



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/38/307 + add.1
1 August 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-eighth session
Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 November 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/15 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), parts of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"Noting with satisfaction the useful decisions and proposals which emerged from the conclusions of the Geneva Meeting for enhancing co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

"...

"5. Approves the decisions, recommendations, proposals and arrangements contained in the conclusions of the Geneva Meeting of representatives of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system;

"6. Calls upon the competent organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to give urgent consideration to the various recommendations and proposals contained in the conclusions of the Geneva Meeting with the objective of enhancing co-operation between the United Nations system and the Organization of African Unity;

"...

"8. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to arrange the date, venue and agenda for the next meeting between representatives of the General Secretariat of that organization and the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account suggestions made at the Geneva Meeting;

"...

"10. Reaffirms the determination of the United Nations to work closely with the Organization of African Unity towards the establishment of the new international economic order in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and, in that regard, to take full account of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade;

"...

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"21. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the development of co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the organizations concerned within the United Nations system."

2. The first part of this report gives a brief account of the meeting between representatives of the General Secretariat of the OAU and the specialized agencies, and the organizations within the United Nations system, held in accordance with paragraph 8 of resolution 37/15.

3. Information regarding implementation of the aspects of resolutions 37/15 concerning co-operation between the United Nations and the OAU, as called for in paragraph 21 of resolution 37/15, is contained in an addendum to this report.

II. PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

4. The meeting between the OAU General Secretariat and the secretariats of the organizations within the United Nations system was held from 21 to 23 April 1983 at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, at the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The meeting was convened by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of OAU.

5. The United Nations participants included representatives from the following departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies within the United Nations system:

Office for Special Political Questions

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

World Food Programme (WFP)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

6. The General Secretariat of OAU was represented by the Assistant Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and for Economic Development and Co-operation, as well as by senior officials from the General Secretariat and regional bureaux. Representatives of the Pan African Postal Union and the Pan African Telecommunications Union also attended.

III. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. At the opening session, the Executive Secretary of ECA, and the Secretary-General of OAU, made statements.

8. The Executive Secretary of ECA emphasized the importance of co-operation between ECA and OAU. He said ECA and OAU were determined to deal with the six menacing crises that faced the continent through vigorous implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/14, annex I). Those six areas of crisis involved: food, energy, drought, balance of payments, external debts and economic management.

9. To help provide solutions to those problems, and help meet the challenges that lay ahead, all organizations within the United Nations system should intensify their efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels. Recalling that OAU and ECA had collaborated on the preparation of the Monrovia Strategy, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, he observed that the heads of State and Government of OAU had consequently given the secretariats of the two organizations joint responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Plan and the Final Act, as well as contributing directly to their implementation.

10. The secretariats of OAU and ECA had submitted a report on assistance that had been extended to States in implementing the Plan. The next report would concentrate on what States had done at the national level. The annual meetings between the United Nations system and OAU would provide an increasingly important forum for working out the modus operandi to achieve the established objectives. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary appealed to participants to develop ways in which various organizations in the economic and social sectors could mobilize resources for development in Africa, and help raise the living standard of its people.

11. In his statement, the Secretary-General of OAU said that deliberations at the meeting should be focused on finding practical solutions to the problems facing Africa today. The continent had been affected by the current international

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economic crisis. Africa's share of industrial production was dwindling and external debt was compromising development. Other problems included the effects of fluctuating oil prices, inadequate agricultural production, persistent drought and the swelling number of refugees.

12. The problems facing the continent assumed a particularly tragic dimension in South Africa, he said, where a minority of white racists were able to dominate the black majority through the system of apartheid. However, in spite of difficulties, the problems affecting Africa could be solved, with sufficient will. He enjoined participants to focus their attention, in particular, on implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act, observing that those documents had defined Africa's major objectives in the fields of agriculture, food, industry, human resources, transport and communications, and the ambition to create a common African economic community.

13. The Secretary-General of OAU said that the regional and subregional economic communities which were already sprouting on the continent deserved aid and encouragement. The specialized agencies of OAU and the United Nations should assist in identifying relevant sectors for implementation. He expressed the hope that multilateral assistance would be reinforced, and that UNDP's financial difficulties could be reversed. Stressing the importance of co-ordinating joint efforts, he recommended the establishment of an ad hoc committee to make recommendations concerning planning and preparations for future meetings between the secretariats of the United Nations and OAU. The committee, he suggested, could be composed of representatives of OAU and the United Nations agencies represented at the meeting under the aegis of OAU and ECA.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

14. As in the past, the meeting was chaired alternately by a representative of the United Nations and a representative of the General Secretariat of OAU.

15. The agenda of the meeting is listed below, together with the names of the agencies and organizations which prepared discussion papers on the various issues:

- (a) Progress report on implementation of Lagos Plan of Action (OAU/ECA);
- (b) Role of the information media in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action (OAU);
- (c) Co-operation in dealing with the conservation, development and utilization of water resources in Africa (FAO);
- (d) Co-operation and co-ordination activities and programmes in the field of human resources development (ILO);
- (e) Role of the media and functional literacy in development (UNESCO);
- (f) Progress report on the contribution of United Nations organizations to the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (UNIDO);

/...

- (g) Development of a concerted approach in dealing with the African refugee situation and natural disasters (OAU);
- (h) Status report on the implementation of programmes of assistance to national liberation movements (OAU).

16. An ad hoc working group comprising the United Nations (Office for Special Political Questions), ECA, the ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNDP and UNIDO and OAU was set up to consider all issues pertaining to frequency, nature, structure and contents of the United Nations/OAU meetings.

17. The discussion papers on the various agenda items were introduced by the agencies concerned.

18. On the invitation of the Chairman, each of the United Nations agencies concerned gave an account of the action they had taken in respect to the conclusions and recommendations that were made at the last meeting, and specifically addressed to them. Other matters arising from the last meeting were also reviewed for appropriate action by the agencies concerned.

V. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 1982 MEETING

19. It was decided to first give consideration to matters arising from the previous meeting, held in 1982.

20. Following consideration of the report on the 1982 meeting (A/37/335), and exchanges of views, the meeting reached the following conclusions in regard to: the food situation in Africa; desertification; and distribution of information about the Lagos Plan of Action.

21. The meeting agreed that, as desertification in Africa seemed to be getting out of control, the international community should be urged to increase and intensify its association with efforts to combat desertification. To that effect, the appropriate machinery mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/335, para. 10 (b)) should be retained as the United Nations Working Group on Desertification, and expanded to include representatives from OAU and other intergovernmental regional bodies.

22. In regard to the distribution of information about the Lagos Plan of Action, the meeting agreed that an appeal should be made to organizations within the United Nations system to intensify efforts to publicize the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. Also, reports on United Nations activities related to the implementation of the Lagos Plan should be prepared for submission to the Joint OAU/ECA Committee. The Committee would provide guidelines for the preparation of the reports.

23. Regarding the food situation in Africa:

- (a) The meeting agreed that specialized agencies and programmes should inform African countries as to the nature and extent of assistance, whether financial,

specialized, technical or material, that they were eligible to receive from them and other organizations within the United Nations system, either in times of emergency or in support of their development efforts. Such information should also be communicated to OAU;

(b) It was decided that the Inter-Agency Co-ordination Committee envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/335, para. 14 (b)) would be constituted of representatives from the United Nations and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations (ECA, WFC, UNIDO, UNDP, WFP, FAO, IFAD and ADB) and OAU. OAU would convene the Committee which would have the discretion of co-opting any other agency/body it deemed appropriate in the execution of its task;

(c) In regard to eligibility for assistance extended through the World Food Programme (WFP), the representative of WFP recalled that at last year's United Nations/OAU meeting, the meeting had recommended that countries that were the subject of General Assembly resolutions on special economic assistance, but which were not included in the list of least developed countries, should be accorded similar privileges to those granted to the least developed countries, regarding contributions to the internal cost of transport, storage and handling of food aid. The WFP representative stated that such situations would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. However, the meeting felt that those countries should be accorded privileges similar to those granted to the least developed countries;

(d) The meeting also agreed that efforts should be intensified to ensure that information about technical co-operation among developing countries in agricultural development flowed regularly to all concerned, within the framework of the inter-country consultations organized by UNDP;

(e) Also, ECA was designated as the lead agency to organize the participation of OAU staff in orientation programmes on rural development, at the regional level.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

24. In the light of exchanges of views held during the meeting, the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

A. Progress report on implementation of Lagos Plan of Action

25. Before reaching its conclusions on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, the meeting considered a progress report prepared by the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA. According to the report, in April 1980 African heads of State and Government, meeting in their second extraordinary session of the Assembly in Lagos, Nigeria, adopted the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. The Plan and Act were adopted against the background of a worsening economic situation, and what were seen as poor prospects for African countries, resulting from the excessive external dependence of African economies. The fundamental objective was to change Africa's dependent economic situation, with a view to achieving self-reliant economic growth and self-sustaining development.

26. Although the Lagos Plan of Action recognized the importance of external resources in the development of African countries, it specified that such assistance should merely supplement Africa's own resources. The Plan called for the development of regional capacities for economic activities, and for the pooling of resources of all types through intra-African co-operation and integration.

27. When it adopted the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act, the Assembly directed the Secretary-General of OAU, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA, to implement the Plan, and to submit progress reports periodically to the Assembly.

28. The progress report submitted to the meeting by secretariats of OAU and ECA reviewed the sectoral activities undertaken to assist States in implementing the Plan, including the provision of technical and advisory services in areas such as food and agriculture, energy, natural resources, trade and finance, and development planning. The secretariats also assisted in efforts to implement the Final Act, through work on a treaty to establish an African Economic Community, and the further development of regional economic communities and institutions.

29. The report, reviewing the various problems involved in implementing the Plan, emphasized the problem of resources, which were decreasing in both nominal and real terms. The report contains a number of suggestions, including proposals for improved liaison between the secretariats and member States. The representatives of the secretariats stated that they expected to submit a more comprehensive progress report in the future, that would cover the activities of member States in implementing the Plan and the Act.

Recommendations on implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action

30. After considering the progress report, the meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) Agencies and organizations within the United Nations system were requested to give consideration, if they had not already done so, to aligning their programmes for Africa to the Lagos Plan of Action, as the corner-stone for developmental activities in Africa;

(b) Activity reports on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action should not be of a general nature, but rather specific and quantified, so as to assess the impact of the Lagos Plan of Action on development in Africa;

(c) Short, specific and quantified reports from the United Nations agencies were also requested for submission as early as possible, to help in preparing the second progress report on the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action to be submitted to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

B. Role of information media in implementation of Lagos Plan of Action

31. The meeting also reviewed a paper entitled "The role of information in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action", which was submitted by OAU. The paper

reviewed the objectives of the Lagos Plan, emphasizing the importance of information in the promotion of development.

32. The paper observed that implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action required participation at the base. It suggested that the media could be used to help popularize the plan, to stimulate dialogue, sensitize and mobilize people, and to create an atmosphere conducive to change and development.

33. The paper suggested that the Plan of Action should be accompanied by an information and communication strategy. The strategy, which could be elaborated by the OAU and the United Nations, should specify a series of actions to be undertaken at the national, regional and continental levels. The paper recommended that the strategy should be specific both in terms of objectives and the results to be achieved in the various sectors.

Recommendations on the role of the media in implementing Lagos Plan of Action

34. After discussing the paper, the meeting recommended the convening of a workshop in early 1984 by OAU in collaboration with ECA. The workshop should comprise the OAU Information Service, the OAU Department of EDECO, URTNA, the Pan African News Agency (PANA) and the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU), on the one hand, and the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), as well as the information services of the United Nations system, particularly ECA, UNIDO, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ITU, on the other hand. A selected number of information organs could also participate in the workshop. The workshop should work out a multisectoral strategy of sensitization and information based on the Lagos Plan of Action, select the target group(s) of the campaign and spell out the different phases, as well as the form and method of action.

C. Co-operation in dealing with conservation, development and utilization of water resources in Africa

35. A paper entitled "Co-operation in dealing with the conservation, development and utilization of water resources in Africa", prepared by FAO, served as the basis of discussion for the meeting. The paper drew attention to the Lagos Plan of Action, which had recognized the key role of water in development. The Plan had stressed, *inter alia*, the need for master plans in major sectors, and identified a number of areas for urgent action, including irrigation, soil and water conservation, flood control and drainage, and the rational exploitation of fish stocks.

36. The paper drew attention to increased collaboration between the various agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, pointing out that there were now 22 organizations with programmes related to water resources. An intersecretariat group had been established to promote co-operation in that area. The paper also referred to collaborative activities associated with the 1977 United Nations Water Conference and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

37. Reviewing some of the major issues facing the continent, the paper indicated that although Africa had vast areas of land, much of the soil was shallow, low in fertility and susceptible to erosion. In addition, large areas were drought-prone. To help combat such problems, a regional project that aimed at achieving balanced and stable land use with high production levels, and effective conservation of both land and water resources, was about to start its initial phase. The project would be extended to more than 40 countries. In terms of assessing long-term agricultural needs and capacities, a methodology was now being tested to assess irrigation potential in relation to long-term production capacity.

Recommendations on use of water resources

38. The meeting, while emphasizing the need for co-ordination among the agencies involved in water resources conservation, development and utilization in Africa, agreed to have a workshop convened, under UNDP sponsorship, to consider practical ways of enhancing co-ordination and of sensitizing African Governments on the priority to be given to water resources in their development plans and programmes. It was further agreed that the proposed workshop should be convened in 1984.

D. Co-operation and co-ordination activities and programmes in the field of human resources development

39. The meeting also considered a background paper entitled "Co-operation and co-ordination activities and programmes in the field of human resources development", submitted by the ILO. The paper stated that analyses of employment and productivity indicated that training - and retraining - was necessary in order to increase self-reliance and maximize efficiency and productivity. One of the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was implementing a long-term development strategy in order to achieve a 2 per cent share of world industrial production; the development of human resources was an essential part of that goal.

40. Important areas of human resources development included vocational training, adult education and programmes adapted to both agricultural and non-farm occupational needs in rural areas. The report stressed the need to train administrative support staff and technicians, and that increased attention should be given to institutions responsible for the supply of trained management. The development of such institutions was a "number-one priority" in the years ahead.

41. The paper also stressed the importance of co-operative efforts among African countries, stating that an essential step was gathering knowledge about what existed at the national level. In order to co-operate and exchange information, each party had to know what existed in its own country and understand what existed in the other one. Although horizontal co-operation already existed and had some positive achievements to its credit, it should be developed to involve a greater number of African countries, and it should be broadened in scope.

Recommendations on development of human resources

42. After reviewing the paper, the meeting reached the following recommendations:

(a) The meeting agreed to call upon the participating agencies to give due consideration to what the African States consider to be their priorities in the field of human resources;

(b) The meeting recommended that a small working group comprised of the ILO, UNESCO, ECA, UNDP, UNIDO and OAU should be established as soon as possible to look into the present and projected work programmes of the various United Nations organizations (bearing in mind the priorities set in the Lagos Plan of Action) and make recommendations regarding modalities of achieving the desired co-ordination in Africa;

(c) The report of the meeting of this working group, which should be convened by the OAU secretariat, should be submitted to the next meeting of the General Secretariat of OAU and the secretariats of the United Nations system;

(d) To enable the group to execute its task effectively, it should have before it, as basic working documents, reports submitted to the OAU secretariat by the various United Nations organizations on their activities relating to human resources development, as well as a synthesis report prepared by a competent consultant from the ILO on the basis of those submissions and, as required, of direct consultations with individual United Nations organizations.

E. Role of media and functional literacy in development

43. The meeting considered a paper entitled the "Role of the media and functional literacy in development", submitted by UNESCO, which reviewed statistics confirming the seriousness of the problem of illiteracy on the continent. In 1980, there were an estimated 156 million adult (15 years and over) illiterates in the African region, which included 49.5 per cent of the male population. An even greater percentage of women - 70.8 per cent - were illiterate. In addition, 29 million children from the ages of 6 to 11, or 37 per cent of the age group, were not enrolled in school.

44. The paper reviewed the ways in which the media can be used to promote literacy, observing that television, although it could be used as an instructional tool, was generally available only in the capitals and large cities. Radio was of limited use in teaching reading and writing, but could be useful in terms of creating new awareness, familiarizing the population with the medium of literacy, and in promoting enrolment in literacy programmes. Once persons were literate, the rural press could play a vital role, providing a link with political and development planning, and giving readers a way to give public expression to ideas and concerns.

45. The paper concluded that there was a growing awareness of the need to expand the role of the media in education, and in promoting literacy. Confronted with

growing numbers of adult illiterates and the continuing problem of out-of-school children and youth, African Governments recognized the need to exploit all resources in the effort to ensure education for all.

Recommendations on role of media and literacy in development

46. The meeting agreed on the following statements on the subject of literacy:

(a) Considering the request of African Governments to UNESCO, at the Conference of Ministers of Education and those responsible for economic development, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1982, to launch a regional programme designed to promote the elimination of illiteracy in Africa before the close of the century by a co-ordinated effort directed to the universalization of primary education coupled with literacy work for adults, and in view of the recommendation of the same Conference to African member States to expand the use of media to build up public awareness among those to whom literacy is directed, the meeting recommended that OAU and ECA should give maximum support and encouragement to African Governments to ensure that the objective of the eradication of illiteracy in Africa before the close of the century is realized;

(b) Considering that the illiteracy rate in Africa is very high and that it is a hindrance to developmental efforts by Governments and of the United Nations agencies, and considering that literacy education for children and adults is an important aspect of human resources development efforts, the meeting recommended that literacy and post-literacy education be a component of developmental projects executed or financed by United Nations agencies.

F. Progress report on contributions of United Nations organizations to the Programme for Industrial Development Decade for Africa

47. The meeting also considered a "Progress report on the contribution of the United Nations organizations to the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa", which was jointly prepared by ECA, UNIDO and OAU. The three agencies are charged with the co-ordinating responsibility for the Programme.

48. The Programme for the Decade is composed of two phases: the preparatory phase (1982-1984) and the implementation phase (1985-1990). During the preparatory phase, efforts are to be made to realign national, regional and subregional strategies in accordance with the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act. International organizations are called upon to reorient their policies and programmes in Africa in accordance with the Programme for the Decade; to assist in popularizing and promoting the Decade; and to provide assistance to Governments in the formulation and implementation of programmes for the Decade.

49. The report noted that at a meeting of the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa, held in Rwanda in March 1983, countries reported on the actions they had taken to realign their industrial development plans, emphasizing the concentration of resources on priority industrial areas and core projects; the promotion of African industrial co-operation; the greater utilization

of local human and natural resources; and better management. In regard to interagency co-operation, the paper recommended that the following areas should be considered: publicity for the Decade; the development of manpower and technological capabilities for the implementation of the Programme for the Decade; and the mobilization and optimization of financial resources. It recommended that programmes related to the Decade should be accorded high priority in the programmes of various United Nations agencies for financing from sources such as UNDP, the World Bank, ADB and other funding agencies.

50. The report also suggested that an appropriate reporting system be developed in order to facilitate the preparation of a comprehensive progress report on actions taken by United Nations agencies to implement the Decade Programme.

Recommendations on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa

51. The meeting took note of the progress report on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, as a high priority programme.

52. The meeting made the following recommendations:

(a) The meeting urged United Nations agencies and organizations to intensify their efforts towards reorienting their ongoing programmes, as need be, in accordance with the priorities and concepts of the Decade Programme, as well as in developing new programmes for greater assistance to the African countries, and regional and subregional organizations related to industrial development, especially during the preparatory phase, in the formulation and implementation of their programmes for the Decade;

(b) The meeting decided that the above assistance should accord special high priority to:

- (i) Popularization of the Decade;
- (ii) The adoption of the concept of "core industries", as well as the preparation and implementation of core industrial projects;
- (iii) The development of manpower and technological capabilities, for the implementation of the Programme for the Decade, especially core industries;
- (iv) Mobilization and optimization of both local and external financial resources for the Decade Programme, especially core industrial projects;

(c) In the light of the above, it was agreed to retain this matter on the agenda of the next meeting, but to focus discussions on the selected priority aspects of the Programme for the Decade. To that end, it was further agreed that UNIDO, ECA and OAU should initiate, if they had not already done so, consultations with relevant United Nations agencies and organizations with a view to preparing a high-quality discussion paper on each of the priority subjects for consideration at the meeting;

(d) The meeting also recommended that ECA, UNIDO and OAU should develop an appropriate system, including suitable guidelines, for the preparation of reports by United Nations agencies and organizations, in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and with paragraph 4 (d) of resolution I (VI) on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa adopted by the Sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

G. Development of a concerted approach in dealing with African refugee situation and natural disasters

53. The "Development of a concerted approach in dealing with the African refugee situation and natural disasters" was the subject of a paper prepared jointly by the secretariats of ECA and OAU.

Information on refugees

54. Reviewing the problems involved in providing assistance to 5 million Africans who were uprooted from their homes, the paper stated that a concerted approach should consider three basic aspects of the problem: the political, the humanitarian and the developmental. In regard to political aspects, while OAU had major responsibility in that area, and approved the policies and strategies to be followed, it needed technical data and assistance that could help in evolving appropriate policies and reaching sound political decisions. That technical basis could be contributed by competent institutions within the United Nations and non-governmental organizations involved in refugee work.

55. The paper stated that the humanitarian aspect of refugee work should be based on a realistic assessment of the socio-economic situation of the countries of asylum, which also involved the co-ordination of efforts. The developmental aspect of refugee work required: sensitizing the international community to the direct needs of African refugees; strengthening the capacities of the countries of asylum to cope with the refugee situation; and implementing additional assistance programmes leading to durable solutions.

56. The paper contained a number of proposals which would entail active co-operation among United Nations organizations and other bodies. Those proposals involved, inter alia, in-depth studies of the root-causes of asylum-seeking in Africa; a review of settlement and resettlement activities; the evaluation and promotion of refugee assistance programmes having developmental potential to ensure their continuation when humanitarian assistance was phased out; consideration of the establishment of an African fund for refugee assistance; and the establishment of a centre for the dissemination of information on refugee problems, on humanitarian laws and on human rights in Africa. The paper also recommended participation in technical preparations for the next International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II).

Recommendations on refugee problems

57. The meeting, after thoroughly reviewing the situation of refugees in Africa, adopted the following recommendations:

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(a) All agencies within the United Nations system, as well as those under the umbrella of OAU, should co-ordinate their respective activities relating to refugees to avoid duplication of efforts. The lead agency for this co-ordination, whether at the national or regional level, should be UNHCR, in close consultation and co-operation with ECA and other United Nations agencies and OAU as appropriate;

(b) All agencies of the United Nations system, together with other refugee-serving bodies (mainly non-governmental organizations), should actively participate in the technical preparations for ICARA II;

(c) The need was recognized for arrangements which would ensure a regular flow of information and an exchange of views on matters relating to the African refugee situation between the competent agencies of the United Nations system, on the one hand, and between the United Nations and OAU, on the other. To that end, it was recommended that UNHCR should take the necessary steps to promote those objectives;

(d) OAU, together with all the United Nations agencies, should endeavour to co-ordinate their efforts with UNHCR in regard to durable solutions to the problems of refugees in Africa.

58. The meeting noted that OAU intended:

(a) To undertake an in-depth study of the root-causes of the refugee problems in Africa, with particular emphasis on the developmental aspects of those problems, and with a view to alleviating their adverse effects on the development efforts of the countries of asylum;

(b) To carry out, in close co-operation with UNHCR and other United Nations agencies concerned, a review of refugee/returnee settlement/resettlement past endeavours in African countries with a view to identifying problem areas for further action.

Information on natural disasters

59. In regard to natural disasters, the paper submitted to the meeting emphasized the importance of a concerted approach, and recommended that appeals for emergency assistance should be presented with enough details so that relevant agencies could determine the sector and scope of intervention. It also suggested that buffer food stocks be accumulated at the national, regional and subregional levels for emergencies, and that natural disaster prevention and preparedness arrangements in Africa be reviewed, with a view to evolving an African plan of action that would involve the monitoring of natural phenomena and the planning of all possible disaster prevention and control measures.

Recommendations on natural disasters

60. The meeting agreed that an ECA/UNDRO/OAU meeting would be convened by ECA with the active collaboration of WHO, UNEP, UNDP and all other agencies concerned, following thorough substantive preparations, to consider arrangements for the

prevention of, and preparedness for, natural disasters in African countries, and to map out a global strategy for disaster prevention and preparedness in Africa.

H. Status report on implementation of programmes of assistance to national liberation movements

61. The meeting also discussed a "Report on implementation of programmes of assistance to national liberation movements by United Nations agencies", prepared by the secretariat of OAU. The paper recalled that in 1981 an interagency consultative meeting considered the needs of the national liberation movements, in relation to the financial resources of UNDP under the indicative planning figure for liberation movements. A total of 28 new projects had been submitted by the three national liberation movements, which covered a wide range of activities, including teacher training, information and public relations, food production, management training and health.

62. However, a few months after that meeting, the effects of the world-wide recession, which had adversely affected UNDP resources, took their toll on the programmes of assistance to the national liberation movements. The indicative planning figure for liberation movements had suffered a 45 per cent reduction. A number of projects were reduced in scope or terminated.

63. The paper suggested that, to accelerate the processing of projects, UNDP indicate to all agencies and national liberation movements the procedures to be followed with regard to the submission and monitoring of projects. The paper, noting that a list of projects was contained in an annex, also invited specialized agencies to indicate what they could do from their own resources to assist the national liberation movements during the reviewing period of the current UNDP planning cycle (1982-1986).

Recommendations on assistance to national liberation movements

64. After considering the report, the meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

(a) It appealed to UNDP to continue to give special attention to the approval of the projects submitted by the national liberation movements;

(b) It appealed to the governing bodies of United Nations agencies to increase substantially their technical and financial assistance to the national liberation movements.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ARRANGEMENTS

65. The meeting considered and adopted the report of its ad hoc working group, which was established at the beginning of the session to make recommendations in regard to the agenda, venue, frequency and organization of future meetings between the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of OAU and its regional bureaux (see annex).

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66. The meeting decided to hold the next United Nations/OAU meeting in Africa in 1984, before the thirty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The exact date and venue of that meeting will be decided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the Secretary-General of OAU.

67. Taking account of the report of the ad hoc working group, the meeting decided to confine its agenda to the following items at its next session:

(a) The Industrial Development Decade for Africa (lead agency UNIDO, in collaboration with OAU and ECA);

(b) Science and technology in Africa: policies, priorities and approaches (lead agency UNESCO, in collaboration with ECA and UNIDO);

(c) Co-operation and co-ordination of efforts in the field of rural development in Africa (lead agency FAO, in collaboration with OAU and ECA).

ANNEX

Report of the ad hoc working group on organizational arrangements

Following consideration of the report of the ad hoc working group (see section VII above), the meeting adopted the following proposals in respect of future meetings and arrangements:

Mandate

1. Meetings will be held in accordance with the relevant decisions of the United Nations General Assembly concerning co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the meetings, inter alia, will be:

(a) To strengthen and expand areas of co-operation between the United Nations and OAU;

(b) To bring about better co-ordination and harmonization of their efforts in areas of common concern;

(c) To seek ways and means of overcoming constraints and obstacles which impede effective co-operation between the two systems;

(d) To ensure effective contribution to the efforts of the African States in the field of socio-economic development.

Agenda of meetings

3. Agenda items will cover priority areas concerning political, economic, social and cultural development of Africa. Proposals for agenda items will be submitted as follows:

(a) Political: such items to be submitted by OAU on the basis of resolutions adopted by its statutory bodies which call for co-operation, as well as financial, material or technical assistance;

(b) Economic, social and cultural matters: proposals relating to this area will normally be submitted by OAU and ECA, as well as by United Nations agencies and organizations on subjects of general concern in their respective fields of competence.

Sessional working group

4. To facilitate and improve the conduct of future meetings, a sessional working group of the whole will be established at each meeting to:

(a) Prepare draft conclusions and recommendations of the current session;

(b) Prepare the draft agenda for the next meeting, taking into account the proposals made in paragraph 3 above. The agenda will cover not more than three items, including "matters arising from the previous meeting".

5. The reports of the sessional working group will be submitted to the closing plenary session of the meeting for adoption. The final report on the agenda will indicate the lead agencies responsible for preparation of the relevant discussion papers. In the preparation of discussion papers, the lead agencies concerned, among other considerations, will be required to (a) define the problem; (b) identify areas of co-operation; and (c) make recommendations as appropriate. It should be understood that discussion papers should not exceed five pages.

Next venue and frequency of meetings

6. The next meeting will be held in Africa before the United Nations General Assembly session in 1984. The exact venue and date of the meeting will be decided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the Secretary-General of OAU. The question of the frequency of meetings (whether they will be held annually or biennially) will be taken up during the next meeting for a final, definitive decision.

Initial preparatory arrangements for meetings

7. Immediately following the adoption by the General Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, the Secretary-General of the United Nations will inform OAU and all the agencies of the venue and agenda for the next meeting and request the lead agencies concerned to submit their discussion papers to the United Nations on a specific date to ensure adequate time for production and distribution of the various reports. The agencies concerned will also be requested to submit short reports on action they have taken on recommendations of the last meeting.

8. All concerned will be kept informed of any relevant developments.
