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REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Summary of the survey of economic conditions in the regions of Africa, 1993-1994

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* E/1994/100.

I. OVERVIEW

1. As in previous years, the economic situation in the African region remains precarious and disturbing. Overall regional output grew by only 1 per cent in 1993, compared with virtual stagnation in 1992. This suggests that the almost uninterrupted decline in per capita income which characterized the 1980s has continued well into the new decade. The deterioration in the overall economic conditions is observed in most areas around the continent. Other indicators such as the inflation rate, the terms of trade, the payments and debt position confirm this trend. The continuing lack of accelerated growth in the regional economy is a vivid reminder that the underlying structural constraints and extreme vulnerabilities to external shocks that provoked the African crises in the first place are still very much with us. Unlike previous years, however, agricultural output has registered a modest growth, but it proved inadequate to compensate for the direct and indirect impact of the decline in mining output, the drastic fall in commodity prices and the stagnation in export earnings. Mining output has been declining since 1991, particularly with regards non-fuel minerals, due to the conflicts and social strife in key minerals-producing countries and the continuation of weak external demand which, in addition, afflicted oil exports. Oil production fell by 1.1 per cent, while the prices of ores and metals dropped sharply by 15.9 per cent in 1993. This, together with the decline in oil prices by about 8.8 per cent, resulted in a sharp drop in the ECA export price index by an estimated 7.5 per cent in 1993, compared to a fall of 2.1 per cent in 1992 and 11.6 per cent in 1991. Due to reduced growth and unfavourable markets abroad, export earnings have stagnated at about US$ 74.3 billion, following a drop of 1.8 per cent in 1992. By contrast, import values have edged up slightly to $75.9 billion. This, in addition to the traditional deficit on the services account, resulted in an overall deficit in the current account of about $500 million, compared with a surplus of $700 million in 1992 (see table 1).

2. The inflation rate remained high at about 35.8 per cent. The major contributory include the impact of devaluation of national currencies, removal of subsidies, higher tariffs on utilities and the rise in import prices which all coincided with a period of generally poor output growth. The franc zone, however, continued to show minimal inflation rates, with the general price level rising by only 1.4 per cent in 1993. The recent devaluation of the CFA franc is, however, expected to lead to a steep rise in prices during 1994. Elsewhere in Africa, the tendency for a number of countries is either to witness higher price rises or for inflation rates to stagnate at their high rates. In 1993 inflationary tendencies were particularly pronounced in Nigeria, Sudan, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, among others. The persistence of high inflation rates in African countries at a time when their development partners are witnessing only moderate price increases is a threat to the region’s competitions and growth momentum.

Table 1. Economic indicators in developing Africa

	1990	1991	1992	1993 a/
Developing Africa: growth rate, GDP, constant 1990 prices	1.8	2.1	0.4	1.0
Oil exporters: growth rate, GDP, constant 1990 prices	1.7	2.3	1.1	0.8
Non-oil exporters: growth rate, GDP, constant 1990 prices	1.8	1.8	-0.7	1.4
Agricultural output (FAO index, 1979-1991=100) (percentage growth)	1.4	4.6	-1.5	3.1
Oil production (millions of tons)	321.3	336.4	343.3	339.5
Mining production (1980=100)	-1.3	-4.4	-0.8	..
Oil price ($/barrel, Brent Crude)	23.9	19.9	19.3	17.0
Consumer prices (1980=100)	15.2	30.3	40.1	35.5
Commodity prices without oil (1990=100)	-4.3	-3.0	-5.1	-5.7
Exports ($ billions)	80.4	75.8	74.5	74.3
Imports ($ billions)	74.3	72.9	74.9	75.9
Debt services (per cent) b/	26.2	27.1	26.3	24.4
Current account ($ billions)	4.0	0.4	0.7	-0.5

Source: ECA secretariat.

a/ Preliminary.

b/ Percentage of exports of goods and services.

3. The foreign exchange constraint also intensified. The stagnation of export earnings were superimposed on a situation of continued debt overhang and a reduction in resource flows. The external debt of the region increased by 2.4 per cent, to $285.4 billion, thereby further worsening the debt burden indicators. For the region as a whole, the debt-to-GDP ratio increased from 89.6 per cent in 1992 to 95.9 per cent in 1993 while the debt-to-export ratio rose from 287.4 per cent to 288.9 per cent in the meantime. Actual debt service, however, fell slightly due to debt rescheduling for major indebted countries, but remained unmanageable for the greater number of countries. the debt overhang is constituting a major bottleneck on development and as the credit-worthiness of most countries continued to plummet, fresh credits have become more difficult to obtain, and, where that was possible, loans are nowadays increasingly tied to new conditionalities. Moreover, a substantial portion of the African debt (about 21 per cent in 1993) is owed to multilateral institutions which, in accordance with their statutes, cannot engage in the rescheduling of debts. But more generally, there has not been any drastic change in the strategy adopted by the donor community to address the African debt problem, nor has there been measurable progress in the implementation of the recent initiatives on debt. While this remains the general tendency, it is significant to note that the number of countries benefiting from the Enhanced Toronto Terms has increased gradually since 1991 - to 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa - but the positive impact of such efforts have generally been negated by lack of progress on the multilateral debt.

4. The central concern of economic policy remained focused on reform programmes. On the fiscal side, more rigour was exercised in many countries in 1993 in addressing the fiscal deficit, which has gradually been brought within acceptable levels as a proportion of GDP: from 10.6 per cent in 1989 to 5.4 per cent in 1991/92 and 6.5 per cent in 1992/93. However, fiscal prudence was achieved at the high development cost of a steep reduction in the capital budget. On the expenditure side, the rationalization of expenditure consisted of increased emphasis on reduction of wage bills, including the retrenching of staff in the wider public sector. On the revenue side, an increasing number of countries have put more emphasis on revenue generation, the basic components of which include broadening of the tax base, changes in the tax rate, greater enforcement and stiffer penalties to endure compliance and effective collection of revenue arrears.

5. Be that as it may, it is becoming increasingly apparent that measures of economic discipline and institutional upgrading may not alone be enough for relaunching development in Africa. There is a pertinent need to simultaneously target the raising of production and productivity to significantly higher levels if the region is to move to a new frontier of economic efficiency and technological transformation path. The missing link here is capacity-building in all its aspects, including human, institutional and infrastructural development. This must involve, among other things, avoidance of wastage of scarce resources, the rehabilitation of Africa’s dilapidated infrastructure, and the strengthening of the state and other public institutions to shoulder the essential tasks of planning and implementation of capacity-building.

II. SUBREGIONAL OUTLOOK

6. While the GDP growth performance was uniformly poor among the subregions, there were substantial variations and divergencies in country performance and among economic groupings in 1993 (table 2). North Africa, as a group, grew faster than sub-Saharan Africa in 1992, but the reverse was the case in 1993. Output growth in North Africa fell to 0.8 in 1993 from 0.9 in 1992, while GDP rose in sub-Saharan Africa from 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent. Among the subregions, Central Africa was the hardest hit by the economic downturn and the only region that experienced a negative growth rate in 1993, with output falling by 4.6 per cent. All the other subregions, with the exception of North Africa, exhibited positive growth rates that were, above the overall regional average of 1.0 per cent. As in previous years, the variation in output performance between subregions, economic groupings and countries hinges, for the most, on differences in their experience with the weather cycle, civil strife and political tensions, domestic policy developments and the vagaries of international demand and commodity prices.

7. In North Africa (without the Sudan), growth performance was rather disappointing on the whole, on account of the drought in the Maghreb and difficulties with the oil sector in some countries. The only exception in terms of robust growth is Tunisia, which recorded a 4.1 per cent increase in GDP.

8. In West Africa, GDP growth performance was better than the regional average but below that of 1992, with output growing by 2.7 per cent in 1993 due mainly to a good agriculture season in 1992/93. The subregional output growth rate in 1992 was 3.0 per cent, which was a significant improvement over the 1991 performance of 1.9 per cent. The largest economy in the area, Nigeria, grew by a significant 4.5 per cent in 1993, but this was at a reduced rate compared to 1992.

9. In Central Africa, subregional economic performance is clouded by the continuing crisis in Zaire, where GDP fell by 13 per cent in 1993, after a 12 per cent decline in 1992, and there is no immediate prospect of a recovery, since virtually all institutions have been paralysed by the political deadlock and major economic infrastructure is in a state of disrepair. The three oil-producing countries of the subregion, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, are also in serious difficulty.

10. In East and Southern Africa, the situation has significantly improved in areas where weather conditions are back to normal. This was reflected in a rise of Southern Africa’s aggregate output in 1993 by 1.2 per cent, compared to a fall of 1.3 per cent in 1992, and a rise in the GDP growth rate of East Africa by 2.6 per cent, compared with the decline of 1.4 per cent in 1992. Economic performance has been disappointing in Kenya, where GDP grew by only 1 per cent in 1993, due essentially to drought, lower tourism revenues and the suspension of foreign aid by donors. In Ethiopia, GDP is reported to have registered a huge 9.3 per cent increase in 1993, due to improved performance in most economic sectors, particularly agriculture, but this is essentially a recovery after the many years of low output growth associated with civil war and drought. Sudan is estimated to have grown by 5.9 per cent which, though robust, is far less impressive in comparison to the 12.9 per cent recorded in 1992.

Table 2. Output share and growth rate by subregion and economic grouping, 1990-1993

Group/area	Output share at 1992 prices (percentage)	Growth rate at 1990 prices (percentage) 1980-1993	1990	1991	1992	1993
North Africa a/	55.2	2.17	1.7	2.7	0.9	0.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	48.3	1.58	1.6	1.4	0.5	1.5
Central Africa	10.8	1.27	-1.8	-1.3	-4.8	-4.6
East Africa	15.5	2.49	2.1	2.4	-1.4	2.6
Southern Africa	7.4	2.36	1.7	3.6	-1.3	1.2
West Africa	18.6	0.98	3.4	1.9	3.0	2.7
Sahel	8.9	2.43	0.6	1.5	6.7	2.4
Sub-Saharan Africa without Nigeria	44.8	2.03	1.2	1.1	0.1	1.0
Oil exporters	55.5	1.76	1.7	2.3	1.1	0.8
Non-oil exporters	44.5	1.99	1.8	1.8	-0.7	1.4
Least developed countries	21.8	1.82	0.8	0.6	-0.2	1.9
Others (non-oil exporters and non-LDCs)	27.0	1.62	2.2	1.5	-2.4	-0.3
Franc zone	17.5	1.65	-0.1	0.4	-1.0	-1.1
Mineral exporters	8.3	0.50	0.6	-1.8	-3.6	-3.2
Beverages exporters	14.0	1.75	1.3	1.4	-0.3	3.2
Developing Africa	100.0	1.85	1.8	2.1	0.4	1.0

Source: ECA secretariat.

a/ Including the Sudan.

11. Owing to lower oil prices, persistent structural problems, and reduced external demand, the oil exporters did not do as well in 1993 as in 1992. They recorded a growth rate of 0.8 per cent, which represented a sizeable decline over the 1.1 per cent growth rate in 1992. By comparison, the non-oil-exporters fared better in 1993, with output growing by 1.4 per cent, which is a big turn-around considering the decline of -0.7 per cent in 1992. The mineral-exporting countries are expected to have registered a fall in output in 1993, with their combined GDP dropping by -3.2 per cent, following an earlier fall of 3.6 per cent in 1992. The collapse of the mining industry in Zaire, and the poor demand conditions on the world market were evidently not conducive to any real growth in the mineral sector in 1993. Beverage-exporting countries, on the other hand, were expected to improve, on average, in growth performance in 1993, with their output growing by 3.2 per cent, compared to the 0.3 GDP decline in 1992.

12. African least developed countries performed poorly in 1993 as a group but their GDP growth rate of 1.9 per cent was none the less a significant improvement, compared with the 0.7 per cent decline in 1992. The positive growth rate in 1993 was due more to the relatively improved performance of members of the group spanning the Sahel (Sudan included) where GDP increased by 2.4 per cent. Three years into the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the African least developed countries are still not out of the doldrums. Political conflicts and civil wars have adversely affected Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zaire, destroying physical and social infrastructure and precipitating increases in the numbers of refugees and displaced persons. The continued decline in the terms of trade of commodity-dependent African least developed countries has not been significantly compensated for by development assistance flows, while their precarious financial position has been further weakened by debt service obligations.

III. MAIN SECTORS

13. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), total agricultural output for the African region as a whole grew by 3.1 per cent in 1993, compared to a negative growth rate of 3.7 per cent in 1992. This improvement was attributable to favourable rainfall in Southern Africa, recovering from the severely drought-reduced harvest of 1992. Food production rose by 3.3 per cent in 1993, compared to a negative growth rate of 3.7 per cent in 1992. The production of roots and tubers increased by nearly 12 per cent, to an estimated level of 91.7 million tons, compared to 81.9 million tons in 1992. This was mainly attributed to a 48 per cent expansion in production in Nigeria, which in fact compensated for the production shortages in Angola, Burundi, Liberia, and Rwanda due to civil strife and mealy-bug damage, as well as in Sierra Leone, Mauritania and Mozambique. Total cereal output is estimated to have increased by about 15 per cent, from 70.1 million tons in 1992 to 80.3 million tons in 1993. In the Maghreb subregion, the cereal crop in such countries as Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia dropped by 1.1 million tons, to 8.7 million. In contrast, the level of cereal production in East and Southern Africa which was hit last year by the drought has risen from 9.8 million tons in 1992 to

19.6 million tons in 1993, although there are signs of drought appearing in northern Ethiopia. However, despite the recovery in agricultural production in many countries of the region, aggregate food aid needs for 1993-1994 remain high, and 14 countries in the region are currently financing exceptional food emergencies. Production of such cash crops as cocoa, coffee and tea seemed to be rising in 1993, except for cocoa where output declined by 4 per cent, from 1,287 tons in 1992 to 1,236 tons in 1993. But prices of cash crops have declined in the world market, particularly for coffee, which absorbed the production gains. In an effort to boost agricultural exports, liberalization remained an important focus of agricultural policy in many African countries. The drought relief and recovery was also a major thrust of agricultural development policy in 1993.

14. The situation in the mining sector was disappointing. Total crude oil production is estimated to have dropped by 1.1 per cent, to 338.2 million tons, as a result of lower outputs from the OPEC group (Algeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and non-OPEC group (Angola, Cameroon and Tunisia). Only the Congo, Egypt and Nigeria were able to raise their production, but weak prices resulted in a sharp drop in oil producer revenues, with total exports dropping by 6 per cent to $47.2 billion in 1993. The situation in the non-energy mineral subsector was not much better during 1993. The major non-fuel mineral producers such as Gabon, Niger, Zaire, and Zambia were hard hit by the weak demand associated with sluggish growth of the world economy and the destabilization of markets by the off-loading of unusually large volumes of mineral exports from countries of the former Soviet Union. Non-oil mining production has not significantly increased due to lack of investment and the depressed world-wide minerals and metal prices.

15. Manufacturing value-added increased by 1.3 per cent in 1993 compared to a decline of 0.8 per cent in 1992. The manufacturing sector was adversely affected in 1993 by a host of structural bottlenecks, ranging from the non-availability and high cost of imported inputs and difficulties with domestic supply of raw materials to rising costs of labour, credit and other supporting facilities. Civil wars and political conflicts in countries such as Angola, Burundi, Congo, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, and Zaire have generally paralysed industrial production. The stagnation of the growth in the manufacturing value-added was also due to the closure of several public enterprises (deindustrialization) which could not find private counterparts in the short run as a result of the implementation of SAP policy measures. Public investment has been drastically reduced, and domestic private investment and private foreign direct investment were not forthcoming to take over.

16. The laying off of public civil servants as a part of SAP retrenchment measures has increased the number of unemployed people in urban centres, some of whom joined the informal trade sector; others were left below the poverty line since provisions for unemployment benefits do not exist in most African countries. Hence, as the result of plausible rationalization policies on budget spending, some of which affect essential public investment in such subsectors as transport and communications infrastructure, health and education, the services sector had a poor performance despite the fact that most of the African countries, the international financial institutions and the donor community had come to accept structural adjustment.

17. Widespread conflict around the region has prevented several countries from conducting sound sectoral policies. No major policy departure has appeared. Economic policy has remained more or less in the framework of adjustment and liberalization, with, however, some inevitable fluctuations. What can be seen is a "deepening" of reform, with the public sector being a particular focus. This has particularly been the case in Egypt, where the Government has given definite momentum to its private sector and reform programme in the public sector, though proceeding with caution, in order to avoid unnecessary social problems, particularly unemployment. In Algeria, the Government seems to have reaffirmed its commitment to liberalization and reform and has entered into debt negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank. Debt service is a considerable burden on the budget. In Nigeria, which has followed a severe reform programme in recent years, exchange controls have been reimposed and the currency pegged at a level considerably higher than "free" market rate. This latter measure has been taken as part of the new policy to appreciate the naira. Also, the revision of domestic fuel prices, particularly gasoline, which are heavily subsidized and until recently set at extremely low levels (3 cents a litre compared to $1 or more in neighbouring countries), remains a contentious issue.

18. In the francophone countries, financial difficulties were acute throughout the year, forcing somewhat extreme measures on Governments already hard pressed to pay civil servants. Thus, in Cameroon, the number of civil servants has been cut by up to 70 per cent. Cuts have also been undertaken in Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. These measures have not prevented international financial organizations (such as the IMF and the World Bank) from increasing pressure for a devaluation of the CFA franc. The devaluation - to 100 francs against the French franc, compared to 50 francs previously - was finally carried out in January 1994, with considerable doubts and misgivings. In the aftermath of the devaluation, prices increased sharply, though less than first expected, with no commensurate compensation for wages. It is hoped that the devaluation will help balance budgets and current accounts, though its effect on economic growth remains cloudy.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

19. Unemployment, poor health facilities, high levels of illiteracy and general instability characterized the social scene in Africa in 1993. Although there was some progress towards democratization and popular participation, the achievements were far from spectacular. Several African countries remain embroiled in internal strife, political crisis and civil war. And as if these problems were not sufficiently daunting, the social cost of adjustment has been very great - not simply because of the adverse impact of adjustment *per se* - but also because the economic strategies previously in place paid scant attention to issues of social development.

20. Unemployment has continued to be a major problem, and few African countries, if any, seem to have an effective plan for combating the scourge. Rural development has been marginal and ineffectively managed. In contrast to the limited progress made in respect of urban development, the rural sector has so far remained at nearly the same low level of primitive existence as in the

past two decades. This has created a number of problems which have severely slowed overall economic development, affecting the entire national population.

21. The legacy of the region's economic crisis in the 1980s remained very much evident in 1993, as it had for the first three years of the present decade, especially in the form of deteriorating social and human conditions and escalating absolute and relative poverty. It is now estimated that about 220 million Africans - almost half of the population in sub-Saharan Africa - now live in absolute poverty, unable to meet their most basic needs.

22. Efforts to overcome the principal problems of education and health are still wanting in the face of high population growth and inadequate resources. These issues, together with the problem of employment generation, will continue to dominate the African social development scene for the rest of the 1990s and beyond. What is needed, first and foremost, is for African countries themselves to give due priority to social planning and social programmes in their own national development strategies. As articulated in the African Common Position on Human and Social Development, there is massive underinvestment in those sectors. There is also neglect of certain priority areas such as poverty alleviation and employment generation. Consequently, there is urgent need to increase resources that should be invested in job creation, environmental protection, family planning, health, education, and nutrition of Africa's children. The African Common Position also emphasizes social integration vis-à-vis enhancing the capacity of African families to meet their socio-economic needs; protection of children's rights and welfare; and the promotion of the status of women.

V. EXTERNAL SECTOR

23. The external sector of developing Africa continued to be handicapped by the continuing fall in export prices, including those of oil, serious deterioration in the terms of trade, the compression of imports, the intensification of the debt overhang and the contraction of resource flows in real terms. Export unit values fell by 7.5 per cent, and despite a rise of export volumes by an impressive 8 per cent, export earnings fell slightly as a result, by 0.2 per cent, to $74.3 billion in 1993, following contractions of 5.4 per cent and 1.7 per cent in 1991 and 1992, respectively. Import values, on the other hand, increased by 1.3 per cent, to $75.9 billion in 1993, while volumes rose by 3.5 per cent and the unit value of imports declined by 2.1 per cent. Due to divergent trends in unit values of exports and imports, Africa's terms of trade deteriorated by 5.5 per cent in 1993, compared with a drop of 4.1 per cent in 1992.

24. Oil-exporting countries accounted for total exports of $47.6 billion, or 64.1 per cent of overall exports in 1993, compared to $50.2 billion, or 67.5 per cent, in 1992. The fall in export earnings of this group was due to the steep fall of 12 per cent in the price of oil. The prices of beverages however appreciated in 1993 by 6.3 per cent, after a decline of 12.3 per cent in 1992 and a fall of 6.8 per cent in 1991. Metal and mineral prices have also maintained the downward trend prevailing since 1990. The price index of minerals and metals fell by 15.9 per cent in 1993, following a modest decline of

2.7 per cent in 1992. Due to adverse trends in most of the constituent accounts, the overall balance of payments for developing Africa went into a deficit of about $500 million, compared to a surplus of $700 million in 1992 and $400 million in 1991.

Table 3. Balance of payments in developing Africa, 1990-1993

(Billions of United States dollars)

	1990	1991	1992	1993
Exports	80.4	75.8	74.5	74.3
Imports	74.3	72.9	74.9	75.9
Trade balance	6.1	2.9	-0.5	-1.6
Services, net	-5.2	-4.4	-3.5	-4.3
Unrequited transfers	18.0	17.1	20.0	20.4
Official	24.6	69.2	73.6	81.7
Private	-6.6	-52.0	-53.5	-61.2
Investment income, net	-14.8	-15.3	-15.5	-15.1
Current account, including errors	4.0	0.4	0.7	-0.5
Overall balance	-26.3	-62.2	-63.6	-69.3
Change in reserves (- increase)	-22.3	-61.8	-63.0	-69.9
Net external financing	-7.5	-7.6	-5.0	-8.7
	29.7	69.4	68.0	78.6

Source: IMF, International financial statistics; national sources; ECA secretariat.

25. As noted in section I above, the debt indicators worsened in 1993. A significant element in the increase in the stock of debt continued to be the accumulation of arrears, either immediately payable or recycled through capitalization. The resource constraint was further aggravated by the fluctuating trends (often downward) in resource flows to developing Africa at 1991 prices and exchange rates. Total ODA receipts by developing Africa fell

from $24.7 billion in 1991 to $23.3 billion in 1992. The decline in sub-Saharan Africa was from $17.2 billion to $16.7 billion over the same period.

VI. OUTLOOK FOR 1994

26. The economic prospects for 1994, uncertain as they are, will depend on domestic and international economic and political factors. Domestically, several political crises that hindered good economic growth performance in 1993 are likely to prevail in 1994 and are yet to show signs of an immediate resolution. So long as the political climate in many African countries remains unsettled and uncertain, the domestic investors' confidence in the economic policies and political directions of African countries will be damaged. However, there are some emerging positive economic factors which can augur a good regional economic outlook in 1994. These include signs of relief from the drought in some countries of East, Southern and North Africa (Maghreb countries) which are currently faring well in agricultural product because of rain; the pursuit of prudent and consistent economic policies; and efforts at the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Angola, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique. The prospects for 1994 will also depend on the removal of current resource constraints by means of the recovery of oil prices, the maintenance of stable (if not rising) and effective debt-reduction measures, and adequate levels of resource flows. It is unlikely that the region will get substantial stimulus from industrialized countries, because recovery in the EC countries appears to be delayed. However, the recent trends in commodities prices other than oil are a sign that demand is reviving. At the beginning of 1994, agricultural prospects are encouraging in most areas, with a likely lowering of food aid requirements, although drought conditions unfolding in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia) are a matter of deep concern. The price of oil has been declining since early February, after a short-lived rally in January, and went below the $13.5-a-barrel mark. The direction that the oil marshall will take in 1994 is crucial for the region, which depends on oil for so much of its export revenues, but present conditions are not favourable. However, it seems that oil production could recover, rising by 3.3 per cent to around 349.4 million tons. On the basis of these considerations and assumptions, it is unlikely that the region's GDP will grow in 1994 by more than 2-2.5 per cent in real terms.

Table 4. African economic prospects

(percentage)

	1991	1992	1993	1994
Overall output	2.1	0.3	1.0	2.3
Agriculture	4.1	-0.7	1.5	2.2
Mining	4.2	0.3	-1.0	1.1
Manufacturing	0.3	2.0	2.2	2.5
Services	1.2	0.6	1.1	2.8
Domestic demand	2.9	0.6	1.3	1.5
Exports of goods and services	-5.7	-1.7	-0.3	2.4
Imports of food and services	-1.9	2.7	1.3	1.6

Source: ECA secretariat.
