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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FOURTH AND
FIFTH SESSIONS OF ECA

(item 4a of the Provisional Agenda)

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1. This paper reviews the discussions, resolutions and decisions of the Economic Commission for Africa at its fourth session, held in Addis Ababa February 19 - March 3, and at its fifth session held in Congo (Leopoldville) February 18 - March 2, insofar as they are relevant to the deliberations of the Third Conference of African Statisticians and gives references to the resolutions and projects for the years 1962-1963 and 1963-1964.
2. At the fourth session, the Executive Secretary referred the Commission to the Report of the Second Conference of African Statisticians (E/CN.14/113) and on regional co-operation in the field of statistics (E/CN.14/146).
3. The session noted that several countries had prepared programmes of statistical activities designed to meet the requirements of economic and social planners; a regional advisory service had been established at the ECA secretariat, progress had been reported in regional co-operation in the field of data processing, formulation of statistical standards and dissemination of information on such methods, and the supply of statistical data to the secretariat by countries of the region.
4. A draft resolution was introduced by Liberia, Libya, Nigeria and Tunisia, inviting members and associate members to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Second Conference of African Statisticians and requesting the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to give effect to these recommendations. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously. It reads:

"Resolution 59 (IV)

Report of the Second Conference of African Statisticians.

The Economic Commission for Africa

Having considered the report of the Second Conference of African Statisticians (E/CN.14/113)

1. Approves with satisfaction the said report.
2. Invites members and associate members of the Commission to give urgent consideration to the recommendations of the Conference.
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference"

5. Under item 12, the Executive Secretary introduced the subject of training and reminded representatives that one aspect of training is related to the establishment of an African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. The Commission also had before it three reports which dealt respectively with summer courses in economics and statistics for African university students (E/CN.14/149), with in-service training (E/CN.14/150) and with statistical training centres at two distinct levels, the university level and the "middle-grade" sub-professional level (E/CN.14/151). Special mention was made of the Statistical Training Institute established with the assistance of the United Nations at Rabat (Morocco).

6. A number of countries expressed their readiness to offer facilities for the setting up of regional offices and various proposals regarding the grouping of countries into sub-regions were made. The Executive Secretary indicated that he had in mind three sub-regions, very broadly defined: One of these could be served from the secretariat's headquarters and the other two corresponding approximately to North Africa and West Africa would have sub-regional offices. It was suggested by some delegations that an objective study be made based on economic

and social considerations of the appropriate divisions of Africa into sub-regions.

A draft resolution submitted by Cameroons, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, Gabon, Ivory Coast and Niger, amended by Ghana, recommending the establishment of four sub-regional offices, was adopted. The resolution reads:

"Resolution 64 (IV)

Establishment of sub-regional offices of the Commission

The Economic Commission for Africa

Having examined the document submitted by the Executive Secretary concerning the establishment of sub-regional offices of the Commission (E/CN.14/161 and ADD. 1-3).

Having examined the offers of the governments of certain member States to accommodate sub-regional offices,

Considering the importance, for efficiency's sake, of decentralizing the Commission's activities on climatic, ecological and economics grounds

1. Decides to set up two sub-regional offices.
2. Proposes, with due regard to United Nations resources, the following order of priority:
 - (a) a sub-regional office for Western Africa, to be sited at Niamey (Niger)
 - (b) a sub-regional office for Africa North of the Sahara.
3. Invites the Executive Secretary to consider later the possibility of establishing two further sub-regional offices:
 - (a) a sub-regional office for West Africa
 - (b) a sub-regional office for Central Africa."

7. At the fifth session of the Commission, the secretariat explained that its activities in statistics aimed at promoting the development of national statistical services, adapting statistical standards to African conditions and relating the production of statistics to requirements of

national development planning. In addition to the work programme in statistics, the Committee had before it the Report of the Seminar on Industrial Statistics (E/CN.14/173); Memorandum on Statistical Development (E/CN.14/219); The Report on Regional Consultations held in 1962 (E/CN.14/220), and the Report of the Working Group on the Adaptation of the United Nations System of National Accounts for Use in Africa (E/CN.14/221). The main points which were discussed under statistics (Item 12 of the Agenda) were (a) the gaps in statistical data, (b) shortage of staff, (c) 3rd Conference of African Statisticians, and (d) sub-regional meetings and advisory services. There was unanimous approval of the main subject chosen for discussion at the Third Conference of African Statisticians: statistical development and the relation of statistics to planning and co-ordination between the organizations responsible.

8. The statistics section of the secretariat was raised to the full status of a division, and reorganized into two sections. One of these two sections takes care of co-ordinating current economic and social statistics, while the other concentrates on the problems of statistical development and technical assistance in the region including the regional advisory service.

9. The note on statistical development submitted to the Commission formulated the aims of the Division as the building up of the following activities:

a) the regional advisory services - a team of three staff members and five regional advisers assigned under the UNTA programme conducted in 13 countries some twenty assignments varying from a fortnight to several months and some times longer, during the course of 1962.

b) active participation in the formulation and review of the United Nations technical assistance projects in the field of statistics; and

c) the direction of an intensive programme of training activities on a national as well as a regional basis.

10. Training, as pointed out by the secretariat under Item 13 of the agenda at the fifth session, had made rapid progress as a result of the impulse given by the Commission at its fourth session. Preliminary contacts were established in May and June 1962 with the governments of Senegal and the United Arab Republic with a view to preparing the first meeting of the Standing Committee for the establishment of an African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. The report of this meeting was submitted to the Commission at its fifth session (E/CN.14/172). In November and December 1962, visits to countries were made to make a pre-selection of students for the first course, and a starting team of lecturers was appointed.

11. Three full-time middle-level training centres, established by the United Nations in co-operation with the Governments of Cameroun, Ethiopia and Ghana have been in operation since 1961 in Yaoundé, Addis Ababa and Achimota. In addition the United Nations assisted, with staff and fellowships, a middle-level training centre set up by the Government of the Ivory Coast at Abidjan. Furthermore, two United Nations assisted centres were operating at national levels at Lagos, Nigeria and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika. At the professional level, the United Nations continued its support to the Moroccan statistical institute at Rabat. It was also the policy of the Commission to promote the introduction of teaching of statistics at various African colleges and institutes.

12. A number of reports on training in statistics and other fields were submitted to the fifth session, namely, the role of UNESCO in training for public administration (E/CN.14/218); the report on the summer course in economics for African university students (E/CN.14/222); in-service training (E/CN.14/223); a report on statistical training centres (E/CN.14/224); the report on training course in community development methods (E/CN.14/225), and the report on the training course for customs officials in English-speaking countries of West Africa (E/CN.14/226).

13. The Commission has been requested to continue to extend its activity in the field of training, particularly the training of professional staff for public administration as approved by the Committee on the Programme of Work and Priorities. The suggestions contained in document E/CN.14/223 for the expansion of in-service training were approved, and a full-time training officer attached to the office of the Executive Secretary has been appointed.

14. Considerable co-operation has been given to the secretariat by the specialized agencies in the field of statistics. The ILO regional statistician in Africa visited the secretariat in order to co-ordinate joint policies and the work programme with the Statistics Division. He also delivered lectures on labour statistics at the Statistical Training Centres in Addis Ababa and Achimota, Ghana. Co-operation in agricultural statistics has continued between the Commission and the FAO. The FAO statistician for Africa along with the FAO statistician in Ethiopia assisted in lecturing at the statistical training centre of the Commission at Addis Ababa. Close working relationships have been maintained between the regional statistical advisers appointed by the Commission and the regional adviser of the FAO in their programmes of travel and direct advisory services. At the first session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics of FAO, convened at Tunis on 22 June 1962, problems of co-ordination with the Conference of African Statisticians were brought up. Discussions on the subject are at present taking place between the FAO Division of Statistics and the ECA Secretariat. The results will be reported to the Commission at its sixth session. UNESCO, ICAO, WHO, IBRD, IADB and other UN bodies kept close contacts and participated in the statistical activities of the Secretariat.

15. Two analytical studies were completed on the population aspects of Africa. The first which discussed the demographic factors and trends related to urbanization was submitted to the Urbanization Workshop. The second, submitted to the Seminar on Population Problems, dealt with population distribution, internal migration and urbanization in Africa.

In addition, a study on fertility, mortality, population growth and international migration, begun at U.N. Headquarters, was finalized by the Demography Unit at the ECA Secretariat. Basic material for the Statistical Handbook on Population has for the most part now been collected. Analysis of the material and publication of the results will be done in stages and revised according to more recent data.

16. The Seminar on Population Problems in Africa met in Cairo from 29 October - 10 November 1962. Its report was submitted to the fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.14/186). The primary task of the Seminar was to review demographic problems in relation to the economic and social planning of the countries in the region. During the seminar, it was announced that a sub-regional demographic centre would be opened in Cairo in the near future and arrangements were being made for the establishment of a second centre, which would serve the English-speaking countries in Africa. The seminar was of the opinion that the early establishment of a centre for trainees from French-speaking countries in Africa was very necessary.

17. Two statistical appendices have been published as annexes to the Economic Bulletin for Africa, and a great advance was made in the publication of external trade data as a result of the urgent recommendations of the Commission, in two series: Series A gives the direction of trade of African countries; and Series B gives a detailed cross-classification of imports and exports by commodity groups and by country of origin and destination. The processing work on industrial statistics has been initiated in a newly established unit, and finally the compilation of the national accounts series is in progress in accordance with the directions given by the Working Group on National Accounts.

18. The programme of work and priorities proposed by the Executive Secretary for 1962-1963 (E/CN.14/162) and for 1963-1964 (E/CN.14/230 and Add 1 and Corr.1,2 and 3) and the reports of the Committees on the programme of work and priorities (E/CN.14/163 and Corr.1) and (E/CN.14/231) approved by the Commission at the fourth session and

re-endorsed at the fifth session related to the statistical work are now numbered under the "Annotated list of projects for 1962-1963 and 1963-1964". They are either continuing projects of high priorities or ad hoc projects of high priority. Details of each one are reproduced in full as Appendix I to this paper. The main titles are:

<u>Number</u>		<u>Subject</u>
<u>Fourth session</u>	<u>Fifth session</u>	
05 - 02	01 - 05	Studies on Demographic levels, Trends and Projections
06 - 01	41 - 01	Statistical Survey of Africa
06 - 02	41 - 02	Regional Co-operation for Statistical Development
06 - 03	41 - 03	Regional Co-operation in the Field of Data Processing
06 - 04	41 - 04	Exchange of Information on Statistical Activities
06 - 05	41 - 05	Formulation of Statistical Standards for the Region
06 - 06	41 - 06	Processing and publication of statistical data
41 - 01	61 - 01	Training facilities in Africa
41 - 03	61 - 03	In-service Training for African Economists and Statisticians
41 - 04	61 - 04	Summer courses for African University Students of Economics and Statistics
41 - 05	61 - 05	Training activities in Statistics
	61 - 10	Training in Demography

19. Other projects approved at the fourth and fifth sessions listed in the programme of work and priorities having implications of interest to the Third Conference of African Statisticians are related to agriculture, economic and social development, economic surveys, finance and international trade and training. In Agriculture, two continuing projects and activities of high priority approved related, one to the review and analysis of Current Progress in the Field of Food and Agriculture in Africa, and the other to the Food Consumption Levels and Utilization of Food Suppliers. A description of these projects is reproduced in full as Appendix II to this paper because of their importance in the programme of the Secretariat.

Extracts from the Programme of Work and Priorities Adopted by the Commission at its fourth and fifth sessions.

01 - 05(V) Studies on Demographic Levels, Trade and Projections.

Origin: Report of the first session, paragraph 62; Report of the Seminar on Population Problems in Africa (document E/CN.14/186).

Description: Studies of demographic structure and trends at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to provide basic information useful for planning of economic and social development.

- a) Studies on the overall demographic situation as revealed by data secured and evaluated from the recent population censuses, sample surveys and vital statistics registration with special emphasis on the relationship between demographic variables such as fertility, mortality, migration (and urbanization) and economic and social factors, studies on the demographic aspects of manpower, internal migration, urbanization, mortality, etc.
- b) Projection of national population and their segments (rural/urban population, school-age population, manpower etc.).
- c) Studies on the demographic, manpower and social aspects of African development plans.
- d) Preparation of a statement of general principles for organization, choice of subjects, and priorities, for national programmes of demographic research, as aids to development planning and policy-making, suitable to the conditions of African countries, advisory services to governments in such research.
- e) Regional contributions to demographic research projects undertaken at Headquarters at the request of the Population Commission.

Comment: This project will be carried out in co-operation with the consolidation and analysis of demographic data, to be published in the form of a handbook. Results of censuses carried out recently under the World Population Census Programme and the demographic sample surveys and experimental studies initiated in a number of countries will become increasingly available in 1963-64. In selecting research topics, account will be taken of the recommendations made by the seminar on Population Problems in Africa and of the results of censuses. Areas of studies common with specialized agencies to be undertaken after prior consultation, and participation in the work of the specialized agencies in areas of common studies to be simultaneously encouraged.

41 - 01(V) Statistical survey of Africa

Origin: Resolution 12(II) and 59(IV) of the Commission, reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: An overall plan for statistical development in the region designed to bring activities of statistical offices in line with requirements for economic and social planning and involving the following action by the Secretariat:

- a) Discussion with countries of technical assistance requirements in relation to national programmes for statistical development, briefing and supervision of experts and fellowships in co-ordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at headquarters.
- b) Planning and supervision of a regional advisory service to render direct assistance to countries of the region, in co-operation with the Department of Social Affairs at Headquarters and FAO.

Comment: Technical assistance requirements were discussed with countries in relation to the biennium 1963-64. The regional advisory service is now composed of five experts in the following fields: demography, public finance, statistics, national accounts, sampling and field surveys. Seventeen field missions were completed in 1962. A section for statistical development was established to deal with projects 41 - 01 (V) 41 - 02 (V) and 41 - 03 (V). This includes supervision of the advisory service, of training centres and following up of technical assistance in Africa. There are thirty-nine UN experts in statistics assigned in African countries.

41 - 02 (V) Regional Co-operation for Statistical Development

Origin: Resolutions 12(II) and 59(IV), reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: Establishment and implementation of regional programmes of co-operation, based on specific needs expressed by countries for their statistical development. Activities in 1963 and 1964 to include the following:

- a) Short sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices and of directors of training centres to co-ordinate training activities for each school year (see project 61 - 05(V) for description of training activities).
- b) One study tour in 1964 on the integration of statistical and planning activities.
- c) A fellowship programme to enable junior statisticians to receive in-service training in statistical offices of the region.

Comments: UN is assisting a network of four sub-regional and two national training centres in Africa. Further particulars on 1962 activities are included in document E/CN.14/220.

41 - 03 (V) Regional co-operation in the field of data processing.

Origin: Reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: a) Use of the mechanical unit established at ECA Headquarters for research and demonstration and for servicing countries without equipment or with sufficient processing capacity;
b) Preparation of a report on developments in data processing in African countries, to be submitted to the third Conference of African Statisticians.

Comments: The Mechanical Unit established at the Commission Headquarters at the end of 1961 has successfully performed a number of operations in 1962, such as the processing of the Addis Ababa Census, the regular processing of external trade statistics for one African country and a number of regional tables on African trade statistics.

41 - 04 (V) Exchange of information on statistical activities.

Origin: Reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: Establishment of a system for general exchange of information on statistical activities and methods between African countries including the following activities in 1962-1963.

- a) Publication of Statistical Newsletter of the Commission.
- b) Preparation and publication of methodological manuals on household surveys, national accounts and population censuses under African conditions;
- c) Translation of reports on methods on household surveys, including household surveys and population surveys.
- d) Publication from time to time of bibliographical references on statistical publications in African countries.

Comments: In 1962, the Statistical Newsletter was published on a quarterly basis. Preparation of reports on national accounts is in progress and will be submitted to the Third Conference of African Statisticians. One volume of bibliographical references has already been issued.

41 - 05 (V) Formulation of statistical standards for the region

Origin: Reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: Organization of working groups of experts to exchange views on methods and to consider adaptation to Africa of international standards, in co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with specialized agencies. 1963-1964 to include meetings on the following subject:

- a) In 1963, Third Conference of African Statisticians: negotiations are being held with specialized agencies concerned to hold the Conference jointly with the Commission.
- b) In 1963, working group on capital formation and joint working groups with FAO in the field of food and agricultural statistics and with IMF on balance of payments.
- c) In 1964, a list of technical meetings to be prepared by the Third Conference of African Statisticians.

Comments: (IV) The reports of 1961 meetings on External Trade Statistics and Household surveys were submitted to the fourth session (E/CN.14/120 and E/CN.14/130)

Comments: (V) The reports of 1962 meetings on industrial statistics and national accounts were submitted to the fifth session (E/CN.14/173 and E/CN.14/221).

41 - 06 (V) Processing and publication of statistical data.

Origin: Reports of the first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description:

- a) Compilation and analysis of statistical data required -
for the Economic Bulletin for Africa (African Statistics).
- for the African Trade Statistics (series A, quarterly and series B twice a year),
- for a bulletin on industrial statistics (one volume in preparation in 1963)
- b) Compilation and analysis of statistical data required by research divisions of the Commission's secretariat, with particular emphasis on projects and programming (project 01 - 04), economic survey of Africa (project 11 - 10) and industrial research (group project 21 - 02) and inter African trade (project 13 - 01).
- c) Statistical handbooks: assembly, evaluation, analysis and publication of data derived from the Statistical Survey, handbook on population to be published in 1963, handbook on national accounts to be published in 1964.

Comments: The publication of data on external trade has considerably expanded in 1962. Uniform and detailed trade data have been published for the years 1960 and 1961 in two series of booklets. As regards (b) above, a team of two statisticians and five computers will be working with the team of economists on the Economic Survey of Africa. A special computing unit was established in 1962 to compile industrial and other economic statistics. As regards (c) above, the compilation of handbooks on population statistics and national accounts have been delayed on account of lack of staff resources.

61 - 01 (V) Training facilities in Africa.

Origin: Commission resolution 17(11)

Description: Consultation with university, research institutions and other appropriate organizations in Africa regarding arrangements for the training of African staff.

Comments: In line with this project and in pursuance of consultations which were started in 1960, 1961 and 1962, it is hoped to further assist in training activities by:

- a) Maintaining close collaboration with organizations carrying out middle grade training activities, including ILO and CCTA, so as to co-ordinate efforts in this field;
 - b) Commencing negotiations for the setting up of training programmes in public administration and making a study for the development of existing facilities in this field in Africa;
 - c) Assisting in a study, as to the advisability of establishing a training programme of African diplomats in Africa to substitute the UN programme launched in Europe and the USA in 1962. This programme would only become effective in 1964 and would co-ordinate all efforts being made in this field.
 - d) Collating and centralizing information and documentation on training programmes being carried out in Africa in all fields, whether on a long or short term basis, for diffusion to interested governments, the United Nations and the specialized agencies.
- Thus the training section might act as an advisory and documentary unit on training problems, disseminating information and identifying gaps for possible further action.

61 - 03 (V) In-service training for African economists and statisticians.

Origin: Commission resolution 16(11) report of the first session of the Standing Committee on Trade, (E/CN.14/174, para 51, and E/CN.14/174/Add.2).

Description: In-service training at the headquarters of the Commission and with the Economic Commissions for Europe and for Asia and the Far East.

Comment: A report was submitted to the fourth session (E/CN.14/150) and the fifth session (document E/CN.14/223).

61 - 04 (V) Summer courses for African university students of economics and Statistics.

Origin: Commission resolution 17(11)

Description: Summer courses for students entering their final year at the university.

Comment: A report on the first courses, conducted in the summer of 1961, was submitted to the fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.14/149) and a report on the second courses conducted in the summer of 1962 was submitted to the Commission at its fifth session (E/CN.14/122).

61 - 05 (V) Training Activities in Statistics.

Origin: Resolution 12(11) and 59(IV) paras. 284 and 285 of report of fourth session, reports of first and second Conferences of African Statisticians.

Description: a) Survey of requirements in respect of professional statistical manpower and progress made in training at this level. Next report to be made in co-operation with UNESCO, for submission to the third Conference of African Statisticians in 1963.

- b) Co-ordination of training activities at professional level in the region. The activity to include negotiations in regard to international and bilateral programmes of assistance, so as to obtain a fellowship programme and assistance in the form of lecturers to newly established institutes of statistics in African universities.
- c) Assistance to and organization of a net-work of sub-regional permanent training centres for middle-grade statisticians. Co-ordination of activities of all training centres at that level, and standardization of programmes.

Comments:

UN is now assisting five sub-regional centres and two national centres in statistics. The number of students attending these centres in 1961/62 was approximately 65 at middle grade level and 40 at university level. For the school year 1962-63, the enrolment in these centres reached 200. Further particulars are given in document E/CN.14/224.

61 - 10 (V) Training in Demography.

Origin:

Council resolution 820 B (XXXI) of 28 April 1961.

Description:

Assistance to the proposed regional demographic centres in Accra and Cairo in their training activities and related research.

Comments:

The Executive Secretary will be represented in the governing bodies of these centres and will therefore be in a position to assist in planning their activities which are to be co-ordinated with the Commission's projects.

31 - 01 (V) Review and analysis of current progress in the field of food and agriculture in Africa (an activity to be built up progressively over a number of years in collaboration with FAO).

Origin: Report of the first session, para. 63.

Description: Supply of information on food and agricultural matters and contributions of ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division to documentation for:

- a) ECA studies and surveys involving food and agriculture, including documentation of ECA sessions and other meetings;
- b) FAO regional office and headquarters and FAO regional conferences and meetings, including third FAO Regional Conference for Africa and Regional Conference for the Near East.

Comments: Various documents have been prepared for the ECA fifth session and other meetings. Activities are being expanded as staff and library facilities improve with the view of building up an adequate supply of background and current information on a regional, sub-regional and country basis for preparing long-term and current documentation.

32 - 02 (V) Food Consumption Levels and Utilization of Food Surpluses.

Origin: Commission resolutions 18(II) and 54(IV); FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

Description: Studies of demand and consumption levels for food and other agricultural products and participation in the activities of the World Food Programme for the utilization of food surpluses for assisting in economic development.

Comments: Action has so far been carried out through Consultants, through participation in the fourth Inter-African Conference on Food and Nutrition in 1961, in field excursions of the WFP in 1962 and by support of the FAO Freedom from Hunger Campaign.