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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER V

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA

* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter V of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1980. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/35/3/Rev.1). For the contents, see A/35/3 and Corr.1.

1. The Economic and Social Council considered the question of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa at the second regular session of 1980 under agenda item 7.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (E/CN.14/761);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the contributions pledged or paid at the United Nations Pledging Conference for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, convened on 20 November 1979 (E/1980/59 and Corr.1).

3. At its 23rd meeting, on 2 May 1980, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at the 11th to 13th and 20th meetings on 10, 11, 14 and 18 July 1980. For the report of the Committee on this item, see document E/1980/91.

ACTION BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988

4. The Council considered a draft resolution entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa", which was sponsored by Nigeria.

5. At its 20th meeting, the Committee considered a second draft resolution issued under the same title, 1/ which was submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Zoran Lazarević (Yugoslavia), as a result of informal consultations, held under his chairmanship, on the basis of the draft resolution submitted by Nigeria.

6. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was orally amended. 2/

7. Also at that meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended, and submitted it to the Council. For action by the Council, see paragraph 9 (a) below.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee considered a draft decision on the report on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and on the note by the Secretary-General on the same subject. For action by the Council, see paragraph 9 (b) below.

1/ A statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was circulated under the symbol E/1980/C.1/L.20.

2/ For the particulars of the amendment, see the report of the Committee on this item (E/1980/91).

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

9. At its 43rd meeting, on 23 July 1980, the Council considered the draft resolution and draft decision recommended by the Committee in its report (E/1980/91, paras. 11 and 12) and took the following action:

(a) The draft resolution was adopted; for the final text, see the annex below, Council resolution 1980/46;

(b) The draft decision was adopted; for the final text, see the annex below, Council decision 1980/159.

ANNEX

Resolution and decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council
under agenda item 7 a/

Resolution 1980/46. Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 34/15 of 9 November 1979 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/61 of 3 August 1979 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

"Recalling resolution 341 (XIV), adopted on 29 March 1979 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, which recommends that member States should give the highest priority to the development of transport and communications,

"Noting resolution CM/Res.738 (XXXIII), adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Monrovia from 6 to 20 July 1979, b/

"Further noting the results of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held at Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 May 1979, which adopted the global strategy for the implementation of the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the programme of action for the first phase (1980-1983) of the Decade, c/

"Considering that the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa forms a whole and includes national, regional and subregional projects, which should be fully implemented within the period envisaged, so as to enable an integrated transport and communications network to be established in Africa, and that the proposed World Communications Year could provide further impetus to activities in the communications sector,

a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1980 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1980/80 and Add.1 and 2).

b/ See A/34/552, annex I.

c/ See E/1979/77, part VI, resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.79/1 and 3.

"Taking into account the difficult problems faced by the land-locked African countries and the need to respond more effectively to their financial requirements in the field of transport and communications,

"Further taking into account the encouraging results of the Pledging Conference for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, convened on 20 November 1979 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, during which a general consensus emerged among funding agencies on the financing, essentially on a bilateral basis, of the projects included in the programme for the first phase of the Decade,

"1. Thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations for having organized the Pledging Conference for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for the purpose of mobilizing additional resources for the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

"2. Notes with appreciation that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its twenty-seventh session, authorized the Administrator of the Programme to approve commitments for technical co-operation projects up to the amount of \$20 million in respect of the Decade during the third programming cycle, 1982-1986; d/

"3. Expresses its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Africa for the work accomplished since March 1977 and for the positive and effective co-operation of the Organization of African Unity, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and African intergovernmental organizations in their collaboration with the Commission in the preparation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

"4. Reiterates its appeal to States members of the Commission to give the highest priority to the transport and communications projects adopted for the programme for the first phase of the Decade and therefore to include these projects in their development plans;

"5. Requests African States to take the initiative of submitting to the various sources of finance requests for the financing of the projects adopted for the first phase and to use the required resources for that purpose;

"6. Also requests African States, on the one hand, to allocate from their own national resources a part of the budget for the implementation of the programme for the Decade and, on the other, to assign a part of the resources derived from outside aid to the implementation of the specific studies contained in the programme for the first phase;

"7. Notes with satisfaction that the High-level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980, e/ considered possibilities of interregional

d/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 12 (E/1980/L2/Rev.1), chap. XI, decision 80/30, para. 13.

e/ For the report of the Meeting, see TCDC/L3 and Corr.1 and 2; for the printed text, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39).

activities in technical co-operation among developing countries in support of the objectives of the Decade;

"8. Appeals to African States to provide the Economic Commission for Africa, in a manner which it shall determine, with the necessary information on the progress made in implementing the projects in the programme for the Decade, so that the Commission will be able to perform effectively the role assigned to it in the global strategy for the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

"9. Also appeals to the funding agencies and the various financing institutions to consider, with the Commission, the possible ways of financing those projects of the Decade which are not national in character;

"10. Calls upon the African States, the funding agencies and the various sources of finance for this purpose to involve, as appropriate, the Economic Commission for Africa in the different phases of the negotiations on the financing of the projects;

"11. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments, international financial institutions and United Nations agencies that have contributed financial and technical assistance for the implementation of the programme for the Decade and invites them to continue to provide such assistance;

"12. Invites all Governments in a position to do so to provide financial and technical resources for the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

"13. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue his efforts for the successful implementation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade by ensuring the necessary co-ordination between funding agencies and African countries for the programme, and particularly for regional and subregional projects, and national projects with a regional or subregional impact;

"14. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to organize as quickly as possible, with groups of donor countries and the financing institutions and with the participation of Governments, United Nations institutions and African intergovernmental organizations, either consultative technical meetings based on the various types of programmes for the Decade, or consultative technical meetings based on groups of African countries or African subregions, for the purpose of finding the additional financial resources necessary to implement those projects for the Decade that are regional and multinational in character, and of carrying out urgently the specific studies contained in the programme for the first phase and which must be followed by concrete action not later than during the second phase;

"15. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the Economic Commission for Africa with the financial means and resources necessary to enable it to fulfil effectively its role as the lead agency for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1981, a progress report on the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

"16. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to submit progress reports on the implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and to participate actively in the proposed World Communications Year, with a view to providing special impetus to development in Africa."

43rd plenary meeting
23 July 1980

Decision 1980/159. Transport and Communications Decade in
Africa (1978-1988)

At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 23 July 1980, the Council took note of:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; f/

(b) The note by the Secretary-General on the contributions paid or pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. g/

f/ E/CN.14/761.

g/ A/CONF.99/1; transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbols E/1980/59 and Corr.1.