facing the region was how to bring about the adaptation necessary to achieve a higher standard of living with the least possible social cost and delay.

^{1/} United Nations Publication, Sales No: 63.IV.4.

There were four main fields in which the social framework had changed. First, population increase had been much greater in the towns and, as a result, urban social services had been strained, while the exodus of youth from rural areas had affected progress in agriculture and produced social tensions in some countries. Secondly, though there had been a marked expansion in education at all levels, the demand for it had grown faster than the supply of facilities, and African governments had had to adopt ambitious educational programmes at the expense of other essential services. There was a shortage of funds and of trained teachers and a need to plan school curricula and teaching methods to meet African requirements. In some countries, failure to integrate educational programmes with development planning had resulted in a new problem of unemployment among school-leavers. Thirdly, the health situation had greatly improved through programmes of preventive and curative medicine, but health conditions generally were still poor and facilities were generally inadequate. Fourthly, in food production and consumption, the production of subsistence crops had expanded less than that of export crops, but had kept pace with growth in population. The quality of food, however, had not been good, and although there had been no widespread famine, seasonal deficiencies in calorie consumption and in certain vitamins had been regular features especially in the savanna areas. Nutritional health had not greatly improved and more research and education were needed.

Progress achieved in the rural situation had been due mainly to the establishment of new agricultural organizations and to rural development programmes involving participation by the people. Various types of land reform had been carried out in different countries, supported by credit facilities, co-operative organizations and technical advisory services, and community development programmes had been launched, ranging from the provision of adult education facilities to the stimulation of new attitudes favourable to social and economic change.

In urban societies there had been three major areas of social change. First, the level of wage employment had risen, although in some countries the total labour force remained less than 10 per cent of the total working population. An increasing

number of women had entered the labour market and there was a high level of unemployment and under-employment among urban people. Efforts had been made to increase measures for stabilizing wage labour. Secondly, in housing and urbanization there had been relatively little progress owing to the phenomenal growth in urban population and the backlog of overcrowded and dilapidated housing. Governments had, however, assumed increasing responsibility for the problem. Thirdly, the growth in urban population and the new emphasis on the individual had given rise to a need for social security schemes; while the drift to the towns had necessitated programmes for adaptation to urban life and improved welfare services, which both government and voluntary organizations were increasingly providing.

For the first time in many countries efforts had been made to rationalize the process of social change through integrated planning.

A tremendous task lay ahead: to bridge the social gap between the African and the more developed regions and between the wealthy and the poor sections of the same community. The task could not be carried out without planning for accelerated growth and for a balance between social and economic programmes.

Mr. NOAH (Sierra Leone) said that though standards of living in African countries had undoubtedly improved, there was still much to be desired, particularly in respect of the relative standards in rural and urban regions. One of the greatest problems in rural development was the exodus of young people to the towns and their reluctance to return once they had been educated and become accustomed to urban life; farmers, too, were leaving the countryside, thus further contributing to the gradual desertion of villages and to urban overcrowding. He hoped that the problem would be studied and that efforts would be made to solve it.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) particularly commended the document under discussion for the emphasis it placed on the effects of modern life on the individual's relationship with his community and on the difference between traditional customs and those imposed by Western influences. Although the pattern of Western behaviour had an unhealthy effect on Africa, progress was important and should not be halted; a balance should be maintained between the old and the new. The problems of employment, housing, transport, education, family groupings, health and migration dealt with in the document, should be kept in mind as essential elements in economic planning. There was also a need for country demographic studies.

With regard to the problem of the migration of young people to the cities, he suggested that organizations should be formed to encourage them to return to the land. The Workers' Brigade in Ghana had achieved good results by giving its members a feeling of pride in their work on the land. The problem of young people should, however, be taken in the context of land improvement; for proper use of the land was also a social problem which involved the whole community.

Mr. HAMID (Sudan) observed that despite the efforts of African governments, many social problems still remained: mass poverty, rapid growth in population, low living standards, shortage and poor quality of food, and the effects of the migration to urban areas. One of the principal causes of that migration was the low level of incomes; and it was clear that economic and social problems could not be separated.

Mr. OCHS (United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization) said the development of education was inseparably bound up with economic and social development in general. Since the Addis Ababa Conference on education, UNESCO had been assisting national groups of educational planners with the help of the ILO. There was a double link between education and economics: financially, education should be planned in relation to the probable growth of the gross national product, the foreseeable national income at a given date and the proportion available for education; and, more important still, educational planning should take into account the needs for manpower in the anticipated economic development in various sectors.

The problem of unemployment was not necessarily caused by the rapid expansion of primary education; where, say, 20 per cent of children were receiving primary education, there was usually unemployment, because school attendance was regarded as a qualification for a particular job: but that problem did not arise where school attendance was, say, 80 per cent. Unemployment was usually caused by the migration from rural areas; and that would not occur if primary education were better adapted to preparation for rural life. An important point was that the expansion of primary education should be planned in relation to secondary school facilities; part of the answer would be to provide more such facilities.

The problem was a very complex one. Its solution would perhaps be to meet the numerical need for manpower by providing educational facilities at various levels and of various types and to adapt education quantitatively to the requirements of economic and social development.

Mr. EDOKPAYI (Secretariat) stressed the importance of planning rural and urban development together as a combined economic and social problem. People would have to be provided not only with amenities but with the means to pay for them.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that what had emerged from the discussion was the need to alter mental attitudes towards the rural areas; it was not simply a question of trying to secure better urban conditions or to increase the output of educated people.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria) said that improved housing, health, water and other facilities in rural areas might help to stem the flow of people to the cities. He wondered whether ECA had considered providing financial or other assistance to achieve that end. As to housing, it was important to remember that modern Western buildings, though attractive, were not necessarily the buildings best suited to Africa; there was too much readiness to substitute Western ways for African without proper thought.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

SIXTH MEETING

Tuesday, 25 February 1964, at 9.20 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KAMITATU (Congo, Leopoldville)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN AFRICA AND REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (agenda item 5) (continued)

(b) Social development (E/CN.14/241, 244, 269; E/CN.14/L.181) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.181) concerning the world campaign for universal literacy submitted by the delegations of Algeria, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco and Nigeria.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that women should be enabled and encouraged to play a full part in the economic and social development of Africa. More workshops were needed like the Workshop on Urban Problems recently held at Lagos, the report on which entitled "The Role of Women in Urban Development" (E/CN.14/241) was before the Committee; their reports would help to guide economic planners, who should take full account of all aspects of indigenous society. Special attention should be paid to the Workshop's recommendations on bringing women up to the same social level as men; recommendation 21 was particularly important; in many cases women who had not been sufficiently educated to be able to speak English or French were that much closer to the realities of life in their own countries. The recommendations on education, too, were sound and merited careful consideration. As much attention should be paid to improving the status of women in rural as in urban areas.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that women should be encouraged to exercise their rights and to contribute as much as men to economic development. The recommendations in the report required careful examination. While valid in principle, they might have other than the desired effect if implemented at too early a stage in a country's development. If applied too rigidly, recommendation 12, for example, might militate against the employment of women, while recommendation 18, by relieving a divorced wife of all burdens and putting her in a privileged position might encourage divorce. Recommendation 21 was not very realistic; at some meetings at least fifteen interpreters might be needed. Recommendation 28 was vague. Recommendation 33 should be expanded to provide that parents, especially the mother or any other woman concerned, should be present at juvenile courts.

On the whole, his delegation endorsed the report on the Workshop and the recommendations in it.

Mr. DARWISH (United Arab Republic) expressed approval of the new structure of the Social Affairs Section of the secretariat and its proposed objectives. The fact that emphasis was to be placed on the improvement of training schools for social workers was particularly gratifying. The chapter from the Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.14/244) showed that in Africa population was increasing faster than incomes. The ECA would have to find ways of raising the living standards of the African people, particularly the rural population, by introducing rural industries and encouraging handicrafts. Many countries would undoubtedly be willing to place their experience in that field at the disposal of the secretariat.

At the previous meeting the secretariat had proposed the establishment of a standing committee on social development. The secretariat needed an authority to guide it in its work. Whether that authority should be an expert group or a standing committee it was for the Committee to decide.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria), referring to the report of the Workshop on Urban Problems, remarked that section V raised the question of polygamy. It was a popular misconception that only men benefited from the custom. In many cases women who were lonely at home while their husbands were out at work or childless women who did not wish to deprive their husbands of the joys of parenthood advocated the practice. Paragraph 28 in section V was inaccurate; polygamy did not necessarily confer economic benefits, and old men did not use their money to acquire women.

Recommendation 1 in the report did not state how periodically the meetings advocated were to be held. Biannual meetings were necessary. The research referred to in recommendations 2 and 15 should be conducted by the countries themselves, reports on its results being forwarded to ECA. Regarding recommendation 4, legal means would not be effective in reducing the dowry; efforts should be concentrated on educational means. Recommendations 5 and 6 seemed to conflict with recommendation 4. It was hard to see the reason for the medical certificate advocated in recommendation 16; marriage was founded on love, and the fitness of the partners hardly entered into the matter.

The final phrase of recommendation 17 should be deleted: women who contracted a polygamous marriage were always aware of what they were doing. Recommendation 18, on separation and divorce, allowed women too much latitude. In recommendation 25 the words "urban middle-class" should be deleted, as savouring over-much of discrimination.

Recommendation 32 was impracticable and would give rise to more problems than it solved. Moslem countries might have difficulty in putting into effect recommendation 33; it should be amended to read "Women should be present at juvenile courts where religion does not prohibit the practice." Recommendation 38 appeared superfluous; "girls were" already afforded the same facilities as boys in that respect. In recommendation 42, on the status of teaching staff, he wondered whether the words "improved as regards salaries" applied to women only; in Nigeria, women with the equivalent qualifications were paid the same salaries as men.

Mr. BRIGHT (Liberia) observed that in many parts of Africa women had been led to believe they were inferior to men and had, in consequence, developed an inferiority complex. More workshops like the Workshop on Urban Problems but at the local level would be one way of eradicating the complex. However, the granting of equal rights to women might give rise to certain difficulties. He wondered whether, for instance, the widower of a woman who had held a political position would be entitled to a pension; that might be repugnant to African men.

Mr. HOCINE (Algeria), referring to the report relating to adult literacy and economic and social development (E/CN.14/269), said that five-sevenths of the continent's population were illiterate and would have to be taught to read and write if they were to play their proper role in Africa's economic, political and social development. That fact had been emphasized in General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII), of which Algeria had been a sponsor.

In 1963 the Algerian Minister of Education had launched a campaign to eradicate illiteracy in one year. The aim of the campaign was to reach the isolated regions of the country, to instil a sense of revolutionary purpose into the peasants and to ensure that the people played a fuller part in the life of the country. The campaign was conducted by voluntary teachers, monitors and civil servants working in their spare time. Lack of teachers, teaching material and premises, and of finance were some of the difficulties encountered in conducting the campaign. The role of international co-operation in overcoming such difficulties was important, and it was to be noted that General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII) had invited the Secretary-General to collaborate with other international organizations in finding ways of assisting national efforts to eradicate illiteracy. The right to education was one of the human rights, and education was at once a prerequisite for material progress and a means of preparing human beings to make use of, and to benefit from, that progress.

Mr. KASSEM (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that his organization was very pleased to see recommendations 9 and 12 in the report of the Workshop on Urban Problem. They had been drafted by women and showed that African women were anxious to unite in demanding their rights and material conditions which would enable them to play their proper part in Africa's development. His organization would do its utmost to ensure that the recommendations were put into effect.

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) reminded the Committee that in his introductory statement he had asked for comments on the advisability of setting up a regular body to study the ECA social development programme and to advise the Secretariat on action. In reaching its decision on setting up such a body, the Committee should remember that the Standing Committee already set up under Commission resolution 36(III) operated in the limited field of social welfare and community development; that all the Secretariat was in effect asking was that the terms of reference of that standing committee should be expanded to cover the whole field of social planning; and that the standing committee, with its expanded terms of reference, should meet regularly; no more meetings than were currently held and no additional expense to ECA would be involved.

The secretariat had so far devoted little attention to the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders. Instructions from the Committee would be required for the reorganized Social Affairs Section to introduce programmes in that field. The Committee would also have to authorize the secretariat to reorganize the former Community Development Unit so as to enable it to deal with such questions as agrarian structure, land reform, rural marketing, co-operatives and rural credit.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) reminded the Committee that a detailed discussion on meetings, standing committees and expert groups had taken place at the fifth session, and it had then been decided to reduce the Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development to the status of an expert group. A note by the Executive Secretary on standing committees (E/CN.14/177), describing the difference between standing committees and expert groups, had been distributed during that session. That note should be re-circulated. A standing committee imposed a certain financial burden on governments, whereas an expert group did not. The suggestion made by the secretariat seemed to conflict with what had been decided at the fifth session and with the spirit of the Executive Secretary's opening statement. His Government was not yet taking a definite stand on the matter; but it wished to be convinced of the necessity of setting up a standing committee before it voted in favour of it.

Mr. HAMID (Sudan) stated that his delegation would support the setting up of a permanent body to guide the secretariat in its work, provided that body were an extension of, or replaced the existing expert group.

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) explained that the terms of reference of the Standing Committee set up under Commission resolution 36(III), the status of which had been reduced to that of an expert group at the fifth session, were not wide enough to cover the scope of the activities of the reorganized Social Affairs Section. The secretariat was accordingly suggesting that a new standing committee be set up to guide and advise the secretariat, scrutinize its plans for future work and make recommendations to the Commission. There would be no need to maintain in existence the former body, which had met in 1961 and 1962; in place of it there would be a single standing committee covering the whole field of social work. It would be a committee of the Commission, reporting and making recommendations to it.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) said that the social aspects of development were so important that it was almost unthinkable that there should not be a permanent body to advise the secretariat on social matters. His delegation supported the secretariat proposal and hoped that other delegations would do likewise.

Mr. SAVI de TOVE (Togo) observed that since a country could not develop economically unless its social conditions were satisfactory, the social aspects of development should be given precedence over its economic aspects. He accordingly agreed with the secretariat that the terms of reference of the Standing Committee established at the third session should be expanded.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that the question of a standing committee on social development could not properly be discussed apart from social development as a whole. The Committee should preferably discuss both together, or alternatively, deal with the general situation first, and then pass on to the more particular problem.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee of the need to limit discussion to a minimum. He invited the Committee to vote on the question whether the discussion should turn on social development in general or on the proposed standing committee.

It was decided, by 10 votes to 9, that social development should be discussed first.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) strongly supported recommendation 32 in the report of the Workshop on Urban Problems. Reception centres were most important; he hoped that they might, in addition to familiarizing country people with urban conditions, encourage them to return to rural areas. Recommendation 33 required amplification; juvenile courts should be attended, not by the parents of delinquents, but by trained female welfare workers, who would get in touch with the parents after the court proceedings and keep in touch with them.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria) was not in favour of recommendation 32. Desirable though such reception centres might be, their cost was prohibitive. It was bad reasoning to argue that reception centres should be established simply because a large organization like the British Council had set up similar centres.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that the problem of illiteracy was put in a nutshell in paragraphs 5 and 7 of the UNESCO document (E/CN.14/269). The relevant draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.181) had his support. It was valuable as a demonstration of the Commission's concern about illiteracy and an indication of what was hoped for from UNESCO and from member countries of the Commission.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria) supported the recommendations contained in the UNESCO report (E/CN.14/269).

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution should be redrafted in a less mandatory form. It was for governments to decide how far programmes for adult literacy and adult education could be included in their development plans.

Mr. KASSEM (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that he had read the UNESCO document with great interest. His organization fully supported General Assembly resolution 1937 (XVIII). He was glad to see that literacy was to be treated as an integral part of economic, social and cultural development. Investigations carried out among workers showed that productivity increased in proportion to years of schooling which indicated that a literacy campaign would help to speed up development in Africa. Certain countries in Africa had already started literacy campaigns among workers, particularly in rural areas through agricultural co-operatives. The trade union movement was anxious to raise the cultural level of workers in Africa and thereby to make agriculture and industry more profitable. His organization would spare no effort to ensure the success of the promotion of literacy among agricultural and urban workers.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that the UNESCO document offered excellent guidance for the literacy campaign. With regard to the objective of universal primary schooling by 1980, referred to in paragraph 17, the Social Affairs Section might be asked to prepare a programme for the guidance of member countries in setting up schools. He urged that the Commission help governments to remove the obstacles to the elimination of illiteracy mentioned in paragraph 22 by passing on to them the experience of countries which had already made progress in that direction. Ghana would be very willing to examine the possibility of lending assistance to the success of the scheme. With regard to measures for reducing costs, referred to in paragraph 32, he suggested that schoolrooms might be used during holidays, and teachers should work in their own districts. In connexion with the suggestion in paragraph 37 that local agricultural workers could help in the literacy campaign, it was important to bear in mind, that, however anxious they might be to assist, they would not be available at harvest and other peak agricultural periods.

Governments might usefully set up special departments responsible for the literacy campaign.

Mr. SAVI de TOVE (Togo) pointed out that one of the problems needing careful attention in world social development was the psychological attitudes - of superiority or inferiority, for example - produced by racial differences. While recognizing the need for adult education, he urged that mass programmes should take into account the situation of those who might perhaps be too old to be educated. Efforts should also be made to counter the attitude of superiority of literates to illiterates and to ensure that those who had had the advantages of education freely helped the less favoured. Above all, community development should be encouraged, in order to overcome differences between nationalities. A useful measure would be exchanges between children from different regions and countries in Africa, and even from other continents.

Mr. COULIBALY (Ivory Coast) fully supported the world literacy campaign and the draft resolution on the subject. Unless the masses attained a certain level of literacy, there would be serious obstacles to economic and social progress.

(e) Industry, transport and natural resources

(iv) Housing (E/CN.14/251)

Mr. TURIN (Secretariat) said that the Standing Committee on Housing and Physical Planning, established at the fifth session, planned to hold its first meeting in November 1964; the Committee had, however, already started work.

The housing situation in Africa was far from satisfactory. Only about half a million new dwellings were being built every year, which was only one-fifth of what the Committee estimated was required to eliminate the existing backlog. The cost of building a dwelling in Africa represented from three to eight years' wages and was thus far beyond the reach of the least-favoured class of workers. Moreover, there was an immense discrepancy between the very high standards set by the colonial Powers for their officials and the traditional housing of the rural, semi-urban and urban masses; only a prolonged effort could close the gap.

More than 50 per cent of the building materials used in Africa were imported. The Housing, Building and Planning Section was convinced that at least 90 per cent of those materials could be produced in Africa. However, African materials, often made by handicraft methods, were also far too expensive. Transport and distribution costs were very high; and, despite the very low wages of African workers, the proportion of labour costs in the total cost of building materials was just as high as in the industrialized countries. The rationalization and reorganization of the building industry could therefore have an enormous effect on reducing the cost of housing. Every effort should be made to increase labour productivity, including the provision of training facilities.

African governments were often afraid to face the enormous problem of providing adequate housing; few of them had even made estimates of their housing needs, and still fewer had a general policy for housing. Whereas in the European countries, from 2 to 4 per cent of the national income was spent on housing, in Africa the figure was only 1.5 per cent, and that included middle class and even luxury housing. The building industry, with its various ancillaries such as the manufacture of building materials and vocational training, should be a major item in any general economic plan.

Very few African countries were tackling town and country planning on a national scale; most had merely partial plans for certain towns or districts. But the population of many large towns in Africa was doubling every ten years. That meant enormous problems in providing housing and services for the new inhabitants.

Serious though they were, the housing problems with which Africa was confronted were not insurmountable; but they could only be properly tackled on a regional or sub-regional basis. African countries should collaborate in planning their building industries and their training schemes by exchanging experience and discussing methods; there was no need to confine collaboration to African countries, for many countries in Latin America and in Asia were facing very similar problems.

The work programme of the Housing, Building and Planning Section was fairly ambitious. The Section was endeavouring to study problems from every angle - economic, financial, political, technical, social- though it was aware that such a broad approach carried a danger of superficiality. It was counting on the collaboration of governments and hoped to produce five or six further documents before the Committee on Housing and Physical Planning met in November.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) said that his country's housing programme was based on the idea that the well-being of every individual, however humble, was of supreme importance.

Following a demographic survey made in 1962 and 1963, plans had been made for dwelling construction, involving an estimated expenditure of £44.5 million, to reduce average house occupancy from the current figure of between thirteen and twenty to less than ten during the course of the next seven years. Expanding population would be provided for by building new cities, towns and villages, and the increase in the urban population would be catered for by temporary low-cost satellite villages. Schemes for more permanent housing included loans for private house ownership. The aim was to reduce the cost of housing in relation to incomes.

The Commission's proposed work on housing was welcomed. It was to be hoped that it would include research on cheaper building methods through improved design, more efficient methods of construction and the use of local, instead of imported, materials.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria) said that the main problems in his country were housing for city workers and housing required by new industries. A six-year programme had been planned, but the difficulty was how to finance it. He wondered whether ECA through its Housing, Building and Planning Section could help member governments to find means of financing their housing programmes and whether it would be possible for the Committee to examine the question of rural housing, which might perhaps be one of the causes of the drift to the towns.

He would appreciate information on three further points: on how much attention the Section was paying to the question of the use of local materials for local houses, as traditional taste was being lost and new materials were often unsuitable; on what was being done to encourage the modernization of African houses without losing traditional design and architecture, for it would be regrettable if nothing were preserved for the future; and on what was being done to publicize the Commission's work on housing.

Mr. GABDOU (Chad) said that it would be useful if a meeting of African housing experts were organized to study the two main types of houses in Africa - the "hard" houses of brick or stone or cement and the traditional houses using local materials - and to consider the possibilities of redesigning the latter so that a decent, resistant, sanitary dwelling could be provided within the means of people who could not afford the typical present-day house in "hard" materials.

Under the legislation in force in many countries, moreover, a man wishing to build a house had first to purchase the land on which to build it. The ECA should recommend that countries "socialize" their legislation in that respect, so that house purchase might become possible not for privileged groups only, but for the whole population.

Mr. NIGER (Equatorial Guinea) said that in his country there was a three-year experimental building plan, with a target of 4,000 dwellings, nearly half of which were under construction. The dwellings were financed largely by interest-free loans to the occupiers, and in part by State subsidy.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that the funds available for housing under the technical assistance programme and the Special Fund were unduly limited, in view of the need for housing.

The Committee's discussion and the work carried out so far by the Commission had laid more stress on urban housing; but more attention might be paid to rural housing. In the current housing studies it might be better to concentrate on a few problems, such as finance, housing policy and the use of local materials.

Mr. REYNAUD (International Labour Organisation) said that his agency fully endorsed the views expressed in the report on Work in Housing, Building and Planning (E/CN.14/251). He drew the Committee's attention to the reference to the ILO in paragraph 23.

The ILO was chiefly interested in problems of manpower, training, housing co-operatives and accident insurance and security in the building industry. The 1961 International Labour Conference had made recommendations concerning the housing of workers in both town and country.

In December 1963, the ILO had organized at Lagos a Conference on Labour and Productivity in Public Works in Africa, attended by some twenty African countries; the Conference had made a comparative study of manual and mechanized methods in public works construction.

Mr. OGUTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the trade unions were participating directly in cheap workers' housing projects in certain African countries and elsewhere, and ICFTU was planning an extensive campaign to encourage African trade unions to organize workers' housing co-operatives and to encourage agricultural workers to build their own houses with government help.

The ICFTU wished to co-operate closely with ECA on housing problems and hoped to receive advice from the Housing, Building and Planning Section. Some trade union members should be admitted to the courses organized by ECA for leaders of self-help housing projects.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

SEVENTH MEETING

Wednesday, 26 February 1964, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. ZAYATI (Tunisia)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN AFRICA AND REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (agenda item 5) (concluded)

(e) Industry, transport and natural resources

(iv) Housing (E/CN.14/251) (concluded)

Mr. BAKI (Algeria) stressed the need for practical advice, instead of broad and general or detailed specialist studies. The secretariat should examine the problems of one country or of a group of countries with similar geographic and social conditions and suggest immediately applicable solutions.

Algeria had ten million inhabitants, only three million of whom lived in modern dwellings. Immediately after the war, which had greatly aggravated Algeria's housing problem, his Government had embarked on a policy of providing credit for rehousing the homeless. It had allocated NF 200 million for housing in 1963, and proposed to make available substantial amounts in the future. Owing to the disorganization consequent upon the departure of almost all foreign technicians and to the many urgent problems that confronted his Government, it had been impossible to prepare a detailed housing programme, though the Government hoped to do so shortly if ECA could provide assistance.

The urgent housing problem in Africa could be solved only by government action. The State must take over most housing, encourage the formation of building co-operatives and provide them with credit facilities and land.

Such co-operatives had been established in Algeria. In addition, the nationalization of land had enabled the Algerian Government to embark upon a full-scale policy of town and country planning.

Algeria had many raw materials, but needed to set up new factories to supply its own manufactured goods. It hoped to do so jointly with neighbouring countries with similar problems. Until Algeria was in a position to train its own technicians it would be grateful for any assistance the secretariat could provide in that way.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) said that the African States could solve their urgent housing problems either by preparing long-term housing plans or by improving existing traditional housing. Guinea had chosen the second alternative, which enabled it to use the country's primary resources and to save foreign currency.

Traditional housing was of two types, urban and rural, the former of which required improvement. Guinea had set up factories for the manufacture of bricks, roof-tiles and floor-tiles in order to reduce its imports of foreign corrugated iron and tiles. It had also started to build a cement works. His Government had initiated a credit scheme for enabling less well-paid members of the community to improve their housing; it had also imported prefabricated houses from Holland, but was incorporating local timber in them to save foreign currency. He suggested that ECA should examine the possibilities of assisting countries that were improving traditional housing.

Dr. RUSSELL (World Health Organization) said that WHO had a long-standing interest in housing. Since 1961, increasing interest had been displayed in the subject both by the Bureau of Social Affairs at United Nations Headquarters and by WHO, which had been working in close co-operation with ECA on housing in Africa. In 1963 it had been decided that a WHO public health engineer should be appointed to work with the Housing, Building and Planning Section of the ECA secretariat. The housing teams would be mainly engaged in examining different types of traditional housing and house construction, and ascertaining how healthy, modern, low-cost housing might be developed. Many different attempts to produce durable low-cost housing had been made in Africa in the past; they would all have to be examined.

The WHO was also interested in the problems of rural housing in Africa and would be carrying out a rural housing survey in its Eastern Mediterranean Region, which included Ethiopia. In that, as in other matters concerned with African housing, WHO would work in close co-operation with ECA.

Mr. TURIN (Secretariat) drew the Committee's attention to the report of the United Nations Housing, Building and Planning Committee on its second session (E/3858) and to the covering note prepared by the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs.

Summarizing the main trends of the discussion, he said that emphasis had been laid on the need to define targets for national housing policies and short- and long-term housing programmes. Several representatives had referred to the difficulty of financing housing programmes, and there had been general agreement that governments and local authorities must play an important part in providing housing for the lower income groups. The ECA had been asked to devote more attention to the problem of developing the production of local building materials in order to

reduce imports. Emphasis had been laid on the desirability of improving traditional housing; and, although it had been recognized that urban housing problems might have to be given priority, the Committee felt that rural housing must not be neglected.

He regretted the fact that that criticism of ECA for engaging in general and specialized studies, deserved though that criticism might be, should have come from the only member country which had received direct assistance from it, Algeria. The ECA was always ready to help individual countries, so far as it was able; but its main function was to act as a catalyst.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee take note of the report on work in housing, building and planning (E/CN.14/251), together with the points which had been raised during discussion, and of the report of the United Nations Housing, Building and Planning Committee on its second session (E/3858).

It was so decided.

(g) Public administration (E/CN.14/254)

Mr. LABERGE (Secretariat), introducing the report on activities in public administration (E/CN.14/254), said that the Public Administration Division, being a new one, had not as yet made a great impact in Africa. Its function was to improve the machinery of government by strengthening the civil service, by providing training facilities and by streamlining the practices and procedures of government operations.

In 1963, twenty-two countries had received technical assistance in public administration from seventy-two experts, and the following regional projects had been carried out: a study tour of training and civil service facilities in Africa; a training course for foreign-service officers; a study tour on local government for senior officials to Yugoslavia and India; and a training course for English-speaking customs officials in West Africa. The programme of work and priorities envisaged a stepping up of regional projects in 1964-1965.

The secretariat could provide advisory services at the request of governments. In 1963, six short-term missions had been sent, dealing with budget and tax administration and organization and methods. It was hoped that that branch of the secretariat's activities would be enlarged as the Public Administration Division expanded.

Mr. HAMID (Sudan) stressed the need for seminars on public administration, as all the newly independent countries were confronted with the basic problem of replacing expatriate officials with local administrators. Independence could not be effective until the civil service had been adapted in structure and spirit to the new conditions. A temporary lowering of standards in public administration was inevitable, but need not be prolonged if sufficient efforts were made to raise them.

His country had participated in the tours to Yugoslavia and India. The practical knowledge gained from such tours was invaluable, and it was to be hoped that further such tours would be arranged.

The ECA was to be commended for the help it had given to various African governments by providing them with public administration experts and consultants. His Government welcomed the fact that ECA attached great importance in its programme of work to administrative problems of planning. Without training courses in public administration African governments would be unable to find the necessary administrative staff. His Government had organized local seminars and training courses in public administration, and there were public administration courses at the Law School at Khartoum. With United Nations assistance Sudan had set up an Institute of Public Administration, which trained middle-grade civil servants and provided a forum for discussion for senior officials.

The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning might run courses in public administration, with special emphasis on administrative organization and methods.

Mr. SAVI de TOVE (Togo) suggested that ECA might be asked to assist African countries to standardize their customs nomenclatures and procedures wherever possible.

Mr. BAKI (Algeria) said that administrative decentralization was a luxury which the developing countries could not at present afford. He suggested that the secretariat should examine the problem of centralizing administration in the sub-region, taking into account social, political and economic conditions. A sub-regional administrative training centre was urgently needed.

Mr. BROUGH (Kenya) thanked ECA for the assistance East Africa had received in public administration.

His Government had set up an Institute of Administration, at which more than 300 students were being trained in various aspects of local and central administration. The Institute ran courses for senior as well as for lower-grade civil servants. His Government would welcome students from other African countries at the courses.

The three East African governments were also considering setting up an East African staff college. His Government would be glad if other African countries wished to be associated with the venture.

Mr. PECRIAUX (France) observed that an efficient administration was a prerequisite for the successful execution of any development plan. He welcomed the decision by ECA to convene in 1964 a meeting of directors of public administration institutes as a first step towards examining ways and means of adapting administrative structures to development requirements.

In the endeavour to secure simple and efficient administration, three points should be borne in mind: administrative structures must be suited to the implementation of the development plans and close contact should be maintained between local and central authorities; administrative methods must be flexible; a sense of public service must be instilled into administrative personnel.

He suggested the establishment of multi-purpose training institutes at the national or sub-regional level to train civil servants who had not received any specialized education. Africa already possessed secondary teaching establishments which might form a nucleus for training of that kind. In any event, it was essential that such training should be given in Africa; for the traditional European and North American training institutes were not suitable for the training of African administrators.

Mr. REYNAUD (International Labour Organisation) said that the ILO could provide assistance in the organization of the services of ministries of labour, such as social security services, and in the training of middle-grade personnel for government agencies. For example, a team specializing in administration had been sent to Congo (Leopoldville) to help the Congolese Government set up its Ministry of Labour.

Mr. OCHS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the scope of UNESCO activities in public administration covered training at university level and the equivalent. UNESCO had been associated with the ECA training programme in a survey of North Africa in 1963; it was also interested in the meeting of directors of public administration institutes to be held in May 1964, and would help with the preparations. Public administration training must always be related to educational planning in general.

Mr. KONE (Mali) said that Mali and Mauritania would greatly appreciate the organization of a group to study the harmonization of customs legislation.

Schools of administration had been set up in many African countries, and their work should be co-ordinated.

Mr. LABERGE (Secretariat) said he was glad to see the interest shown in research. Research programmes had to be drawn up before training courses or missions were arranged.

The interest expressed in the proposed meeting of directors of public administration institutes was gratifying; he hoped that many experts and government representatives would attend it. As the problems of public administration and of training were inseparable, both would be discussed at the meeting.

The secretariat had examined the possibility of including public administration in the syllabus of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning at Dakar, but had decided that other subjects deserved a higher priority. Public administration might, however, be included at a later stage.

Regarding the question of decentralization, raised by the Algerian representative, he felt that each case should be studied in the light of local conditions. Preliminary research was needed to decide whether central or local administration was more suited to conditions in any particular country.

He thanked the representative of Kenya for his description of Kenya's public administration training programme, and hoped that Kenya would make a substantial contribution at the meeting of directors of public administration institutes. He welcomed Kenya's offer to receive foreign students for training.

The French representative's comments would be borne in mind when future programmes were drawn up. The suggestion that multi-purpose institutes should be set up at the national or sub-regional level was particularly interesting.

The Commission would be pleased to note that the ILO and UNESCO would continue to work in close collaboration with ECA.

Mr. ALLEN (Secretariat) reminded the Committee, in connexion with the Togolese representative's reference to the need for the standardization of customs nomenclatures and procedures, that the Executive Secretary had recently invited eleven countries to attend a study group on the standardization of customs and tariff nomenclatures.

Some progress could be made in 1964 in connexion with the point raised by the representative of Mali. An expert study of common transit procedures and customs legislation was to be carried out in West Africa.

(i) Training (E/CN.14/258 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY said that the new Training Section would not deal with formal schooling, but would concentrate on vocational and technical training. Its first task would be to produce a handbook on existing training programmes and courses. Circular letters had been sent to all members and associate members asking for information on the facilities they could offer. Letters had also been sent to foundations and bilateral and multilateral agencies. The handbook would be compiled on a basis of the replies received, which he hoped would be sent in as soon as possible.

The Training Section's next problem was the filling of vacancies in training institutions. Some African technical faculties had more teaching staff than students. It appeared that while many countries were prepared to accept trainees, few were ready to send them to other African countries. In many cases students were sent to institutes outside Africa, where they often had to learn a new language before beginning their studies.

Africa already possessed forty-one institutes, and yet requests for help in establishing others were frequently received. The important thing was to use existing training facilities to the best advantage. He accordingly invited members to submit the names of candidates for training to the secretariat, so that it could gradually build up a register of requests for training. At the same time, each country should draw up a manpower budget, with projections showing to what extent it could meet its own future needs for trained personnel. Periodic questionnaires would be sent to each country, so that the secretariat might have up-to-date knowledge of requirements. National correspondents should be appointed, to ensure that the questionnaires were answered. The question whether or not expatriate staff were needed could be answered by laying down minimum qualifications for each post and calculating the number of suitable national candidates at any given time. Eventually the questionnaire would be refined to elicit precise information about the need for expatriate personnel. The register kept in Ghana indicating how many qualified persons, such as doctors, would be available each year illustrated the kind of thing he had in mind.

Mr. RANDRIANASOLOMANANA (Madagascar) said that his Government had already set up a commission for training and employment. It would adopt the measures suggested by the Executive Secretary.

Mr. BRIGHT (Liberia), referring to paragraph 13(f) of the report on ECA training activities (E/CN.14/258), observed that his country was not yet using the Brussels Nomenclature.

With regard to training, he suggested that the secretariat should arrange courses on road engineering and surveying. The Executive Secretary's suggestions would be conveyed to his Government.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY explained that ECA did not intend to run all types of courses itself. Paragraph 13 of the report was meant simply as an illustration. The ECA would receive requests and try to direct candidates to suitable courses.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that his Government would comply with the Executive Secretary's request. However, all copies of such technical correspondence should, for information, also be transmitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While noting the difficulties that had arisen in implementing Commission resolution 77(V), he nevertheless congratulated the Training Section on its achievements. He appreciated the contributions made by the United Nations and other bodies, and hoped that more regional projects would be carried out in the future.

It was important that the handbook the Section was to produce should contain very full information, including guidance on the selection of suitable candidates. Alternative candidates should always be available in case the original appointee fell out.

He welcomed the assistance provided by the Training Section in the co-ordination of bilateral programmes. The Section should continue to draw attention to its facilities, so that all offers and requests were channelled through the secretariat.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY urged members to send in requests even before the handbook appeared. If an application on behalf of a particular candidate had already been made elsewhere, that fact should be stated, in case another candidate was prevented from obtaining a place.

Mr. KING (Sierra Leone) said that the reason why certain countries preferred to send students abroad was that insufficient information was available

about the quality and standards of equivalent African institutions. The ECA might perhaps describe the sort of facilities and standards of instruction available in Africa to assist governments in placing their candidates.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY remarked that African universities and institutes were so closely modelled on metropolitan types that standards were comparable, while facilities were often better. Governments could always check with representatives of the specialized agencies in their country. Africa should have confidence in African institutions.

Mr. REYNAUD (International Labour Organisation) said that his agency concerned itself with all vocational training problems. A complete up-to-date list of its African projects had recently been sent to the secretariat. The ILO devoted half of all its technical assistance funds to vocational training. Constant co-operation was maintained with UNESCO, which concentrated on school education, whereas the ILO dealt with young people who had received no technical education and with working adults.

It was important that vocational training should always be adapted to actual needs in order to ensure that work was available for the trainees after they had been trained.

The ILO could advise governments on the establishment or reorganization of training systems, the organization of vocational training programmes and surveys, the establishment of priorities and the setting up of co-ordinating bodies at the national, regional or local level. It could also provide assistance for the organization of in-service training, crash-programmes for adult workers and refresher courses for the up-grading of workers.

The International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training for the developing countries recently set up in Turin would by 1965 be able to take 600 trainees a year; eventually it would be able to take 2,000.

Mr. DARWISH (United Arab Republic) said that all the training facilities in his country were at the disposal of the Executive Secretary. The latter's suggestions would be put into effect immediately.

Mr. BAILLY (Ivory Coast) said that the chief objection to sending trainees out of Africa was that they lost contact with African realities. He accordingly agreed that African institutions should be used as extensively as possible. His Government would comply with the Executive Secretary's request.

Mr. KONE (Mali) said that he had taken note of the Executive Secretary's suggestions. He hoped that it might be possible for the Secretariat to study means of upgrading Mali's Zootechnical Centre, Central Veterinary Laboratory and Veterinary School to the level of an animal husbandry institute to enable them to play their full part as inter-African establishments.

Mr. BAZABAS (Niger) said he hoped so too.

Mr. SEBTI (Morocco) said that his country would act upon the Executive Secretary's suggestions. He hoped that the handbook would be very detailed, since trainees were often sent abroad for lack of information about African facilities. Morocco wished to offer the facilities of all its vocational and technical training schools to students from other African countries and would send Moroccan trainees to their institutions.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) asked for information about the average length of training periods for officials.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY replied that the length of training courses depended on the candidates' initial qualifications and the standards required by the institutions. In Congo (Brazzaville), for instance, badly-needed medical assistants had been sent to medical schools for a three-year period in order to qualify as doctors; more than sixty doctors had been trained in that way since independence. Present needs must be balanced against future requirements.

A point to be borne in mind was that administrative officers were only a superstructure; they needed skilled men below them. Ghana, for example, had found it easier to replace highly qualified expatriates than to replace technicians and foremen. Attention should always be paid to the training of medium and lower grade skilled workers.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.

EIGHTH MEETING

Saturday, 29 February 1964, at 9.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. ZAYATI (Tunisia).

REPORT OF COMMITTEE II (SOCIAL) TO THE COMMISSION

The CHAIRMAN said that he must express regret, on behalf of the Committee, at the delay in the distribution of the summary records of Committee II's meetings.

He invited the Committee to examine its draft report to the Commission.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia), referring to paragraph 3, proposed a redraft to read: "giving greater attention to social development" and the deletion of the words "as to economic development". As indicated in paragraph 7, it was obvious that all aspects of economic and social development were closely connected.

Mr. BAKO (Nigeria), supported by Mr. MAKAME (Zanzibar), said he favoured the retention of the original text because both forms of development should be mentioned.

The original text of paragraph 3 was adopted by 9 votes to 4.

After a discussion on the drafting of paragraph 5, Mr. BAKI (Algeria) suggested that the final version of that paragraph should be left to the Secretariat, taking account of the drafting amendments suggested.

It was so decided.

Mr. OCHS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to paragraph 16, suggested that a mention should be inserted of the fact that UNESCO was prepared to participate in the Conference referred to in that paragraph, since a special agreement on the matter had been concluded between it and the United Nations.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) and Mr. BRIGHT (Liberia) objected that the insertion was unnecessary.

The suggestion by the representative of UNESCO was rejected by 3 votes to 1.

Mr. SAM (Ghana), supported by Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia), proposed that a paragraph in the section on training be redrafted to indicate that certain countries had expressed their desire to retain expatriate staff in public service when it was not possible to replace them by local staff and that no decision as to the immediate replacement of all expatriate staff by Africans could be taken until an accurate evaluation of manpower resources and requirements was made.

Mr. KONE (Mali), supported by Mr. MOUSSA (Niger), proposed the deletion of that paragraph.

The proposal by the representatives of Mali and Niger was adopted by 8 votes to 6.

A number of other amendments to the draft report were unanimously adopted.

Draft resolutions incorporated in the draft report
World campaign for universal literacy (E/CN.14/L.181 and Corr.1)

Mr. BAKI (Algeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that Ivory Coast, Libya, Mauritania and Niger had asked to become sponsors.

The CHAIRMAN said that Kenya, Liberia, Sudan, Togo and Zanzibar had also asked to be added to the list of sponsors.

Mr. BAKI (Algeria) said that the correction to operative paragraph 1 (E/CN.14/L.181/Corr.1) expressed the wish that the mass literacy campaign should be regarded as a supplement to national education plans.

The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.181 with Corr.1) was approved.^{2/}

Training for social work (E/CN.14/L.183)

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) proposed the deletion of the last paragraph.

Mr. SAM (Ghana) opposed the proposal.

The Ethiopian proposal was adopted.

The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.183), as amended, was approved.^{3/}

Rural life and community action (E/CN.14/L.184)

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of Tunisia, said that Tunisia had been included among the sponsors in error.

Mr. SAVI de TOVE (Togo) said that Togo wished to be a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) proposed that the word "excellent" in the first preambular paragraph be deleted. Operative paragraph 2 should be amended, as the Executive Secretary rather co-ordinated the work of the specialized agencies than undertook work in collaboration with them. Operative paragraph 3 should be deleted, since the services referred to already existed. In operative paragraph 4 the words "to continue so far as possible" should be inserted before the words "to organize regional meetings".

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) said that the Ethiopian amendment to paragraph 4 was acceptable to the secretariat. Operative paragraph 2, however, referred to a new service especially created to undertake the studies and investigations in question.

^{2/} See final report of Committee II to the Commission (E/CN.14/C.2/3), para.29, final version as draft resolution E/CN.14/L.181/Rev.1.

^{3/} Ditto., draft resolution E/CN.14/L.183/Rev.1.

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) withdrew his amendment to paragraph 2. He said that he interpreted the statement of the representative of the secretariat as an undertaking to carry out the studies and investigations referred to.

Mr. KOUDOGBO (Dahomey) supported the secretariat's standpoint with regard to paragraph 2 and endorsed the Ethiopian proposal on paragraph 4, but proposed that paragraph 3 be retained, with the words "should continue to" inserted after the words "specialized agencies".

Dr. RUSSELL (World Health Organization) proposed that the words "specialized agencies" should be inserted after the words "the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance", in paragraph 4.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the secretariat be requested to prepare a revised text of the draft resolution in the light of discussion and to submit it to the plenary meeting.

Subject to that understanding, the draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.184) was approved.^{4/}
Social policy and development (E/CN.14/L.185)

Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia), supported by Mr. BAILLY (Ivory Coast), said that the draft resolution should not be examined by Committee II, which had not studied the question and had not received the document (E/CN.14/240) referred to. He accordingly proposed that the Committee should take note of the draft resolution and refer it to Committee I for consideration.

The Ethiopian proposal was adopted by 7 votes to 4.
Social defence (E/CN.14/L.186)

The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.186) was approved.
Expert Committee on Social Development (E/CN.14/L.191)

Mr. SAM (Ghana) explained that the draft resolution represented a compromise solution, to which the representative of Ethiopia had given his approval.

Mr. BAILLY (Ivory Coast) asked that Ivory Coast should be added to the sponsors.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) said that Guinea's name had been included by mistake among the sponsors; his delegation would have preferred a standing committee.

^{4/} Ditto., draft resolution E/CN.14/L.184/Rev.1.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the words "from time to time" be inserted after the word "Committee" in operative paragraph 2, and that the final phrase beginning with the words "and to present..." be deleted.

Mr. RIBY-WILLIAMS (Secretariat) explained that the amendment would authorize the Executive Secretary to convene the Committee from time to time, which was justified in so far as the Committee's expenses were borne by the secretariat.

The Chairman's proposal was adopted.

The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.191), as amended, was approved.^{5/}

The draft report of Committee II (Social) to the Commission, as amended, with the resolutions incorporated in it, as amended, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN declared that the Committee had completed its business.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

^{5/} Ditto., draft resolution E/CN.14/L.191/Rev.1.