

1985/68. Inclusion of Portuguese among the official working languages of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the number of States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and the growing numbers of people in those countries that use Portuguese as an official working language,

Noting that basic economic, social and cultural development in any country depends on the transmission of technical and scientific information through the medium of language,

Recognizing that, at various summit meetings in Africa, the question of the Portuguese language has been discussed and has been of concern to the heads of State and Government of five countries that officially use Portuguese,

Realizing that, because of language difficulties, the people of those countries do not derive maximum benefit from the technical assistance, professional training, seminars and other activities that might facilitate their integration into the social and economic programmes being carried out at the subregional and regional levels,

1. *Decides* that Portuguese should be introduced gradually as an official working language of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to make the necessary arrangements to this effect.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

1985/69. Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, by which it established the Economic Commission for Western Asia and laid down its terms of reference,

Recalling paragraph 1 (f) of those terms of reference,

Aware of the extreme importance of social development in the context of the overall development of the economies of member States, and with the aim of achieving congruence between the subject-matter of the major activities undertaken by the Commission in the economic and social domains and its designation,

Recalling resolution 133 (XII) of 24 April 1985 of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on the designation of the Commission,⁴³

1. *Decides* to change the name of the Economic Commission for Western Asia to "Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia";

2. *Also decides* to amend the terms of reference of the Commission as contained in Council resolution 1818 (LV) to reflect the new name.

*52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1985*

1985/70. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983 and 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, concerning the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring to the conclusions contained in the interim reports prepared by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe pursuant to those resolutions⁴⁴ and bearing in mind the discussion on this question in the First (Economic) Committee of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1985,

1. *Takes note* of the development of studies and work on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar and the efforts made by Morocco and Spain as co-sponsors of the project, in consultation and co-operation with the Governments of the countries concerned and the international organizations and research institutes of the western Mediterranean region;

2. *Invites* the Governments of Morocco and Spain to continue to furnish information to Governments, international organizations, research institutes and universities in the Mediterranean area and other regions, as well as to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to continue consultations and co-operation with them and to make concerted efforts with a view to the elaboration of the project;

3. *Requests* Governments, international organizations and research institutes to continue to co-operate with the Governments of Morocco and Spain and with the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in developing studies and work on the project;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of using extrabudgetary funds to provide the competent commissions with the necessary resources to carry out economic studies on the development of transport in the Mediterranean region in relation to the Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic

⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, Supplement No. 14 (E/1985/35), chap. I.*

⁴⁴ E/1983/87/Add.1, sect. V; E/1985/108, sect. IV.