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ES/CONF/1
11 162
12 163
13 164
14 165
15 166
16 167
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19 170
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22 173
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949 1100
950 1101
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957 1108
958 1109
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960 1111
961 1112
962 1113
963 1114
964 1115
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966 1117
967 1118
968 1119
969 1120
970 1121
971 1122
972 1123
973 1124
974 1125
975 1126
976 1127
977 1128
978 1129
979 1130
980 1131
981 1132
982 1133
983 1134
984 1135
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1003 1154
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1006 1157
1007 1158
1008 1159
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1010 1161
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1012 1163
1013 1164
1014 1165
1015 1166
1016 1167
1017 1168
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1021 1172
1022 1173
1023 1174
1024 1175
1025 1176
1026 1177
1027 1178
1028 1179
1029 1180
1030 1181
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1032 1183
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1038 1189
1039 1190
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1047 1198
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1099 1250
1100 1251
1101 1252
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1103 1254
1104 1255
1105 1256
1106 1257
1107 1258
1108 1259
1109 1260
1110 1261
1111 1262
1112 1263
1113 1264
1114 1265
1115 1266
1116 1267
1117 1268
1118 1269
1119 1270
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1121 1272
1122 1273
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1124 1275
1125 1276
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1128 1279
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1130 1281
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1177 1328
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1190 1341
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1197 1348
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1199 1350
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1205 1356
1206 1357
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1212 1363
1213 1364
1214 1365
1215 1366
1216 1367
1217 1368
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1219 1370
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1222 1373
1223 1374
1224 1375
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1226 1377
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1229 1380
1230 1381
1231 1382
1232 1383
1233 1384
1234 1385
1235 1386
1236 1387
1237 1388
1238 1389
1239 1390
1240 1391
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1242 1393
1243 1394
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1245 1396
1246 1397
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1277 1428
1278 1429
1279 1430
1280 1431
1281 1432
1282 1433
1283 1434
1284 1435
1285 1436
1286 1437
128

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Paragraphs</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING | | |
| Opening and duration of the meeting - - - | 1 - 2 | 1 |
| Election of officers - - - - - | 3 | 1 |
| Attendance - - - - - | 4 - 6 | 1 |
| Agenda - - - - - | 7 | 1 - 2 |
| DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS | | |
| Matters arising from the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee - - - - - | 8 - 12 | 2 - 5 |
| Review of activities of the Commission - - | 13 - 20 | 5 - 6 |
| Matters arising from the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional econo- mic commissions held in 1971 - - - - - | 21 - 30 | 6 - 8 |
| United Nations Conference on the Human Environment - - - - - | 31 - 36 | 8 |
| Matters arising from the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council - - - | 37 | 9 - 10 |
| Relations with other international organiza- tions - - - - - | 38 - 53 | 11 - 13 |
| Other business - - - - - | 54 | 13 |
| Date of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee - - - - - | 5 | 13 |
| ADOPTION OF THE REPORT - - - - - | 56 | 14 |
| ANNEX | | |
| I LIST OF PARTICIPANTS | | |
| II LIST OF DOCUMENTS | | |
| III LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT | | |

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. In the absence of the officers of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee and in the absence of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Conference of Ministers, who could have taken the chair in accordance with rule 16 of the Rules of procedure of the Commission the Executive Secretary opened the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting took place in Addis Ababa from 15-18 November 1971, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. H. Raharijaona, representative of Madagascar on the Committee.

2. The Executive Secretary conveyed to the members of the Committee the apologies of the current Chairman of the Conference of Ministers, H.E. Mr. Tijani Chelli, the Tunisian Minister of National Economy who could not attend the Committee meeting owing to pressure of work at home.

Election of officers

3. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and taking into account the decision of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee relating to the election of officers of the Executive Committee, the Committee elected:

H.E. Mr. H. Raharijaona, Madagascar, as First Vice-Chairman

H.E. Mr. H.R. Amonoo, Ghana, as Second Vice-Chairman

H.E. Mr. M.F. Ipotc, Zaire, as Rapporteur.

Attendance

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of fifteen member States as follows: from Central African Sub-region: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Zaire; from the East African sub-region: Ethiopia, Madagascar, Somalia, Uganda; from the North African Sub-region: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia; and from the West African Sub-region: Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

5. An apology was received from the sixteenth member of the Executive Committee, Algeria, who could not attend.

6. Observers from the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, UNDP, ILP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and the OAU were also present.

Agenda

7. 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 fifth meeting of the Executive Committee
- (5) Review of the activities of the Commission
- (6) Matters arising from:
 - (a) The meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commission held in 1971
 - (b) The fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council
- (7) Relations with other international organizations
- (8) Any other business
- (9) Date of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee
- (10) Adoption of the report

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Matters arising from the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee

8. Concerning item 4 of the agenda, the secretariat reported as follows: On paragraph 13 of the Report of the Fifth Meeting (E/CN.14/ECO/36), General Assembly resolution 2641(XXV) regarding the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy requesting the various organizations of the United Nations Family to continue to review progress in their respective sectors, ECA's Intelligence Unit and the Planning and Research Division had set up the necessary organization to make their contribution to this global review.

Paragraph 14 : General Assembly resolution 2681(XXV) concerning the unified approach to development analysis and planning, the interested branches of the secretariat were attempting to incorporate the approach into their work programme.

Paragraph 17 : A resolution calling for more resources for the regional economic commission was still being discussed by the General Assembly. The recommendations of the Administrative Management Survey Team remained unaltered except that beyond the 17 additional posts it was not likely that there could be any further expansion.

Paragraph 21 : On the establishment of the UNDATs the secretariat had been informed by headquarters that it was not possible, in the light of the present financial difficulties of the United Nations to increase the regional adviser component.

Paragraph 22 : On the desire for delegation of the important United Nations bodies to speak with a united African voice, the Chairman of the Executive Committee had addressed a letter on 9 August 1971, to member States expressing the need to have a united African presentation of Africa's needs in United Nations bodies.

Paragraph 23 : Information requested on the Administrative Management Survey Team was despatched to member States of the Committee and their representatives on 9 August 1971.

Paragraph 26 : A large number of indicators had been prepared by ESA headquarters. They were not easily applicable to Africa and the Statistics and Research Divisions of the secretariat were reviewing them in order to select and adapt some of the relevant items for consideration by the Conference of African Demographers in 1971 and the Conference of African Planners in 1972.

On paragraph 27 and 81 : Dealing with relations between the secretariat and other agencies, activities in co-operation with FAO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, OAU and UNDP were to be reported upon separately by the Executive Secretary.

Paragraph 30 : The situation of the UNDATs was under consideration and as soon as agreement had been reached between the secretariat and ESA a report would be made to the Committee.

Paragraph 36 : The position of staffing remained unchanged: if anything, it had got more difficult.

Paragraph 40 and 50 : The new work programme would ensure considerable reduction in the number of meetings but it was still in the stage of preparation and would have to be formally adopted by the Technical Committee of Experts before being submitted to the Executive Committee.

Paragraph 77 : A reply to the Secretary General's questionnaire on regional structures had been formally submitted to the Secretary-General.

Paragraph 79(j) : ECOSOC resolution 1643(LI), referred. The Secretary General was to examine the action necessary to bring this about. The Council requested that the Secretary General pursue his consideration of the possibility of associating where and when necessary, the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions with the meetings of the ACC and Preparatory Committee in order to ensure more effective participation of the regional economic commissions in the co-ordination arrangements at the secretariat level.

Paragraph 111 : The secretariat had secured the services of two oil experts who were now preparing country studies and formulating policy positions for discussion by a conference.

Paragraph 123 : On the question of routing of cablegrams through Jerusalem, the ECA administration had conveyed the views of the meeting to New York. Headquarters had informed the secretariat that any change of cable routing which would increase cost of the service could not be entertained at the moment. The ECA secretariat had been asked to submit to Headquarters for approval all official requests from countries to change existing cable arrangements.

The Executive Committee had adopted the following recommendation at its fifth meeting: "Requests the Executive Secretary to commission a special study on the African economic co-operation movement in the past decade, taking into account all the necessary factors, with a view to drawing lessons for the future, and to recommend measures and new lines of approach which are likely to stimulate progress in this field, and thus facilitate the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade". The Committee was informed that arrangements had been made by the Executive Secretary for the preparation of this study.

9. In presenting their observations on the report of the secretariat, a number of representatives expressed the view that the report was excessively pessimistic with regard to the resources intended for regional advisory services. This impression was principally due to the fact that, during the twenty-sixth session, the General Assembly was proposing to adopt a resolution creating a separate section in its regular budget for the financing of regional and sub-regional advisory services, so that the present section 13 of Part VI of the budget would be used to a large extent to support the national programmes of the least advanced of the developing countries, together with the regional and sub-regional programmes of special importance to these countries.

10. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that the current General Assembly had accepted this recommendation and that as soon as the Commission knew the amount voted, member States would be informed. He added, however, that information available to him, indicated that the amount involved would be smaller than what was made available to the Commission in the current year. Whilst members of the Committee noted with satisfaction the new development, they regretted that many of the Commission's projects had to be deleted or postponed due to inadequacy of resources annually voted to the Commission. The Committee also noted that an important resolution requesting additional resources to the Commission had been passed by ECOSOC in July.

11. Some members wished to know why the sub-regional offices were not adequately staffed and deplored their utilization as mere post offices. It was suggested that in cases where the sub-regional offices were under-staffed, UNDATs could be headquartered there. The Executive Secretary commented that so far only one UNDAT had been established or financed in Central Africa by Headquarters. The ECA was reviewing the position and would tap all resources to see if more teams could be established. Schemes had been worked out concerning the UNDATs and the use of the sub-regional offices; but funds were not forthcoming. When the time came and the resources became available, the sub-regional offices could fulfil their destiny.

12. In response to a question on the use that the secretariat was making of the United Nations rouble allocation, the Executive Secretary indicated that the roubles were still in New York. Any Government that could spend their own currencies on experts in exchange for roubles would be assisted to make use of that allocation.

Review of activities of the Commission

13. A representative of the secretariat presented a report based upon document E/CN.14/ECO/38 and Add.1, "Review of activities undertaken in the implementation of the Programme of Work and Priorities of the Commission since the tenth session", dealing with: (a) field missions for technical assistance to governments; (b) meetings, seminars, training courses and expert working groups; (c) research studies and publications; (d) trade fairs and symposia; (e) postponed projects; and (f) the implementation of Africa's strategy for development in the 1970s.

14. Technical assistance field missions reported upon represented practical action taken by the secretariat in response to specific requests received from member States. This section of the report only described the type of technical advisory services that had been given and it was hoped that in future the secretariat could report also on tangible results achieved in this field.

15. Out of thirty-six meetings sponsored by the secretariat the following deserved special mention: the meeting of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) held in Monrovia from 20-25 September; the First Meeting of the Trans-African Highway Committee held at Addis Ababa from 14-18 June, and the meeting of eight donor countries and three observers held from 29 September to 1 October; the Symposium on Rural Development in Africa in the 1970s held at Addis Ababa from 9 to 13 August; the East African Expert Meeting on Economic Co-operation held at Addis Ababa from 1 to 10 November; the Meetings of the East and West African sub-regional committees of the Association of African Central Banks held at Dar-es-Salaam from 6 to 8 May and at Bamako from 13 to 15 May and the Second Regular Meeting of the Association of African Central Banks held at Rabat from 13 to 17 September; the Sixth ECA/OAU Joint Meeting on Trade and Development held at Geneva from 12 to 23 August; the African Ministerial Meeting Preparatory to UNCTAD III, held at Addis Ababa from 8 to 14 October 1971 and the Seventh Session of the Conference of African Statisticians held at Dakar from 13 to 22 October. The secretariat was constantly endeavouring to give priority to these meetings that had follow-up content and merit.

16. The secretariat had sought to inform the Committee by providing Section E in the report on "Postponed Projects". Projects have had to be postponed or deferred because the work programme adopted in Tunis had been drawn up on the assumption that the recommendations of the United Nations Administrative Management Survey Team for additional staff resources would be implemented, which it was not.

17. Several members of the Committee wished to know why and how some items in the programme of work adopted by the Conference of Ministers had been changed, postponed or deleted. In his comment, the Executive Secretary affirmed the executive nature of his office and referred the Committee to paragraphs 512 and 552 of the Annual Report (E/CN.14/519), which said among other things that the Commission entrusted the Executive Secretary with the appropriate authority to modify or postpone the implementation of certain projects in the work programme should he deem it necessary.
18. The Committee, however, felt that the postponed projects in document E/CN.14/ECO/38 should, as was customary, be referred to the next meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts for decision. The Executive Secretary confirmed to the Committee that the practice of submitting to the Technical Committee of Experts any changes in the work programme as approved by the Conference of Ministers would be followed.
19. Some members wished to know whether the secretariat carried out an evaluation of the impact its programme had in member States. The secretariat, in replying, indicated that it had no funds for the exercise and depended upon Governments of member States to inform it of the effectiveness of its programme of work.
20. Several members commended the secretariat in various tasks it had undertaken in arranging conferences, seminars and training programmes but felt that some aspects of these could be improved. For example, it was suggested that the form of presentation of the report on activities of the Commission (E/CN.14/ECO/38) could be improved by following the same pattern as that of the programme of work by subject matter. The secretariat could also redress the imbalance in its activities in the various sub-regions. The sub-regional offices could also participate more fully in the activities of the secretariat as far as meetings, conference, etc. were concerned.
- Matters arising from the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions held in 1971
21. In reporting upon the meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions, the Executive Secretary explained that this was an internal meeting established by the Secretary-General to help clarify issues arising from implementation of the work programmes. This meeting was growing in importance as an avenue for promoting closer co-operation and co-ordination between the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies.
22. The Executive Secretary emphasized the vital role that the regional economic commissions were expected to play in the implementation of the International Development Strategy.
23. Efforts to decentralize activities from Headquarters in favour of the regional economic commissions were proceeding but it was necessary to

effect some structural changes before the regional economic commissions could be made operational. These involved transfer of financial control, recruitment practices, and the power to approve projects.

24. Two years ago when the programme for the UNDATs was announced, it was hoped that finance would be made available. Until now only one team had been established in the whole region. The Committee could insist that promises made in this regard should be kept. Commenting on this report, the delegate from Cameroon reported that his country was fortunate in having the only UNDAT and while the leader of the team was slowly finding his feet, he was having difficulty in recruiting staff; the programme appeared to be too diffused and that there was need for some rationalization.

25. On the question of export development and promotion the secretariat was happy to report that the Trade Promotion Centre was already beginning to receive requests from member States. There was the possibility of attracting bilateral assistance for this programme and the secretariat was looking forward to participating in national fairs at the request of member States. This participation usually took the form of mounting an exhibition stand and a symposium for participants. The secretariat's programme laid stress on the supply as well as demand aspects of trade promotion. It was co-operating with all agencies that could help with trade development and promotion in Africa, including the Common Market.

26. There was close co-operation between the ECA Trade, Fiscal and Monetary Affairs Division and the UNCTAD Secretariat, and both carried out a joint programme so that the African point of view had been able to gain acceptance in the various meetings organized by UNCTAD, especially in Lima. The notion of 'least developed countries' had been developed here at the ECA and it now featured prominently in UNCTAD's programme. The report of the Lima meeting incorporated many of the African proposals.

27. Considering the statement of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 116 to 120 of the report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee on the activities of the Commission in relation to the World Plan of Action and ECOSOC resolutions 1636(LI), 1638(LI), 1626(LI) and 1621B(LI) enumerated and discussed in paragraphs 24 to 29 of document E/CN.14/534/Add.2, the members of the Committee called for a progress report on the preparation of the Regional Plan which was intended for presentation to the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development during the current month of November 1971.

28. The Executive Secretary explained that a report was being prepared but it was not ripe for submission. He was not satisfied with the present form of the report.

29. Some members of the Committee expressed great concern on this matter which was of crucial importance to African countries and stressed the need to have the Regional Plan ready for presentation to the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee as soon as possible.

30. The Executive Secretary reviewed the development of the science and technology programme of the Commission and indicated the next stages envisaged. Following this review, some members of the Committee requested the Executive Secretary to assure them that the commitment contained in paragraph 119 of the report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee would be fulfilled within a reasonable time. The Executive Secretary indicated that the Regional Plan would be presented when it was ready.

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

31. The Committee took note of the Report of the All-African Seminar on the Human Environment (E/CN.14/532) and discussed it at length. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment who was present also spoke before the Committee and emphasized the point that the environmental problem was not concerned exclusively with the eradication of pollution. This point, he said, was gaining widespread acceptance since the meeting on development and environment held at Founex in June 1971.

32. With the co-operation of the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, it was reported, four regional seminars had been organized as part of the preparatory work for the Stockholm Conference scheduled for June 1972. The 1972 Conference was not expected to be the end of the environmental effort, but rather its beginning; and the hope was expressed that Africa would not fail to play an active role in the Conference.

33. Because far-reaching decisions were likely to be taken at the Stockholm Conference on the Environment which could influence important issues, the representative of the above mentioned Conference Secretariat urged that an African position be formulated and presented to the Secretariat of the Conference before the deadline of 31 December 1971, set for such documentation. But country papers and other documentation would still be accepted up to, and even after, the Stockholm Conference.

34. Some members of the Committee were of the opinion that there were other more pressing problems facing Africa than that of the environment. Most environmental problems stemmed from poverty, nevertheless the attention of Governments should not be distracted from the real task of promoting increases in real income.

35. The Committee, however, took note of the importance of the forthcoming Stockholm Conference and members made several proposals for ensuring a more effective representation of an African point of view and participation.

36. The Committee, after examining various proposals and alternatives, agreed: (a) to address a letter to all ECA member States stressing the importance of the human environment and the necessity for active participation in the Stockholm Conference, and (b) to send a cablegram to the Chairman of the African Group at the United Nations General Assembly requesting him to look into the possibility of co-ordinating the proposals of African States for the agenda of the Stockholm Conference.

Matters arising from the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council

37. In connexion with the deliberations of the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva in July 1971, the secretariat drew the attention of the Committee to three different points: (i) the action taken by the Council on matters raised by the Commission on its subsidiary bodies, (ii) the recommendations of the Council to the General Assembly and other United Nations Organization, and (iii) the decisions of the Council relating to its own composition and to the organization of its work.

- (a) At its fifty-first session the Council commended ECA for the measures it had taken to chart a meaningful strategy for Africa's economic and social development in the 1970s. It took note of the report of the Commission adopted by the Conference of Ministers in Tunis in February 1971 and endorsed the programme of work and priorities, 1971-1973 with projections to 1976. The Council had also noted the Commission's recommendations on regional structures.
- (b) With regard to the recommendation of the Conference of Ministers, on the question of the representation of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Mozambique as Associate Members of the Commission, the Council had decided to refer the matter to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly which would take the necessary action.
- (c) After noting the views expressed by the regional economic commissions on the General Assembly's recommendation regarding a change of name, the Economic and Social Council had also decided that their present names should be maintained.
- (d) By resolution 1643(LI), the Secretary-General was requested to pursue his consideration of the possibility of associating, where and when necessary, the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions with the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Preparatory Committee in order to ensure more effective participation of the regional economic commissions in the co-ordination arrangements at the secretariat level.
- (e) In resolution 1601(LI), the Council recommended to the General Assembly that as a first step it should decide to establish a separate section in the United Nations regular budget earmarked for the operational activities of the regional economic commissions in respect of regional and sub-regional advisory services. It also recommended that the existing section 13 of part V of the United Nations budget for the regular programme of technical assistance be maintained in order to support country programmes of the least developed among the developing countries, as well as regional and sub-regional programmes of special interest to those countries.

- (f) With regard to the attainment of the goal of doubling the resources of the United Nations Development Programme during the next five years, the Economic and Social Council requested the UMDP Governing Council to review the planning estimates on which the indicative planning figures as approved by it were based.
- (g) After considering the world economic and social situation, the reports of the specialized agencies and those of the regional economic commissions, and the machinery for appraising progress during the Second United Nations Development Decade, the Council made to the Member States and Organizations of the United Nations a number of recommendations and requests relating to the international monetary system, export promotion and development, the Green Revolution, the protein gap and the application of science and technology to development.
- (h) By its resolution 1621C(LI), the Council requested the inter-governmental bodies of the specialized agencies and of other organizations of the United Nations system to consider adequate procedures for the review and appraisal of the policy measures and objectives of the International Development Strategy which fall within their competence, and to report thereon to the General Assembly through itself. The Council further decided to establish a committee composed of 54 members responsible for the appraisal and the implementation of the International Development Strategy.
- (i) The Council further decided that the Committee for Development Planning should be responsible, in addition to its current functions, for the task of preparing comments and recommendations relating to the implementation of the International Development Strategy that could help the Council in discharging its responsibility to the General Assembly relating to biennial overall appraisals of progress. It was also decided to enlarge the membership of the Committee for Development Planning from 18 to 24 with effect from 1 January 1972.
- (j) As regards the improvement of the organization of its work, the Council recommended that the General Assembly take, at its twenty-sixth session, all steps necessary to amend the United Nations Charter to ensure the enlargement of the Council from 27 to 54. In the interim, the membership of the sessional committees of the Council would be enlarged to 54 members as from 1 January 1972.
- (k) The Council further requested the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to submit a calendar for the discussion of the reports of the specialized agencies so as to ensure a detailed examination of the reports of all the agencies at least once every five years.

Relations with other international organizations

38. The Executive Secretary reported on the collaboration of ECA with various agencies, including OAU since the last meeting of the Committee. He mentioned the preparatory work for the Stockholm Conference carried out in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. He also recalled the ECA/OAU Ministerial Conferences prior to the UNIDO and UNCTAD conferences. He further stated that the secretariat was just developing collaboration with voluntary agencies working in rural development and in some of the welfare services in Africa. This new collaboration would take the form of assistance in project formulation, supervision of implementation and post project evaluation.

39. The close co-operation between ECA and FAO had led to the setting up of WARDA. In collaboration with American Foundations and other agencies ECA and FAO were in the process of creating a Livestock Development Scheme in the region. In the implementation of its work programme, ECA continued to have the co-operation of UNCTAD, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, ITU and WMO.

40. Following upon the Executive Secretary's statement the representative of the ILO expressed the desire of his Organization to co-operate more closely and more effectively with ECA. In fact, it was worthwhile stressing in this regard that the activities were complementary and it was up to the two organizations to show willingness and understanding in their mutual efforts. If the ILO agreed to give its support to ECA for the implementation of programmes of assistance to African countries, it would welcome participation in the formulation of those programmes. This pattern of co-operation was obviously superior to merely being invited to participate in projects prepared without previous consultations.

41. The introduction of the new system of country programming provided ECA and the specialized agencies with an opportunity to make a concerted effort to ensure that by co-operating one with another, they attained the targets set by African Governments, through the adoption of effective measures of international assistance. As the Executive Secretary had said, in carrying out its major programme in Africa, - the Jobs and Skills Programme - the ILO displayed the true spirit that underlay the pooling of expertise, keeping ECA fully informed, and seeking its views and collaboration at each unfolding stage of action. There was no doubt that this approach to co-operation would grow.

42. The representative of FAO said that the Regional Office of his Organization for the Near East which covers four ECA member States was anxious to know more about the work and the activities of the Commission. He further stated that it was felt that closer co-operation and co-ordination of the activities of the ECA and FAO Near East Regional Office would be of great benefit to their member States.

43. In his statement the representative of UNESCO informed the Committee of the co-operation between ECA and UNESCO since the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee and pointed out that the prior consultations on work programmes established in connexion with the UNESCO work programme for 1973-1974 would ensure a most effective co-operation between his Organization and ECA. He further added that UNESCO was the appropriate agency which could assist regional economic commissions in preparing their specific regional plans derived from the World Plan of Action for the application of science and technology to development.
44. The representative of WHO referred to activities carried out in co-operation with ECA and confirmed that his Organization was prepared to continue collaborating with the Commission in the field of its competence.
45. In his statement, the OAU representative enumerated the different forms of co-operation existing between ECA and his Organization.
46. Some members of the Committee wanted to know if it were possible, should the Commission make the necessary approaches, for the Specialized Agencies to give additional resources. Some of the representatives of the Specialized Agencies replied that they were not in a position to do so because of constitutional and other difficulties. Other representatives felt that should the constitutional difficulties be removed they personally felt that their organizations would not object to assist further.
47. The Assistant Administrator of UNDP, who is also Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, replied to various questions concerning the activities of his Organization in the region since the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee. He pointed out that the UNDP secretariat was giving favourable consideration to the possibility of appointing to Addis Ababa a representative to ECA and OAU, whose duties would be distinct and separate from those of his Resident Representative in Ethiopia.
48. With regard to regional and sub-regional projects for which financing would be requested from UNDP, the Assistant Administrator stated that, as of 1 January 1973, all requests presented by organizations within the United Nations system, including ECA, regardless of whether these requests concerned ongoing or new projects would be considered on the same basis of equality as requests submitted by African inter-governmental organizations which were not part of the United Nations system. Approval of these requests would depend on their intrinsic importance and their contribution to the development of the region. As Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau, he then informed the Executive Committee that a meeting of the Resident Representatives in countries within the region would take place in Addis Ababa during the second half of May 1972 and that the procedure regarding the programming of regional and sub-regional projects would be discussed at this meeting, to which the specialized agencies and ECA would be invited to send observers.

49. With regard to aid to the least developed countries, the UNDP Governing Council, which had already demonstrated its interest in special measures favouring these countries, proposed to consider this matter more carefully during its session in June 1972. In reply to one question, the Assistant Administrator pointed out that the Administrator of UNDP was already considering certain special measures in favour of the least favoured countries and that requests from these countries were receiving special consideration.

50. Referring to the repeated request of the Executive Committee regarding the decentralization of activities in favour of ECA, the Assistant Administrator stated that this was an institutional problem which had been brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

51. The members of the Committee wanted to know what the UNDP was doing about paragraph 80e (iii) of the Report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee concerning the question of giving projects to the regional economic commissions to implement. The Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa referred to his earlier position on this issue as reflected in the report and stated that only the United Nations, the parent body of the commissions, had the legal right to be named as the agent responsible for implementing UNDP projects. He, however, added that this was one of the matters that could be discussed at the regional meeting of the Resident Representatives next year and he hoped a way might be found of circumventing this procedural problem.

52. At the request of the Committee, the Director of the UNDP Regional Office made a short statement on country programming instituted by his Organization.

53. A number of questions put to the Assistant Administrator by members of the Committee, including the enlarged composition of the UNDP Governing Council, did not come within the competence of the UNDP Secretariat. They fell rather within the competence of the UNDP Governing Council, which included seven ECA member States. Several members of the Committee consequently proposed that steps be taken to ensure that the African members of the Governing Council would endeavour to bring about the desired changes.

Other business

54. Under this agenda item, the Committee discussed the preparation and form of its report. It was pointed out that the draft report did not give sufficient prominence to the various points raised by members. The Committee therefore decided to adopt, at its next meeting and in future, another form of presentation which would ensure a better coverage of the views expressed at meetings.

Date of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee

55. After noting (a) the calendar of meetings of the Commission for the first half of 1972, (b) the dates of the third session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development due to be held at Santiago from 11 April to 26 May 1972, and (c) the dates of the UN Conference on the Human Environment scheduled to take place in Stockholm from 5 to 16 June 1972, the Committee decided to hold its seventh meeting in Addis Ababa during the first week of April 1972.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

56. After referring to its intention to introduce a modification at its next meeting of the form in which future reports should be presented, the Committee adopted the report with a few amendments. It also decided to attach to the report a copy of its letter to Governments of member States on preliminary preparations for the UN Conference on the Human Environment. (See annex III).

Annex I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. MEMBERS

Central Africa

Cameroon

H.E. El Hadj. M. Haman Dicko
Mr. R. Naah
Mr. Mvogo Essamba Laurent
Mr. M.M. Tchinda

Central African Republic

H.E. Mr. A. Dallot-Befio
Mr. F. Pounzi

East Africa

Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Tekalign Gadamu
Mr. Gebeyehu Alemneh

Madagascar

H.E. Mr. H. Raharijaona
Mr. Lahady

North Africa

Egypt

H.E. Mr. Hassan S. Esmat
Mr. Mohamed Abdel Kamid Saad
Mr. Mohamed Elsherei

Morocco

H.E. Mr. Abderrahim Harakett

West Africa

Ghana

H.E. Mr. H.R. Amonoo
Mr. I.A. Omame
Mr. H.C.K. Seddoh

Niger

Mr. A. Mounkeilla

Chad

Mr. Issen Lamine

Zaire

H.E. Mr. Martin-Fortuné Ipoto
Mr. Raphael Mutombo

Somalia

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud H. Nur

Uganda

H.E. Mr. M.K.L. Lubega
Mr. J.W.B. Waddimba
Mr. H.M.L. Acemah

Tunisia

H.E. Mr. Taoufik Smida
Mr. Béchir Gueblaoui
Mr. Mawldi Hammami
Mr. Mansour Hadj Slimane

Nigeria

Miss H.A.B. Balogun
Mr. R. Mohmoud

Senegal

H.E. Mr. Youssouf Sylla
Mr. Mansour Seck

B. OBSERVERS.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. M. Doo Kingué
Mr. F.G. Seib

International Labour Organisation (ILC)

Mr. M. Ndasi
Mr. P. Adossama

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. A.A. El Moursi

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. E. Armerding

World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. A.H. Thomas

Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Mr. Fereh Warsama

Annex II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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| E/CN.14/ECO/37/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda |
| E/5C39 | Report of the Meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Commissions held in 1971 |
| E/CN.14/533 | Action taken by the Economic and Social Council on the draft resolution recommended by the Conference of Ministers at its first meeting |
| E/CN.14/534/Add.2 | 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 |
| E/CN.14/ECO/38 and Add.1 | Review of activities undertaken in the Implementation of the Programme of Work and Priorities of the Commission since the tenth session |
| E/CN.14/532 | Report of the First All African Seminar on the Human Environment |
| E/CN.14/527 | Report of the First Meeting of the Trans-African Highway Committee |
| E/CN.14/537 | Report of the Meeting to Determine the Assistance of the Industrialized Countries in the Mombasa-Lagos Trans-African Highway Project |
| E/CN.14/545 | Report of the African Ministerial Meeting Preparatory to UNCTAD III. |

Annex III. LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES CONCERNING PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

19 November 1971
ORG 120/3

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment,
Stockholm (Sweden), June 1972

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, at its sixth meeting in Addis Ababa from 15 - 18 November 1971, discussed the recommendations of participants who attended the first All-African Seminar on the Human Environment held at Addis Ababa in August 1971. These recommendations are to be found in ECA Document E/CN.14/532.

The Committee recognized the importance of the recommendations made by the Seminar, for consideration and action by your Government, in such fields as development, industrialization and environment, human settlements, natural resources utilization and the training of manpower for developing natural resources.

In view of the far-reaching decisions which are likely to be taken at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which could affect such important items as international trade in important primary products from Africa; flow in quantity and quality of international aid; the possible establishment of pollutive industries in the developing world; probable higher costs of machinery from the industrialized countries to African countries resulting from environmental considerations in the developed world etc.; the Executive Committee has instructed me to request your Government to:

- (i) Study the recommendations in the above-mentioned document as a matter of urgency;
- (ii) Take steps to implement the recommendations in the light of your country's policies regarding the important subjects mentioned above;
- (iii) Convene national seminars to determine priorities to be presented at the Stockholm Conference in 1972;
- (iv) Make its stand clear before 31 December 1971, the deadline for submitting documents to the Conference secretariat;
- (v) Send the following telegram to the Chairman of the African Group at the General Assembly of the United Nations:

"EYE HAVE HONOUR INFORM YOU ECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAREFULLY EXAMINED REPORT FIRST ALLAFRICAN SEMINAR ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (ECA DOCUMENT E/CN.14/532) STOP COMMITTEE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS NATURAL RESOURCES UTILIZATION POLLUTION AND MANPOWER TRAINING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES STOP WOULD LIKE YOU URGENTLY DIRECT ATTENTION GROUP TO THIS TO ENSURE GROUP EXAMINES POSSIBILITY TAKING JOINT AFRICAN STAND ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE 29 NOVEMBER BEFORE DEFINITE ACTION PROPOSALS PLACED ON STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE AGENDA STOP HIGHEST CONSIDERATION"

The industrialized countries have made thorough preparations for the Conference, which will enable them to go to Stockholm with definite viewpoints and specific action proposals which could have far-reaching consequences for Africa.

The Committee feels it is important for African countries to go to Stockholm with very high-level delegations, equally prepared to state their viewpoints and assert their priorities in the field of the Human Environment. Since the time for this preparatory exercise is short, the Committee would be most grateful if your Government would place a high priority on the consideration and implementation of the recommendations made in the above-mentioned document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Executive Committee

H. Raharijaona
Chairman of the Sixth Meeting