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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Second Meeting of the Conference of Ministers

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Addis Ababa, 3-6 April 1972)

M72-567

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ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order on 3 April 1972 by H.E. Mr. H.R. Amonoo who was an out-going Vice-Chairman of the sixth meeting of the Committee, in the absence of H.E. Mr. Tijani Chelli, the current Chairman, who was unable to attend.
2. The meeting took place in Addis Ababa from 3 to 6 April 1972, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Olu Sanu and the Hon. Apollo Kironde, representatives of Nigeria and Uganda respectively on the Committee.

Election of officers

3. The meeting elected the Hon. Apollo Kironde, Uganda, as First Vice-Chairman, H.E. Mr. Olu Sanu, Nigeria, as Second Vice-Chairman and Mr. Benjamin Rakotonomenjanahary, Madagascar, as Rapporteur.

Attendance

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of thirteen member States as follows: Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia, Uganda and Zaïre. The following countries did not participate: Algeria, Central African Republic and Chad.
5. Observers from Equatorial Guinea, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and OAU were also present.

Agenda

6. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the following agenda:
 - (1) Opening of the meeting
 - (2) Election of officers
 - (3) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 - (4) Matters arising from the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee
 - (5) Matters arising from:
 - (a) The meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in December 1971;
 - (b) The twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly.
 - (6) Publications and documentation of the United Nations

- (7) Review of the activities of the Commission:
 - (a) Preparations for UNCTAD III;
 - (b) Preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment;
 - (c) Science and Technology: Implementation of the World Plan of Action in the African Region.
- (8) Preparations for the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council
- (9) Relations with other international organizations (co-sponsored projects)
- (10) Any other business
- (11) Date of the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee
- (12) Adoption of the report.

DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA ITEMS

Matters arising from the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee

7. A member of the secretariat reported on matters arising from the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Executive Committee (E/CN.14/549) and indicated that action taken on these matters by the secretariat would be covered more fully under items 5(b), 7(b) and 7(c) of the agenda.

8. In various comments that followed from the floor, members of the Committee wished to know what progress was being made regarding the United Nations Development Advisory Teams (UNDATs); what the relationship was between the UNDATs and the sub-regional offices as well as between UNDATs and other United Nations organizations; what action had been taken by the secretariat with regard to the criteria to be used in the identification of the least developed among the developing countries in Africa; and the effort made by the secretariat to secure from the UNDP sufficient resources for project execution.

9. Concerning the UNDATs, members observed that when they were first proposed these teams were expected to be operated as distinct and separate from the sub-regional offices. It appeared, however, that some of the teams might be merged with some sub-regional offices. The Committee expressed the hope that the setting-up of new UNDATs would not prove detrimental to the strengthening of the sub-regional offices.

10. Some members of the Committee wished to know why the countries of the West African sub-region were being separated into two groups as evidenced by the proposal to create two UNDATs there. Members of the Committee were opposed to the proposed demarcation of the geographical areas to be covered

by the two UNDATs in West Africa and, without prejudice to the conclusions of the mission led by Mr. Aw, called on the secretariat to adhere to the present sub-regional groupings, particularly since these represented the political wishes of the member States. It was also desirable to clarify the nature of the relationships which must exist between the UNDAT and the specialized agencies, UNDP and the sub-regional office in Kinshasa; the channels of communication between the UNDATs and the governments concerned; and the possibility of centralizing all requests for assistance through the sub-regional office which, together with the member States, would consider the priority to be accorded to each request.

11. The secretariat was requested to prepare a progress report on the whole question of the UNDATs including the mission that the secretariat had sent out in West Africa to appraise the project under the Executive Secretary's Special Adviser, Mr. Aw and to present this report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

12. On the question of least developed among the developing countries it was desired to know what steps ECA had taken not only in drawing up a list of "hard core" countries and for getting it accepted by UNCTAD but in developing criteria for identifying these countries as well as for influencing determination of the status of these countries by other United Nations organs.

13. At the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee, the question of additional aid to the least developed among the developing countries had come up and a statement had been made by the UNDP Director for Africa that some aid was forthcoming. ECOSOC had addressed resolution 1601(LI) to the General Assembly recommending the establishment of a separate section in the United Nations regular budget to be earmarked for the operational activities of the regional economic commissions. Members of the Committee wished to know what action had been taken on these, how the secretariat was preparing to utilize the additional resources made available as a result of the General Assembly resolution 2803(XXVI), and what results the forthcoming meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives in Africa was expected to achieve.

14. Replying to the above questions, the Executive Secretary indicated that, the necessity of first obtaining the adoption of a standard agreement had temporarily delayed action on the establishment of UNDATs. A fact-finding mission under his Special Adviser, Mr. Aw had recently returned to Addis Ababa and was preparing its report on UNDATs. In connexion with relations between the sub-regional offices and the UNDATs, for administrative reasons it had been decided that the sub-regional offices should support the UNDATs but that this was in no way to diminish the work of either. Negotiations were going on to move the Kinshasa sub-regional office to Kivu in order to serve more adequately Zaïre, Rwanda and Burundi. UNDATs were in fact being strengthened as evidenced by the proposed creation of two teams for West Africa and transfer of staff from Addis Ababa to strengthen the various teams. He suggested that discussion on UNDATs should await the Aw Mission report and therefore should be referred to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

15. Concerning the question of least developed among the developing countries, the Executive Secretary replied that the Committee would have an opportunity to discuss the question under agenda item 7(a). The secretariat's recommendations had been accepted by UNCTAD for inclusion in their list of "hard core" countries and the General Assembly had requested UNCTAD to discuss this list and other related topics at the forthcoming meeting at Santiago.
16. On financing of regional projects, the Executive Secretary reported that ECA had no funds of its own and that UNDP funds to the Commission were for seminars, meetings, conferences and technical experts. There was therefore need for a clear expression of the wishes of the Committee on this matter. Regarding additional funds to be made available to the regional economic commissions in implementing General Assembly Resolution 2803(XXVI), the Executive Secretary called upon the secretariat's Chief of Administration who reported that allotment had been issued for \$485,000 to ECA to finance regional and sub-regional Advisory Services. This amount covered the cost of thirteen Regional Advisers at ECA including secretarial assistance. In addition, Headquarters had requested the ECA secretariat to submit proposals for other projects in the amount of approximately \$350,000. It had been estimated that this amount would cover the cost of twelve Regional Advisers making available to the Commission twenty-five advisers in all. Until 1968, the Commission used to receive an allocation of \$740,000 covering 32 Regional Advisers including secretarial services. At that time the average cost was at \$22,500 per Regional Adviser, as against the current cost of \$30,000 per Regional Adviser.
17. The Committee took note of the secretariat's comments and requested that:
- (a) The secretariat should produce a progress report on the whole question of UNDATs for the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
 - (b) At the forthcoming meeting of UNDP Resident Representatives in Africa, the Executive Secretary should forcefully represent the views of the Committee and proposals of the tenth session of the Commission especially on the necessity to make available to the Commission sufficient resources to enable it to participate in project implementation. The Executive Secretary was to report the result of this meeting to the next sitting of the Executive Committee;
 - (c) The Committee should reserve the position on the least developed among the developing countries until the discussion of agenda item 7(a);
 - (d) The Executive Secretary should seek clarification from the United Nations Headquarters regarding the disposal of the funds allocated under resolution 2803(XXVI) of the General Assembly.

Matters arising from the meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in December 1971

18. The Executive Secretary introduced this item of the agenda and reported on the meeting of executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. The meeting raised questions concerning the preparations for the third session

of UNCTAD, UNDATA and their relationship with regional inter-governmental bodies; the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Environment; accelerated search for natural resources in the developing countries, and the role of ECA in determining projects for submission to UNDP. He found these meetings useful since they provided an opportunity to be acquainted with problems of other regional economic commissions and international rather than parochial views on regional socio-economic problems.

19. In various comments that followed this report members of the Committee commented that relations between UNDP and ECA regarding industry programmes must be through UNIDO. Similarly, ECA programmes in trade must be submitted to OTC through UNCTAD. Since UNIDO and UNCTAD were not in the same category as the specialized agencies, and since both had adequate funds available, the Committee requested the Executive Secretary to pursue the idea of joint divisions with the two United Nations departments, in order to co-ordinate United Nations effort in industry and trade in Africa and conserve resources. The ECA/FAO Joint Division had proved successful and was tackling realistically such problems in Africa as rice production (WARDA) and livestock promotion.

Matters arising from the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly

20. The secretariat reported that the UNDP Governing Council had been enlarged and now included the following eleven African countries: Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Upper Volta, Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, Libya, Central African Republic, Zaïre and Zambia. Of the forty-eight members of the Governing Council 27 were from the developing countries and 21 from the developed countries. By resolution 2847(XXVI) of the General Assembly, the number of African countries on ECOSOC would also be increased to 14 after the amendment to the United Nations Charter had been ratified. At present the following African States were serving on ECOSOC: Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Tunisia and Zaïre. Pending this ratification Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Rwanda, Senegal and Sudan were already serving on ECOSOC Sessional Committees.

21. The Committee took note of this report and urged African members serving on the two bodies to continue to co-ordinate their efforts more closely and develop African stands on various issues in order to be better able to defend the interests of the region.

Publications and documentation of the United Nations

22. The secretariat reported that, based on a new quota system initiated by the United Nations Publications Board in compliance with General Assembly resolution 2836(XXVI) requesting a decrease of 15 per cent, Headquarters had arrived at final figures which had been communicated to the secretariat. The secretariat was still in touch with Headquarters for further clarification on some aspects of these figures. A list of ECA recurrent documents had been submitted to the Committee. Two of these documents had been merged but it was not intended that any of them be discontinued as a result of the study

carried out on the subject. Headquarters had notified the secretariat that the total sum allocated for external contractual printing in 1972, was \$25,700 instead of \$30,500 in the previous year; but the secretariat expected to do much more of its publications internally. In 1971 the secretariat had established a Documents and Publications Control Board to regulate the production of documents at the Commission and to exercise maximum economy in that operation.

23. The Committee took note of this presentation. It stressed the usefulness of ECA recurrent publications to member Governments and welcomed the favourable reviews given by the Joint Inspection Unit in their user surveys on ECA publications generally, most of which had been rated as "above average".

Review of the activities of the Commission

24. A report was presented on the activities of the secretariat since the sixth meeting of the Committee. This report was based on the draft Annual Report of ECA for the period 14 February 1971 to 13 February 1972. The Executive Secretary also reported on the three sub-items of the agenda dealing with preparation for UNCTAD III, preparation for the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, and on science and technology.

25. On UNCTAD III, the secretariat, in consultation with OAU, had prepared for the sixth ECA/OAU Joint Meeting on Trade and Development; it had convened the second regular meeting of the Association of African Central Banks, and convened the African Group at the annual meeting of IERD/IMF. Reports of these meetings had been submitted to an African Ministerial Meeting in October 1971 which adopted an Action Programme submitted to the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Lima. Three documents entitled "Restructuring of Africa's Foreign Trade" (E/CN.14/UNCTAD III/1), "Shipping and Ports" (E/CN.14/UNCTAD III/2), and "International Financial and Monetary Issues" (E/CN.14/UNCTAD III/3) had been prepared for distribution to the African delegations in Santiago. An ECA delegation of four, to be headed by the Executive Secretary, was to attend the third session of UNCTAD.

26. On the subject of the least developed of the developing countries, an ECA-sponsored symposium on rural development had delineated a group of countries in Africa as least developed on the basis of the three following criteria: (a) national per capita income, (b) employment opportunities, and (c) health and social services. The Committee for Development Planning had also identified eight characteristics of the least developed countries. It had finally selected three criteria for adoption, namely (a) per capita gross domestic product of \$100 or less, (b) a share of manufacturing in the gross domestic of 10 per cent or less, and (c) literacy rate of 20 per cent or less. On the basis of these criteria, a list of 25 countries had been drawn up which was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2768(XXVI). Sixteen of these countries were in Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Upper Volta. A second list of five land-locked countries included three in Africa.

27. On preparation for the Stockholm Conference, the General Assembly had adopted two resolutions 2849(XXVI), and 2850(XXVI) paragraphs of which indicated that the Assembly recognized the important matters raised by the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee. In addition, the provisional agenda for the Stockholm Conference included an item that could give African countries an opportunity to air their views and to make sure that decisions taken by the industrialized world on environmental issues did not adversely affect development prospects and international trade in Africa. To date twenty African countries had produced national reports on the state of their environment; three had produced case studies, and several had participated in the preliminary meetings.
28. On Science and Technology, since the sixth meeting of the Committee, the secretariat had continued its work and had submitted not only a paper on the World Plan of Action, but an African Strategy for Science and Technology Development. ECA had participated in the UNACAST meetings and continued to attach great importance to the subject.
29. The Committee took note of the reports and commended the Executive Secretary on the preparations for the third session of UNCTAD. It wished to place on record the fact that although it had confidence in the Executive Secretary's judgement in his selection of competent staff for the secretariat at Santiago, for political and other reasons it felt that some consideration be given to sending a team which included as many Africans as possible.
30. Members of the Committee were agreed on the necessity for informing African delegations to Santiago through their Governments of the need to coordinate their efforts and to work hand-in-hand with the ECA secretariat and the OAU team to develop and support an African point of view. In this connexion the Committee called upon both ECA and OAU to render all possible assistance to the African members at Santiago.
31. The Committee recognized that the question of least developed countries could not be resolved at the current meeting, and urged African members attending the Santiago Meeting to seek to develop more favourable terms and criteria for Africa. In this connexion it was suggested that the designation "mono-production" would be a good substitute for "mono-culture" as a criterion for identifying the least developed countries.
32. On preparation for the Stockholm Conference, the Committee noted with appreciation the statement on the subject given by the Executive Secretary. In reply to a question, the Executive Secretary stated that there were still some difficulties in the European region regarding the question of participation. It was, however, possible that several non-Members of the United Nations might be invited to participate in the Stockholm Conference.
33. On Science and Technology, the Committee considered that although the secretariat paper on African Strategy for Science and Technology Development was to be commended with regard to the value of the studies of the different problems of the region, it could also have dealt with such problems as the use

of science and technology for generating employment; the application of science and technology to the genetic improvement of cash-crops; and to "brain drain". The role and contribution of research and documentation could also be discussed with a view to establishing, for example, a data bank at ECA.

34. The document was of such importance that it should be given wider circulation and deeper consideration than was possible at this meeting. It had been suggested that ECA should arrange a meeting of African scientists to consider these documents after which a meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology should be convened with a view to pronouncing on this matter.

35. A statement was made by the UNESCO observer, who pointed out his organization's responsibilities in the field of science and technology in general, and informed the Committee that a meeting of the African Ministers responsible for science and technology (CASTAFRICA) was to be held in 1973, in accordance with resolution 2.11 adopted at the sixteenth session of the UNESCO General Conference. The Committee afterwards expressed the desire that UNESCO should include on the agenda of the said meeting an item dealing specifically with the regional proposals for Africa in the World Plan of Action. This would enable UNESCO and ECA to present to the African Ministers responsible for science and technology the African position and strategy discussed by the Executive Committee at the present meeting.

Preparations for the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council

36. A member of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/ECO/41: Summary of the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa, 1971 prepared for submission to the fifty-third session of ECOSOC.

37. The Committee discussed the above document, commented upon the quality and objectivity and of presentation, and took note of some of its shortcomings. The Committee recommended that the secretariat in preparing a final version, should take account of African sensitivities with respect to references to projects being implemented by racist regimes in southern Africa.

38. During the discussions of regional and sub-regional projects, the Committee expressed the hope that in future, the Executive Secretary would place emphasis on those regional groupings that promote unity among African States and not stress those that seemed to perpetuate colonial legacies.

39. The Committee pointed out that there was need to have a different approach in the discussions on the item "Preparations for ECOSOC session". The Committee suggested that in addition to the present report submitted by the Executive Secretary on the Survey of Economic Conditions in Africa it would be useful to have a projection of the items to be discussed in ECOSOC and that this should be brought to the attention of the Committee so that its members could express their views on them.

Relations with other international organizations

40. A member of the secretariat presented a report on relations between ECA and other international organizations. Stress was placed upon co-sponsored on-going projects. Observers were given the opportunity also to make statements on the nature of co-operation between their agencies and the Commission.
41. The ILO observer was pleased to report that efforts were being made further to strengthen its technical co-operation activities with the Commission. The method was to conduct a constant search for better work methods which would permit the two organizations to exchange experiences as well as the services of their experts in order to further assist Governments in solving their multiple and complex development problems. The Commission's concern with unemployment problems was ILO's concern also, and it was collaborating with ECA in a 'Jobs and Skills Programme for Africa'.
42. The FAO observer was keenly interested in the Commission's concern with the overall economic and social development of Africa. Its partnership with ECA in the form of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division was working to the satisfaction of all concerned. This partnership had matured over the years so that the question of who took the initiative in providing certain agricultural programmes and projects in the region, based on an agreed programme of work of the Joint Division, did not pose any problems. FAO was engaged in several concrete projects which included the establishment of the West African Rice Development Association and the Livestock Development Programme for southern and central Africa and intra-regional trade in the field of agriculture. Any project with beneficial or multiplier effect in the social and economic fields as initiated by ECA would receive the support of FAO, depending on its competence and the availability of resources.
43. The WHO observer attached great importance to co-operation with the Commission as evidenced by the attachment of an officer to the ECA secretariat. This co-operation was useful and beneficial to both WHO and ECA. Another staff member, a sanitary engineer, was also attached to the WHO liaison officer who was in contact with various ECA Divisions and in touch with projects up to the level of implementation.
44. The UNESCO observer informed the meeting of a number of positive ways in which his Organization had co-operated with the Commission since the previous meeting of the Committee; these included the development of water resources, the human environment, the Conference of African Statisticians, manpower and training, the Conference of African Demographers and regional proposals for Africa in the World Plan of Action. In addition, ECA had collaborated with UNESCO in the preparation of CASTAFRICA to be held the following year and in revising the plan for the development of education in Africa adopted at the Addis Ababa Conference in 1961. He was happy to confirm the usefulness of this co-operation which was substantiated by the relations with ECA.

45. Most UNICEF programmes, its observer informed the Committee, were on a country basis, and assistance was primarily given in connexion with development programmes. Emphasis was currently being placed upon the preparation of statistics on children and adolescents in seven developing countries and on a perspective study on children and adolescents during the period of the Second Development Decade. It was also concerned with the problem of non-formal education.
46. The UNDP observer made mention of the forthcoming regional meeting of Resident Representatives in Africa and informed the Committee that although this was to be an internal UNDP meeting, the Executive Secretary of ECA had been invited to participate in it. The secretariat had prepared a useful and detailed document entitled "The Regional Approach within the United Nations System" (E/CN.14/INF/56) which could form a basis for discussions on future lines of co-operation.
47. The OAU observer informed the Committee that his organization had always co-operated with the ECA in organizing joint programmes. The ECA work programme presented to the Committee showed ample proof of this co-operation and the fruits thereof.
48. The Committee thanked the representatives of the international organizations for their statements and requested the Executive Secretary, in future, to make copies of the secretariat's own comments on agenda items available in writing to members of the Committee before they are presented. The Executive Secretary took note of this. Also requested for the next meeting of the Executive Committee were separate documents on co-operation between ECA and the specialized agencies and assistance received from inter-governmental organizations, and on links existing between the specialized agencies operating in Africa and ECA member States, the latter to be illustrated with charts.
49. The Committee expressed the wish to be represented at the forthcoming regional meeting of Resident Representatives in Africa. It therefore requested the UNDP observer to convey to the UNDP Administrator a request to allow the Committee to participate in an observer status, through a delegation of four including the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur. The UNDP observer took note of this request and agreed to transmit it to the Administrator.
50. On the question of attaching a senior UNDP official to the ECA secretariat, the UNDP observer was not aware of any decision taken, but anticipated that the new Administrator would give the matter his consideration.

Other business

51. Under this agenda item three matters were considered. The first concerned a letter to the Chairman of the Committee by the Executive Secretary informing the Committee of measures proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to improve the financial situation of the Organization and seeking the support of the Committee in attaining the objective of the Secretary-General. The Committee discussed this letter and decided that since it

accepted the point of view of the Group of 77 it could not support the Secretary-General in his stand. There was a difference between the level of the budget and the debt of the United Nations. Because it was the debt which had put the organization into its present financial situation, it would be unfair to expect the developing countries to accept the burden of payment when they were not responsible for it. The regional economic commissions did not have the resources to carry on with their assigned tasks, and should be given resources commensurate with them rather than be deprived of their financial resources. The Committee was therefore unable to accept the views expressed in the letter and decided to put forward its own points of views on the matter when acknowledging receipt of the letter.

52. The second item concerned a request by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea contained in E/CN.14/ECO/43 addressed to the Executive Secretary, seeking facilities for simultaneous Spanish interpretation at all programmes, meetings, seminars and special courses of the Commission. The Committee took note of this request and indicated that it would involve an amendment to the rules of procedure of the Commission, and advised that the representative of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea should seek the prior support of the African Group at United Nations for General Assembly approval of any favourable request for amending the rules of procedure of the Commission that might later be presented. Meanwhile the secretariat would look into the financial implications of the request.

53. Under the third item, members of the Committee requested a progress report on the question of Africanization of the ECA secretariat since the Conference of Ministers held at Tunis in February 1971. The Committee wanted to know whether the recent resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, allowing for recruitment from over-representated member States within the African region until the under-represented member States were ready to release their personnel, had proved useful in the secretariat's effort to improve Africanization of its staff. The Committee suggested that the Executive Secretary should continue to take advantage of this resolution. A member of the secretariat gave a factual report on the strength of the African and non-African staff of the secretariat according to their grades. A table showing the data since 1971 was distributed, a copy of which is attached as annex IV to this report.

54. During the discussion that followed members of the Committee expressed dissatisfaction at the slow rate of Africanization particularly as regards Africans in senior posts. The Committee stressed the importance of Africans heading some important divisions within the secretariat, and urged the Executive Secretary to take advantage of every opportunity that arose to make this possible. The Executive Secretary was also urged to recruit more Africans to fill the vacancies now existing as soon as the freeze on recruitment imposed from Headquarters was lifted. In order to assist the Executive Secretary in his task, member States were asked to release competent staff to serve on ECA secretariat whenever they were requested to do so.

Date of the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee

55. The Committee agreed to hold the eighth meeting in Addis Ababa from 13 to 17 November 1972.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

56. The Committee adopted the draft report as amended, and decided to annex the Executive Secretary's letter to the Chairman of the Committee on the implications of the financial crisis of the United Nations, together with the Chairman's reply; (see annexes II and III).

Annex I. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

E/CN.14/ECO/40/Rev.1	Agenda
E/CN.14/549	Report of the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee
E/CN.14/534/Add.3	Resolutions and decisions of interest to the Commission adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council since the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers
A/8362	Publications and documentation of the United Nations
	ECA Draft Annual Report 1971/1972
E/CN.14/547	Report of the seventh session of the Conference of African Statisticians
E/CN.14/553	Report of the first session of the Conference of African Demographers
E/CN.14/ECO/42	African Strategy for Science and Technology Development
UNACAST/AF.REG/VI.2/Rev.1	African Regional Proposals for the World Plan of Action
E/CN.14/ECO/41	Economic Conditions in Africa 1971 (Summary)
E/CN.14/ECO/43	Note verbale dated 27 March 1972 from the Embassy of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea addressed to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Annex II. LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL
CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Date: 3 April 1972
Reference: ORG 130/2

Sir,

The Secretary-General is preoccupied with the increasingly adverse effects of the critical financial situation of the United Nations on the reputation of the Organization, as well as on the efficiency and effectiveness of its future operations. While the relationship between this financial situation, which has many intractable aspects of a political nature, and the level of the budget estimates can be a matter of controversy, as has been amply demonstrated in the course of the General Assembly debate of the budget estimates for 1972, the Secretary-General is convinced that in view of the continuing financial difficulties of the Organization, some measure of budgetary restraint is unavoidable.

As far as 1972 is concerned, he has made it clear that the budget appropriations need to be administered in such a manner as to achieve a final unexpended balance in the amount of \$4 million, i.e. the approximate equivalent of the anticipated shortfall in the payment of assessed contributions. As for 1973, on the assumption that no real progress will be made in the immediate future towards a basic solution of the deficit situation, the Secretary-General has stated that it is essential that the level of the estimates should demonstrate maximum self-restraint and fiscal care on the part of the Secretariat. He has indicated, in particular, that even in those circumstances where a legitimate case could be made for the strengthening in 1973 of particular offices and departments, he would not seek the necessary provisions for such purposes until present difficulties have been resolved.

To attain these objectives, the Secretary-General has called for the cooperation of all members of the Secretariat, and it is now apparent that he is receiving a positive response. It is evident, however, that if the goals which he seeks to achieve are to be reached, it will be necessary to enlist also the full support of the various United Nations bodies where new programmes and activities are originated. The Secretary-General therefore feels it to be his duty to make all United Nations Councils, Commissions and Committees aware of his preoccupations and his objectives. The Secretary-General does not believe that the application of a policy of financial restraint necessarily means that new programmes and activities cannot be undertaken. The aim should rather be to seek to accommodate such new responsibilities within the staff resources which will have become available as a result of the completion of prior tasks, or by the assignment of a lower order of priority to certain continuing activities. While the extent to which the members of the Executive Committee will wish to associate themselves with the Secretary-General's preoccupations and policies is undoubtedly a matter for them to decide, the Secretary-General trusts that they will wish to assist him in attaining objectives which, in his view and in present circumstances, are in the best interest of the Organization.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

R.K.A. Gardiner
Executive Secretary

Annex III. REPLY FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE
LETTER OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RELATING TO THE IMPLICA-
TIONS OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Date: 6 April 1972

Reference: ORG 130/2

Sir,

The Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa currently meeting in Addis Ababa received with some disquiet, through its Chairman, the Hon. Apollo Kironde, your letter ORG 130/2 dated 3 April 1972 regarding the implications of the financial crisis of the United Nations for the next two years as indicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Executive Committee wish to commend the energetic manner in which an attempt has been made by the Secretary-General to tackle the financial crisis of the United Nations since his assumption of office. The Committee also hopes that the administrative measures designed to streamline the procedure of the work of the Organization will assist in alleviating the financial crisis.

With regard to the fundamental question raised in your letter on the nature of the debt that has caused the present financial crisis of the Organization, the Executive Committee share fully the views expressed by the Group of 77 in their declaration on the matter issued at the 26th session of the General Assembly as an official document to the effect that "it was mistaken to confuse the problem of the deficit with the level of the budget and it was convinced that restrictive measures would inevitably have adverse effects on the Organization's activities and would not be acceptable to the generality of the membership." It is in the context of the declaration of the Group of 77 that the Executive Committee views with some uneasiness your letter that even in 1973 the Secretary-General will not seek additional budgetary provision from the General Assembly although legitimate cases may be made for strengthening offices or departments. The Executive Committee feels that if this policy is pursued the work programme of ECA will be adversely affected. The Executive Committee wish to point out that both the Manpower Survey Team and the Joint Inspection Unit in their reports to the General Assembly emphasized the need of the Commission to have the necessary manpower if it is to fulfill the aspirations of the member States of the Commission. Unfortunately because of the financial crisis, the reports of the Administrative Management Service which were approved by the General Assembly have not been implemented. The net effect is that the staff resources of ECA have remained the same in the past three years despite a growing programme.

The Committee hope that in the efforts of the Secretary-General to solve the financial crisis of the Organization, he will take into account the vital needs of the developing countries as expressed in the declaration of the Group of 77, and particularly those of ECA which have been confirmed by the recent

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Manpower Survey on the Commission. The Committee are confident that the Secretary-General will do his utmost to find a solution conducive to the best interest of the Member States of the United Nations.

Accept, Mr. Executive Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A. Kironde
Chairman
Seventh Meeting of the
Executive Committee

Annex IV. ECA SECRETARIAT STAFF ON BOARD

ECA authorized manning table 1971

Levels	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Total
Regular budget	1	1	10	17	31	49	33	142

ECA secretariat staff on board

As at 15 January 1971

Levels	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Total
Africans	1	1	5	9	16	30	20	82
Non-Africans	-	-	1	5	8	19	9	42*
Vacancies	-	-	4	3	7	-	4	18**
Total	1	1	10	17	31	49	33	142

* Includes 11 language staff not subject to geographical distribution.

** 13 vacancies are temporarily encumbered.

ECA authorized manning table 1972

Levels	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Total
Regular budget	1	1	10	23	36	58	31	160
United Nations Fund for Popula- tion Activities, and other funds	-	-	-	1	3	2	2	8

ECA secretariat staff on board

As at 1 March 1972

Levels	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Total
Africans	1	1	6	11	17	29	25	90*
Non-Africans	-	-	2	5	15	17	7	46*
Vacancies	-	-	2	8	7	14	1	32
Total	1	1	10	24	39	60	33	168

* Includes 1 African and 10 non-Africans language staff not subject to geographical distribution.