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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Nineteenth session of the Commission
and tenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24-28 May 1984

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

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1. The tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development and the nineteenth session of the Commission took place at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, headquarters of the Commission, from 24 to 28 May 1984, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Mulumba Lukoji, Minister of Planning of Zaire.

2. The meeting, whose focus was Africa's critical economic and social situation and the role of the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the economic development of Africa and the Final Act of Lagos in reversing the situation and assisting in laying a firm foundation for self-sustaining and self-reliant development and economic growth in Africa, was formally opened by Comrade Addis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) Standing Committee Member, Deputy Chairman of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and Member of the Executive Committee of COPWE, who delivered an opening address. Opening addresses were also delivered by the Secretary-General ad interim of the Organization of African Unity, by Comrade Mersie Ejigu, and by the Executive Secretary of the Commission. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, sent a special message which was read on his behalf by Mr. Jean Ripert, Director-General for International Economic Co-operation and Development. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr. Eduardo Saouma, also sent a message which was read on his behalf by Mr. J.A.C. Davies, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa. All the statements and messages stressed the seriousness of the African economic and social crisis, emphasized the role at the national, subregional and regional levels of Africans themselves in containing the situation and laying a durable foundation for genuine development and economic growth in the future, and called on the international community to give African countries the assistance they undeniably needed.

3. Thirty-nine member States of the Commission participated in the meeting, the majority of which were represented by their Ministers of development and planning or other high-level officials.

4. Members of a subcommittee set up by the African Group at United Nations Headquarters to deal with the African economic and social crisis participated actively in the meeting.

5. Observers from States not members of the Commission, including both developing and developed countries, also participated.

6. So also did African women's organizations and liberation movements.

7. All leading United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and institutions sponsored by the Commission and the Organization of African Unity, were represented by their chief executives or other high-level officers.

8. The meeting had been preceded by the fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, which comprises high-level officials from the ministries of development and planning or other economic ministries, held at Addis Ababa from 15 to 21 May 1984, and by the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries which took place from 22 to 24 May 1984, also at Addis Ababa.
9. In all, 42 delegations participated in the general debate on the biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1982-1983, the critical economic and social situation in Africa and the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos in solving Africa's critical economic crisis.
10. As a result of the excellent work done by the Preparatory Committee, two important documents, the Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis and a collection of draft resolutions, were submitted for consideration by the Ministers, in addition to the Committee's own report, which contains many sound proposals and recommendations of continuing use to the members of the Committee and their Governments. The Special Memorandum has been prepared for submission to the Economic and Social Council, which has decided to devote the greater part of its second regular session of 1984 to detailed discussion of the African economic crisis.
11. In the Special Memorandum, the Conference of Ministers put forward proposals for dealing with the situation facing 24 food-aid-dependent African countries, including measures for short-medium- and long-term structural adjustments to contain the economic crisis and lay the foundation for rapid socio-economic development in the continent. It appealed to the international community to assist member States by providing adequate relief both for emergency measures and long-term development. In particular, it requested the international community to adopt measures to improve international monetary arrangements, to provide debt relief to all countries including the cancellation of African least developed countries' outstanding debts, to give balance-of-payments support and to enhance the effectiveness of multinational assistance to Africa.
12. The Conference of Ministers appealed to the international community to give positive, magnanimous and speedy support to its proposals in order that Africa might cope effectively with a situation which has rapidly become critical as a result of widespread, severe and worsening drought and fast-deteriorating international economic environment.
13. In addition to the Special Memorandum, the Conference adopted 43 resolutions covering economic, social and technological sectors. Most prominent among these resolutions are those dealing with measures to combat the impact of drought in Africa, with the improvement of meteorological services in order to provide adequate information on the climate, and with the environment. The Conference also adopted resolutions on measures for the effective implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the African least developed countries, on pricing policies in such countries, and on the integration of women in the development process with particular reference to the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise of the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Two plans of action were

also adopted: the Regional Plan of Action to Combat the Adverse Impacts of Drought in Africa and the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population and Self-Reliant Development.

14. The Conference decided that the regional ministerial meeting on the external indebtedness of African countries should be convened in June 1984.

15. While fully recognizing that the primary responsibility for the development of Africa rests on Africa's Governments and peoples, the Conference urges the international community to give due consideration to the Special Memorandum on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis during the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1984. It also invites the General Assembly to make arrangements for the consideration of Africa's economic crisis during its 39th session. It adopted a resolution containing a special appeal to the London summit of seven major industrialized countries, scheduled to take place in June 1984, which it has asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit to the summit. It also requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to convene an emergency session of the Commission either on his own initiative or at the request of one or more member States if the emergency situation does not improve between now and the 20th session of the Commission, in April 1985.

16. The Conference accepted with gratitude the invitation of the Republic of Guinea to host next year's session in Conakry. In a resolution adopted by acclamation it expressed deep appreciation to H.E. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of PMAC and of COPWE, Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Socialist Ethiopia and Current Chairman of the OAU, and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their hospitality in hosting the 19th session of the Commission.