



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT

1 May 1982 - 2 May 1983

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1983

SUPPLEMENT No.13

UNITED NATIONS



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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific (countries)
- ADB - African Development Bank
- AFCAC - African Civil Aviation Commission
- AFPLAN - Regional Food Plan for Africa
- ARSO - African Regional Organization for Standardization
- CEAO - West African Economic Community
- CEPGL - Economic Community of the Great Lakes
- ECDC - Economic co-operation among developing countries
- ECE - Economic Commission for Europe
- ECLA - Economic Commission for Latin America
- ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States
- EEC - European Economic Community
- FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- GATT - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- ICAO - International Civil Aviation Organization
- ICFTU - International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
- IDA - International Development Association
- IDDA - Industrial Development Decade for Africa
- IDEP - African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
- IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development
- IFC - International Finance Corporation
- ILO - International Labour Organisation
- IMF - International Monetary Fund
- IMO - International Maritime Organization
- IPF - Indicative planning figure

ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

MULPOC	-	Multinational Programming and Operational Centre
NATO	-	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAU	-	Organization of African Unity
PADIS	-	Pan-African Documentation and Information System
PANAFTEL	-	Pan-African Telecommunication Network
PTA	-	Preferential Trade Area
SADCC	-	Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference
SWAPO	-	South-West Africa: People's Organization
TCDC	-	Technical co-operation among developing countries
UDEAC	-	Central African Customs and Economic Union
UNCTAD	-	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO	-	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNSO	-	United Nations sudano-Sahelian Office
UNTFAD	-	United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
WFP	-	World Food Programme
WIPO	-	World Intellectual Property Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period from 1 May 1982 to 2 May 1983. It was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Commission on 2 May 1983.

CHAPTER I: ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. At its two hundred and twenty-ninth meeting held on 2 May 1983, the Conference of Ministers of the Commission unanimously approved the following draft resolutions for submission to the Economic and Social Council for action.

A

Support to African land-locked and island countries 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling the global strategy and programme of action adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as by the Council in May and July 1979 respectively,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African region in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted on 18 July 1979 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII),

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for implementation of the Monrovia Strategy, in particular the chapter on transport and communications, adopted by African Heads of State and Government on 29 April 1980, 2/

Conscious of the need to reduce the adverse effects experienced by land-locked and island countries,

Noting with concern that the initiatives taken so far in favour of land-locked and island countries have not been very effective,

1. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and international organizations to take effective measures in order to mobilize financial and technical resources for the benefit of land-locked and island countries;

1/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

2/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

2. Requests that appropriations under the United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries should be increased in order to expand their capability to respond positively to development needs;

3. Requests the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa to co-operate with all relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system in implementing an appropriate programme of action in favour of land-locked countries.

B

United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa 3/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 291 (XIII) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa of 26 February 1977, Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also Conference of Ministers resolution 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Referring to its resolution 1982/54 of 29 July 1982 and resolution 37/140 of 17 December 1982 of the General Assembly,

Considering that the programme of the Decade requires constant adjustment during the entire period of the Decade,

Having considered the progress report on the implementation of the programme of the first phase of the Decade (1980-1983) and the report on the draft programme of the second phase (1984-1988), 4/

Noting with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in the preparation of the programme of the second phase and the timetable set up in this regard,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in his quest for ways and means to finalize the programme of the second phase in a satisfactory way and to secure its financing,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support which they have provided for the organization of the fifth consultative technical meeting and the preparation of the plan of action of the second phase of the Decade;

3/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 239 to 295 below.

4/ E/ECA/CH.9/7 and 8.

2. Appeals to donor countries and financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the fifth consultative technical meeting scheduled to be held from 11 to 14 October 1983;

3. Notes with satisfaction the progress so far made in implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade and the efforts made towards the preparation of the programme for the second phase;

4. Endorses resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.83/23 of 11 March 1983 of the third Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

5. Recommends that, in view of the success of the consultative technical meetings organized for the mobilization of resources for financing the programme of the first phase, other consultative technical meetings be organized as soon as possible after the launching of the second phase of the Decade in 1984 and in any event not later than the middle of 1985 for the following subsectors of transport and communications:

- (a) Broadcasting;
- (b) Postal services;
- (c) Air transport;
- (d) Railways and rail transport;

6. Appeals once more to donor countries and financial institutions to lend their substantial financial support to the Decade projects and to accord particular attention to the programming, financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries;

7. Supports the decision of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to organize an informal round table to be held in Paris from 21 to 24 June 1983 on problems related to the implementation of the Decade programme;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure better co-ordination and harmonization among the various modes of transport and communications so as to avoid duplication and competition in drawing up subregional and regional master plans for each mode of transport and communications as well as an integrated master plan for all modes;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to:

(a) Organize the four consultative technical meetings referred to in paragraph 5 above;

(b) Undertake studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications;

(c) Prepare, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, a study of manpower needs of all African countries for all modes of transport and communications;

(d) Draw up a priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked countries;

(e) Organize in January 1984 the fourth Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ensure the implementation of the present resolution and to submit regularly to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission a report on the implementation of the Decade programme.

C

Problems of freedoms of the air in Africa 5/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.79/6 adopted on 12 May 1979 and ECA/UNTACDA/Res.81/19 adopted on 18 March 1981 by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.890 (XXXIII) on freedoms of the air adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at Nairobi in 1981,

Noting that little progress has been made in the implementation of these resolutions by member States,

Convinced that non-implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions has constituted a major obstacle to the harmonization of air transport schedules in Africa and, hence, is impeding the development of air transport in Africa,

Having noted the report of the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, 6/

1. Urges African States to implement the above resolution of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as well as the various recommendations approved by the Conference of Ministers within the framework of the Decade programme;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the African Civil Aviation Commission and the Association of African Airlines, to convene in 1984 an African conference of representatives of African Governments and African airline companies to examine ways and means of implementing the resolutions on freedoms of the air;

5/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

6/ E/ECA/CM.9/26.

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to organize this conference.

D

The climatic situation and drought in Africa 7/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 239 (XI) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa of 23 February 1973 on the Sahelian drought,

Aware that drought, which had affected the Sahel region in the 1970s is now seriously affecting 34 African countries, 24 of which are among the least developed and some of which are located outside the Sudano-Sahelian region and the Kalahari desert region,

Realizing that drought is now a chronic natural phenomenon whose causes, frequency and trends are currently difficult to control and must be studied scientifically,

Conscious of the linear relationship between drought, desertification and underdevelopment,

Further recalling Conference of Ministers resolution 446 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Deeply concerned about the worsening climatic situation and dire effects of recurring drought, erosion, cyclones and famine on the peoples of Africa and on the African economy in general,

1. Urgently requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to organize a special scientific round table to which all States members of the Commission would be invited. The round table would consist of national experts from the invited countries as well as international experts on climate, land, water and soil resources, ecology and the environment, on the problems of the climatic situation in Africa with a view to examining the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economy and to proposing measures that can be taken in the short-, medium- and long-terms to deal with the problem;

2. Appeals to the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization of African Unity and other relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate actively with the Economic Commission for Africa in this urgent task;

7/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

3. Calls upon Governments to give high priority, through both financial and manpower allocation, to the problem of understanding climatic variability in their countries in order to facilitate advance planning for drought, erosion, cyclones, famine and their related effects;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide additional resources to the Commission to enable it undertake this most important task;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a report on the outcome of the scientific round table on the climatic situation in Africa to the nineteenth session of the Commission/tenth Conference of Ministers;

6. Calls upon the international community, bilateral and multilateral aid donors to grant increased financial resources to the countries affected by drought and desertification and to the institutions engaged in combating these phenomena.

E

Development of cartographic services in Africa 3/

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, 9/ held at Cairo, Egypt, from 23 February to 7 March 1983 and the resolutions adopted by the Conference,

Conscious of the urgent need to strengthen cartographic institutions in the member States as the services required of them constitute the bedrock for the exploration and inventory of their national resources,

Noting with satisfaction that the resolutions of the aforementioned Conference are consistent with the tenets of the Monrovia Strategy 10/ for the economic development of Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action, 11/

8/ See chapter III, Section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

9/ E/ECA/TPCW.4/6.

10/ Organization of African Unity, Council of Ministers resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII).

11/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

Mindful of the crucial role which modern space geodesy plays in the accurate and rapid fixation of control points which are basic to the preparation of maps and charts and which in turn are the prerequisites for effective planning and execution of development projects,

Bearing in mind that United Nations regional cartographic conferences for Africa provide a forum for the transfer of the technology essential for the development of cartographic capabilities as well as for facilitating the exchange of experience including assisting the Economic Commission for Africa in the formulation of its programme of work,

1. Endorses the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the resolutions contained therein;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to convene the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1986 and requests the Secretary-General to establish systematic and effective collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa in order to provide budgetary backstopping in the organization of future regional cartographic conferences;

3. Invites member States which are yet to render their full support to the regional centres for cartography and remote sensing to do so, thereby justifying their faith in technical co-operation among African countries;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Collaborate with the African Association of Cartography to undertake an assessment of the training requirements of each member State in the various fields in cartography as recommended in resolution 6 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa;

(b) Publish a directory of cartographic training centres in Africa which would form a basis for possible regionalization of certain national cartographic centres;

5. Urges member States to give moral, political and material support to the African Doppler Survey project and to make available all relevant data at their disposal for the establishment of regional and subregional African geodetic data banks;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to encourage member States and interested bodies to give financial support to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing for the execution of the African Doppler Survey project;

7. Endorses resolution 13 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa on the declaration of a year for cartography in Africa, and accordingly declares 1986 as "The Year of Cartography in Africa";

8. Further requests the Executive Secretary to convene during 1983 a meeting of all regional and subregional organizations in Africa with responsibility for surveying, mapping and remote sensing matters with a view to harmonizing their structures so as to ensure their viability and effectiveness.

F

Development of resources of the sea 12/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 340 (XIV) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa of 27 March 1979,

Noting with satisfaction the resolution on the development of national marine science, technology and ocean services infrastructures adopted by the third Conference on the Law of the Sea at its 181st meeting on 30 April 1982,

Aware of the need for member States, in the light of the recently adopted convention on the Law of the Sea, individually and collectively to move expeditiously in making provisions for the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea,

Welcoming the preparation of a medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and a programme budget for the bienniums 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 designed to undertake activities to assist member States in this regard,

1. Strongly urges member States to give high priority, individually and collectively, to the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other governmental and non-governmental organizations to assist member States in this regard;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission similarly to assist member States in the implementation of provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to land-locked States.

4. Appeals to the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all the financial and human resources needed with effect from January 1984 to enable the Commission to discharge fully its responsibilities as they relate to the resources of the sea programme during the medium-term plan period 1984-1989 and beyond.

12/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

CHAPTER II: WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD
1 MAY 1982 TO 2 MAY 1983

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. The list of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission during the period under review is contained in the annex to the present report. For action taken by the Conference of Ministers on the reports of the subsidiary bodies, see chapter III, paragraphs 289 to 295 below.

B. Other activities

4. The activities carried out under the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1982-1983 or pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers are described briefly below.

5. The secretariat serviced the Silver Jubilee Anniversary meetings of the Commission consisting of the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of its Conference of Ministers, meetings of various ministerial conferences, meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission and other meetings held under the auspices of the Commission.

6. With regard to food and agriculture, the worsening food crisis and nutritional status of the African populace at large made it clear that the only option was to promote individual and collective food self-sufficiency as the major objective of agricultural development in the region in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN). Other major activities in which the secretariat is engaged with a view to implementing the objectives of AFPLAN and the Lagos Plan of Action include livestock development projects, projects relating to the reduction of food waste and post-harvest losses, forest resources development and conservation, etc.

7. As far as industry is concerned, the secretariat, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), assisted member States in the preparation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1980-1990) which is designed to implement the industry chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action. In order to assist African countries in the implementation of the Decade programme, the secretariat is now using the programme as a basis for technical assistance to economic co-operation groupings in the formulation of specific programmes taking into account their resource endowment.

8. In pursuance of various General Assembly resolutions and in particular resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), resolution 122 (V) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Conference of Ministers resolutions 397 (XV), 456 (XVII) and 457 (XVII), the secretariat has developed a special programme for African least developed countries in order to assist in the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted by the Paris Conference in September 1981. The main areas of activities include technical

assistance to and studies and research on individual African least developed countries, the organization of meetings for African least developed countries and participation in global meetings to assist African participants. In accordance with paragraphs 111 and 113 of the Substantial New Programme of Action and Conference of Ministers resolution 456 (VII), the secretariat participated in three country review meetings in 1982 /Praia, Cape Verde (19-25 June); Kigali, Rwanda (1-4 December) and Bamako, Mali (13-16 December)]. At their request, technical assistance was provided to the Comoros, Rwanda and Benin.

9. The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa was launched in 1977. During the period under review the secretariat was occupied with preparations for the implementation of phase two of the Decade programme. To this end it organized a meeting of the Working Group of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee, which took place in Addis Ababa from 30 August to 11 September 1982, the sixth meeting of the Inter-agency Co-ordinating Committee held in Dakar, Senegal, from 18 to 20 October 1982 and the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 8 to 14 March 1983.

10. In the field of regional co-operation and integration, the secretariat acted as the interim secretariat of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States. In this capacity it convened in June 1982 the first meeting of the PTA Council of Ministers in which a number of key matters were resolved including the adoption of the PTA work programme and management plan for 1982, the budget for 1983 and arrangements for the appointment of the Secretary-General and core staff of the PTA secretariat. Moreover, the secretariat convened meetings of five technical committees to work out operational arrangements and programmes in specific fields which would become a basis of future work programmes for the substantive divisions of the new PTA secretariat. Following a series of meetings culminating in the first summit meeting of the PTA Authority, the Secretary-General and core staff were appointed, marking the end of ECA's period as interim secretariat and the launching of the new PTA secretariat on 1 January 1983. Since then the secretariat has continued to give logistic and backstopping support to the young secretariat.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

11. The close relations which the Commission has always enjoyed with other United Nations programmes were maintained and strengthened.

12. As far as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is concerned, good relations were maintained during the period under review, but, owing to the low results of the last UNDP Pledging Conference, the Programme has requested all executing agencies to reduce the approved budget levels by 45 per cent. This has affected the level of the regional programme being implemented by the Commission. It is hoped that this level will increase in the future if more contributions are received by UNDP.

13. In the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), greater emphasis has been accorded to the need for continuous and closer co-operation with UNIDO, UNDP, UNCTAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), OAU and subregional inter-governmental organizations in Africa. The secretariats of OAU, UNIDO and ECA jointly organized the seventh meeting of the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, from 16 to 19 March 1983, which reviewed and adopted the guidelines for initiating priority action at the national and subregional levels and the modalities for the implementation of the IDDA. Prior to this, the same organizations jointly convened in Addis Ababa an Expert Group Meeting for the popularization of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa from 29 September to 10 October 1982 during which experts in journalism and broadcasting in Africa and elsewhere discussed ways and means of effectively publicizing the IDDA programme. The recommendations of this meeting were submitted to the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa.

14. Since 1959, the secretariat has consistently developed a special close working relationship with FAO through collaborative programming and the programme of the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division.

15. With the co-operation of FAO, the secretariat initiated studies in Burundi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to collect background information on the situation of the small farmer in Africa and on the institutional problems of small farmers with respect to farm investments and uses of improved inputs. In collaboration with FAO, advice and assistance were given in the field of agricultural statistics to five countries in the region and, in line with the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, a set of socio-economic indicators for the countries in the region was devised. In accordance with AFPLAN and the Lagos Plan of Action, five subregional reports on the evaluation of ongoing and planned food development programmes and projects as well as guidelines for new programmes for some 40 African inter-governmental organizations were finalized. The findings of these reports were discussed at the meetings of the policy organs of the Niamey, Gisenyi, Yaounde, Lusaka and Tangiers MULPOCs. As a result, a number of projects were incorporated in the work programmes of these MULPOCs. In consultation with FAO, a full-scale project document on forestry resources development and conservation for the countries of the region was finalized. The secretariat, with the full collaboration of the Current Agricultural Research Information Services, assisted the Younde MULPOC in the implementation of a project aimed at identifying priority areas in which agronomic research would benefit member countries and inter-governmental organizations and in identifying research and training institutions which could be improved or expanded so as to enable them to serve as multinational institutions. In the field of forest industries development, the secretariat collaborated with FAO and UNIDO in terms of the Forest Industries Advisory Group for Africa based in ECA. It is an investment-oriented group, working in the fields of both primary and secondary woodworking industries, with a variety of subregional projects aimed at the promotion of intra-African and interregional trade and joint investment.

CHAPTER III: EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND NINTH MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

A. Attendance and organization of work

1. The Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the Commission, coinciding with the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, was held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 April to 2 May 1983. The meeting was opened on 27 April 1983 by H.E. Mr. Fauzi Ahmed Elshakshouki, outgoing Chairman of the eighth meeting of the Conference, who invited all participants to observe a minute of silent prayer or meditation. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Government and people of Ethiopia for their hospitality and the excellent arrangements they had made for the meeting and thanked all participants for their presence and for the co-operation they had extended to him during his term of office. He hoped that the current Chairman would enjoy the same assistance. The newly elected Chairman welcomed all participants to Addis Ababa and thanked them for the honour conferred on him and his country by his election to the office of Chairman of the Silver Jubilee session.
2. Addresses were delivered by H.E. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Commission to organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia; H.E. the Rt. Hon. Daniel Arap Moi, M.P., President of the Republic of Kenya and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity; H.E. Dr. Kenneth D. Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia; H.E. General Major Juvenal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic and Founder-President of the Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement; Dr. Alex Ekwueme, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; H.E. Citoyen Nzondomyo a'Dokpe Lingo, President of the Legislative Council of the Republic of Zaire, member of the Central Committee; H.R.H. Prince Ben M. Msibandze, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; H.E. Mr. Peter Mmusi, Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana; H.E. Mr. Leon Mebiame, Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic; H.E. Mr. Oumarou Mamane, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Niger; Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Mr. Edem Kodjo, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.
3. Messages were also read out on behalf of a number of Heads of State and Government and international organizations (see section C below for summaries of those statements and messages).
4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, the Revolutionary People's Republic of Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Commission's terms of reference, observers were present from the following States members of the United Nations not members of the Commission: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

6. Observers for the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, States not Members of the United Nations were also present.

7. In accordance with paragraph 10 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania and the South-West Africa People's Organization were also represented by observers.

8. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended the meeting: Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Regional Commissions Liaison Office, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Development Programme, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Food Council, World Food Programme, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and International Trade Centre.

9. The following inter-governmental organizations were represented in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's terms of reference: African Association for Public Administration and Management, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, African Centre for Monetary Studies, African Development Bank Group, African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research, African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, African Regional Centre for Technology, African Regional Organization for Standardization, Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa, Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, East African Development Bank, Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre, Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques, Institut sous-régional de technologie appliquée, League of Arab States, Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport, Organization of African Unity, Pan-African Telecommunications Union, Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States, Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys and Sahel Institute.

10. In accordance with paragraph 14 of the Commission's terms of reference All Africa Conference of Churches, Caritas Internationalis, International Bar Association, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Road Federation, Union of African Journalists and World Council of Churches were represented by observers. 1/

11. The Conference unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman	: Mr. Hailu Yimenu,	Ethiopia
First Vice-Chairman	: Mr. Ambroise Mulindangabo,	Rwanda
Second Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Taieb Ben Cheik,	Morocco
Rapporteur	: Mrs. Egun Oyagbola,	Nigeria

B. Agenda

12. At its two hundred and twenty-third meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation
3. Election of officers
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
5. Formal official opening of the meeting
6. SILVER JUBILEE EVENT: A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983
7. SILVER JUBILEE EVENT: ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008 - A preliminary perspective study
8. Status and constraints in human resources development in Africa: Report of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Nine on the Implementation of Decisions of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization
9. Report of the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the Implementation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
10. Report of the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries
11. Report of the seventh Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa

^{1/} For the full list of participants, see E/ECA/CM.9/INF/4.

12. Report and recommendations of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole:
- A. On the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos
- (a) Joint progress report by the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary
 - (b) Contributions by ECA-sponsored institutions to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos
 - (c) Situation of food and agriculture in Africa
 - (d) United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988:
 - (i) Progress report on phase I, 1980-1983
 - (ii) Draft programme for phase II, 1984-1988
 - (e) Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990: Progress report
 - (f) Establishment of an African Monetary Fund: Progress report
 - (g) Regional and subregional economic and technical co-operation and integration: Progress report
 - (h) Interregional economic and technical co-operation
 - (i) Statistical support for development in Africa: Issues, progress and problems
- B. On other matters
- (i) Africa and current international economic negotiations
 - (ii) Reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission
 - (iii) a. Third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-Sponsored Institutions
 - b. Harmonizing and sustaining Africa's institutions for effective development
 - (iv) Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, that are of interest to the Commission
 - (v) Follow-up actions on the resolutions and decisions of the Commission at its seventeenth session
 - (vi) Preparatory activities for the International Youth Year

C. On the programme of work and priorities

- (i) Medium-term plan, 1984-1989 - Resources of the sea programme
- (ii) Implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1982-1983
- (iii) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985

D. On the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development

- (i) Report on the utilization of pledges for 1981 and 1982
- (ii) Projects for funding in the biennium 1984-1985

E. On staff and administrative questions

13. United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: Pledges of financial contributions by member States for the biennium 1984-1985
14. Any other business
15. Date and venue of the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
16. Adoption of Silver Jubilee Commemoration Declaration
17. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting
18. Closure of the meeting.

C. Account of proceedings

Opening addresses

13. In opening the meeting, Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia, welcomed participants on behalf of the people and Government of Ethiopia and on his own behalf. He hoped that their stay in Ethiopia, their second home, would be fruitful. Various sporting, cultural and other events would be offered to them during the Conference.

14. The first meeting of the Commission had been held in Addis Ababa 25 years ago and, since that time, there had been a big change in the situation in the continent. When the Commission was established, Africa had reflected the legacies of the scramble for Africa by European colonial Powers. Many African countries were still suffering under the yoke of colonialism and the Commission had come into being only as a result of the intensive struggle between the eight independent African countries at that time and the then colonial rulers which since 1947 had obstructed the setting up of an Economic Commission for Africa under the pretext that Africa was unable to administer itself. At that time, Governments with colonial Territories in Africa has been member of the Commission but, realizing that the Commission was the sole forum where they could air their views on political or economic issues, the independent African countries over the years had struggled to revise the membership of the Commission, an exercise which had culminated in 1962 in barring South Africa and Portugal from the Commission and in allowing African Territories under colonial domination to become associate members.

15. Such events demonstrated the contributions the Commission had made to the emancipation of Africa in the political field prior to making contributions in the economic and social field. The Commission, which had been established to assist in the reconstruction of development infrastructures, eradicate the exploitation of the continent's resources by imperialists and chart out new development plans, had brought together a number of African professionals to that end. He expressed his sincere thanks to all Africans who had served the Commission during the past 25 years and particularly to those who were now in positions of leadership.

16. Despite the significant contribution of the Commission and of its staff over the past 25 years, however, a great deal remained to be done. Economic independence had not advanced simultaneously with political independence. In the 1970s, economic growth in African countries had been lower than in the 1960s because of the declining price of raw materials in relation to the increasing price of capital and manufactured goods and because of a drop in the support the advanced countries had extended to the developing countries. Moreover, since the advanced countries exercised control over the world economy and pursued policies unfavourable to economic growth, the economies of African countries had not been able to grow satisfactorily. Equally, in the 1970s, the African region had experienced drought, desertification and the proliferation of crop pests, a series of natural disasters which had been compounded by war. Hence, countries which had been net exporters of food had experienced food shortages and hunger.

17. African leaders had met in Lagos in April 1980 in an effort to reverse that dangerous situation and had accordingly adopted the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. Although it was the responsibility of African States to implement the Plan and the Act, various reports before the Conference bore testimony to the efforts made by ECA and OAU in that regard.

18. The economy of Africa was bound to the world economy by a complex chain of international systems established by colonialists which had to be broken and replaced by a new international economic order for the equitable distribution of global wealth and the fruits of technology. The non-aligned movement had been calling for a new order since 1974 and most recently at the New Delhi summit, it had identified the main causes of the deterioration in the international economic situation which included the arms race, high interest rates, a decrease in aid, protectionist policies, and debts servicing. The non-aligned summit had stressed that peace and security could not prevail in a world whose economic system was devoid of equality and that the struggle for a new international economic order could not be viewed in isolation from the struggle against colonialism. The Conference had also decided that an international meeting on finance and monetary issues should be held in 1984 and African countries had to make the necessary preparations for their effective participation in the meeting.

19. The policies pursued by colonialists and imperialists had been a major impediment to growth in Africa. On the other hand, there were measures that could be implemented through intra-African collaboration within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action. In that regard, he referred to the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and the preliminary study on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund. Agriculture had also been given priority in the Plan and he stressed the need both for international support and for national, subregional and continental measures to ensure food security. Africa had to make serious efforts to overcome its dependence in that area as a matter of urgency since the developed countries took advantage of the situation to perpetuate their control over the developing countries.

20. Another area of concern was global negotiations. At both the Cancun and the Versailles summits, the industrialized countries had demonstrated a lack of political will and the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session had not even been able to consider procedural questions. Great hope was therefore pinned on the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held in Belgrade in June 1983. Africa had already worked out its common position at the Conference of Ministers of Trade held in Libreville in February 1983, and the developing countries had more recently consolidated their position in Buenos Aires. It was to be hoped that those preparations would contribute to the success of UNCTAD in establishing the new international economic order.

21. Seven years had elapsed since the world community had called for emergency measures to assist the least developed countries, 26 of which were in Africa. The United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries held in Paris in September 1981 had adopted a Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and had called for consultation between donor and recipient countries. Unfortunately, the industrialized countries had taken advantage of that two-way relationship not to implement the pledges they had made. Africa had to expose those countries which were not willing to co-operate and take the necessary measures.

22. His Government had been making relentless efforts to improve the Standard of living of the Ethiopian people. Preparations were now being made to incorporate essential strategies in a ten-year plan. Moreover, Ethiopia, in line with the principle of peaceful coexistence, attached the greatest importance to strengthening the unity of the African continent. Africa's natural resources, if utilized effectively, could extricate the continent from its backwardness. However, if the leaders failed to live up to their responsibility, they would be the laughing stock of the developed countries and be historically accountable to succeeding generations for shirking their duty.

23. H.E. the Rt. Hon. Daniel T. Arap Moi, M.P., President of the Republic of Kenya and current Chairman of OAU, briefly recounted the history of the negotiations that had taken place to establish ECA since 1947. Victory had at last been achieved in April 1958. It also represented both new and neutral ground for the exploration of wider political issues, paving the way, in that manner, for the founding of OAU in 1963.

24. Since its establishment ECA had undergone various changes and transformations inspired by a sense of commitment and purpose. In functional terms, during the opening years, ECA had not been concerned with the practical aspects of development because so many of the prerequisites for development on a continental scale did not exist. At the end of the Commission's first decade, however, member States were convinced of the need for the Commission to move away from an institution of theoretical studies to one of practical action for concrete and meaningful development. Today, ECA was a powerful organization comprising ten divisions, all involved in various aspects of African development.

25. He further noted that it had been necessary and valuable for ECA to give priority to building so many institutions and infrastructures, which had served as foundations of economic and social development. Among them, he referred to the African Development Bank, the Industrial Development Fund as well as to institutes concerned with all aspects of planning and production, training and technology. The Commission had also actively encouraged the establishment of regional economic groupings.

26. Twenty-five years after the inception of ECA, 20 years after the establishment of OAU and three after the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action, the economic plight of Africa continued to be characterized by gloom and despair and the place occupied by Africa within the international economic scene was unique and worrying. The African continent embodied the largest number of least developed countries, while many of the other States suffered from underdevelopment.

27. In all the countries which had attained political independence in the past quarter of a century, there were inevitable problems associated with economic readjustments, the fashioning of infrastructure and the emergence of new patterns or sectors of production. But, at a time when the momentum of human development should have been gathering strength, global economic forces had thrust Africa into the arena of crisis embracing the whole spectrum of food supply, national income, employment, terms of trade, balance of payments and external debts. It was with utmost regret that, instead of celebrating the Silver Jubilee in plenty, the African continent was beset with hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, unemployment and waste.

28. Some of the problems facing Africa today were not attributable to external forces alone. They had been created and perpetuated by Africans themselves. A major problem was that many African countries would rather bring manufactured and semi-processed commodities from developed countries even when they were readily available in neighbouring African countries. That practice was detrimental to intra-African trade, which had been on the agenda on all OAU meetings since 1967. An equally disturbing situation related to communications within Africa by road, rail or air.

29. He suggested that 1983 should go down in Africa's history as the year of positive action for the collective welfare of Africa. Remarking on the food situation which had deteriorated over the years owing mainly to adverse weather, rising population, high cost of agricultural inputs and declining external assistance and the consequent massive resort to food imports, he emphasized that Africa could not continue to depend on food aid, which developed countries tended to use as a political weapon to put pressure on independent African countries and to reduce their political and economic independence. It was therefore imperative that all member States should develop and implement national food policies to attain self-sufficiency in food. Those national food policies be co-ordinated at the subregional and regional levels to ensure overall food sufficiency and the capacity to export to other continents.

30. Africa's fragile economies were vulnerable to the fortunes and misfortunes of the developed countries and it seemed that Africa was destined to rely, for a long time to come, on the developed world. It was incumbent upon all to strive to reverse that trend.

31. Just as stock was being taken of the past activities of ECA during the Silver Jubilee, strategies for the future should also be mapped out and in that regard African countries should rely more and more on the technical expertise offered by ECA. The challenge for African countries was, therefore, to lay the foundation of a self-reliant, indigenous, internally generated and self-sustaining economic system. Africa must accelerate its struggle for economic survival and self-reliance. In that regard, he noted the creation of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) as the most significant achievement of ECA.

32. In conclusion, he drew the attention of the Conference to Africa's natural resources, and called for an end to petty jealousies and small differences which had hitherto proved detrimental to Africa. He called for unity to fight the common enemies of disease, hunger and poverty. He called upon all OAU member States to show maximum political will and give the necessary support to the activities of ECA.

33. Before H.E. the President of Zambia delivered his address, a song was sung to the President as a gesture of well wishes on the occasion of his birthday. The President responded by inviting the Zambian delegation to sing for the meeting a popular and revolutionary Zambian song entitled "Tiyende pamodzi ndi mtima umodzi" (Let us move together with one heart).

34. H.E. Dr. Kenneth D. Kaunda expressed his appreciation for the unequivocal way in which the United Nations Secretary-General had spoken against forces of oppression and domination as well as against the unfavourable international economic situation. He then paid tribute to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam Chairman of IMAC and COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia and to the entire people of Ethiopia. The illustrious leadership and genuine efforts of the Ethiopian leader had transformed Ethiopia into a dynamic and progressive country. Ethiopia had done more for its great people in the few years since the great Revolution than in the preceding era. The Ethiopian people were able to walk with their chests up and heads high and were no longer mere spectators but active participants in the unfolding Revolution.

35. The Economic Commission for Africa had been the first pan-African organization to be established for Africa, thus paving the way for the establishment of the Organization of African Unity and progressively opening the way for many subregional programmes and institutions including, in particular, the African Development Bank, the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, the Economic Community of West African States and the Preferential Trade Area for the Eastern and Southern African States as well as the first Economic Summit of the Organization of African Unity. ECA had, indeed, lived up to its expectations as an effective voice at international fora in the defence of the interests of not only Africa but also the entire third world.

36. He then mentioned some of the obstacles created by certain elements of the international community against the advancement of the third world in general and African countries in particular. Firstly, there was the support, including heavy investments and transfer of technology that certain Western countries continued to give to fascist and apartheid South Africa, which had encouraged the Pretoria regime to continue in its obnoxious policies. It was clear that, unless apartheid was eradicated, there would definitely be an explosion. Also, obstacles were being deliberately put in the way of the United Nations efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Namibian problem through insisting on linking Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Further, South Africa's strategy was to destabilize the front-line States and Africa had to close its ranks and consolidate its unity in the face of threats and actual unprovoked attacks by racist South Africa on those States. Secondly, the rich countries had failed to honour their obligations to the poor countries within the context of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order. Except for the Nordic countries, the rest of the industrialized countries had, so far, not met the target of earmarking 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as assistance to developing countries. The North-South dialogue was also approaching a dangerous point of a conflict between protectionism and free trade. Indeed since the Cancun summit, a state of stagnation had prevailed in the field of global negotiations. In addition, international economic institutions had been unable to provide ideas, proposals or practical measures aimed at solving the problems of world trade, protectionism and balance-of-payments deficits. As such, it was inevitable that the developing countries should continue to condemn the imbalances caused by the lopsided international economic system. Thus, ECA needed to continue to enhance its programmes for consolidating the South-South dialogue, and Africa had to continue to build structures that would liberate the region from its dependence.

37. He concluded his address by paying tribute to the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of the Commission for having vigorously pursued programmes of assisting member States to set up subregional, inter-governmental institutions for co-operation. The Preferential Trade Area for the Eastern and Southern African States, which had received overwhelming political goodwill, was one of the testimonies to the determination of ECA to meet the challenges of the African region.

38. H.E. General-Major Juvenal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic and Founder-President of the Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement, paid tribute to ECA for the role it was playing in furthering the development of Africa. He thanked Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Government and people of Ethiopia for their welcome and hospitality in hosting the Silver Jubilee anniversary in Addis Ababa, the cradle of African Unity, and congratulated the ECA Executive Secretary for his tireless devotion to the economic and social development of Africa.
39. Twenty-five years after its establishment, ECA had many achievements to its credit, which justified its reputation within the framework of its terms of reference, namely to encourage, stimulate and strengthen African regional co-operation in the area of economic and social development.
40. Through intra-African consultation meetings, seminars, training courses and socio-economic publications, ECA had given African countries a deeper insight into their socio-economic problems and helped to refine their development strategy in order to establish a genuine and integrated African common market.
41. The objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action involved expanding intra-African trade, attaining food self-sufficiency, linking up means of communications, promoting industrialization and harnessing Africa's energy potential. The implementation of the Plan would culminate in the establishment of an African common market by the year 2000 through gradual regional and subregional integration.
42. ECA's active role in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States which Rwanda had decided to join as well as its role in the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) formed part of the scheme to establish an African common market by the year 2000 as would the on-going studies on the establishment of an Economic Community of Central African States. The assistance and the technical support provided directly by ECA or through the MULPOCs were also part of that scheme.
43. He reviewed some specific programmes and projects in which ECA had participated and was participating actively such as the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the Pan-African Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL), the trans-African road and railway network and the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
44. The formulation and follow-up of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries as well as studies and development programmes on land-locked and island countries had been very much appreciated. ECA also played a significant role in the key area of training and technological and scientific research.
45. Among the significant achievements of ECA were the establishment of the African Development Bank and the Commission's role in preparing the negotiations for renewing the ACP-EEC Lome Convention.

46. Despite Africa's considerable natural resources it was regrettable that Africa still could not make use of the bargaining power which its immense potential in natural resources should give it. At the United Nations, UNCTAD, during the North-South negotiations and even within the Group of 77, most of Africa's demands had achieved scant results. The foregoing, coupled with a severe international crisis, further increased Africa's dependence on the outside world, reflected in an external debt which was, for many African countries, an extremely heavy burden.

47. Those serious problems could be solved by restructuring the world economic system within the framework of a new economic order which would make it possible to achieve the objectives of solidarity and complementarity and international co-operation which would reflect the needs and interests of all parties concerned by giving active support to the efforts of developing countries.

48. He commended ECA for the assistance it rendered to the Economic Community of Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) through the Gisenyi MULPOC. However, he noted that, in order for ECA to continue its efforts to promote African development, it had to be provided with all the resources needed to carry out its traditional activities such as research, training and socio-economic studies while strengthening its assistance to countries and regional and subregional co-operation agencies which desired to benefit from its experience in identifying, analysing and implementing development projects and programmes.

49. Finally, he renewed his country's commitment to continue striving to attain the objectives that Africa had set for itself.

50. H.E. Dr. Alex Ekwueme, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, extended fraternal greetings and messages of goodwill and appreciation from President Shagari and the people of Nigeria to Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and the brotherly people of Ethiopia and transmitted the President's regrets that he was unable to be present during the Silver Jubilee celebrations. He expressed the belief that the great and spectacular achievements of ECA in the past 25 years were indicative of Ethiopia's role as a good and reliable host.

51. The Vice-President commended the Executive Secretary and his colleagues in the secretariat for the efficient way in which they had conducted the affairs of the Commission and their significant contributions to the social and economic transformation of the African continent. Acknowledging that the terrain that ECA has been traversing was rough, he called for greater determination to achieve greater glory for Africa.

52. He appreciated the presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the ECA Silver Jubilee celebrations, which he deemed inspiring and further proof of the support that the United Nations was providing to ECA. He expressed the conviction that, under Mr. de Cuellar's guidance and leadership, the Commission would continue to play the catalyst and leadership role that had fired Africa's imagination and strengthen its resolve to improve the economic life of the continent.

53. During the Silver Jubilee celebrations, States members of the Commission and the staff of its secretariat had every reason to congratulate themselves on the efforts which they had individually and collectively exerted in nurturing the Commission for the past 25 years.

54. Tracing Nigeria's participation in the activities of ECA, he noted that Nigeria had participated in the first session of the Commission as one of its associate members and that President Shehu Shagari had participated in the second and third sessions of the Commission in Tangiers, Morocco, in 1960 and Addis Ababa in 1961 respectively. He recalled President Shagari's call, during the ECA ministerial meeting in Tunis in 1971, for the Commission to become more deeply involved in operational activities in the member States and cited the MULPOCs as an example of ECA's response to that call.

55. He further referred to ECA conferences which Nigeria had hosted including the eighth session of the Commission in 1967 and the First Pledging Conference in 1977 at which Nigeria had contributed \$1.6 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development. He lauded the strong ECA input into the formulation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. He observed that, as Africa's first continental organization, member States had used the Commission to deal with political as well as economic issues prior to the establishment of OAU in 1963 and he appreciated the collaboration of the two secretariats in monitoring the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

56. Highlighting some of ECA's activities, he made reference to data and information the Commission had collected, analysed and disseminated to member States and the international community in such fields as economics, statistics and trade. In that context, he saw the creation of PADIS as offering great promise for greater achievements by the Commission in information dissemination in the future.

57. Dr. Ekwueme further highlighted ECA's invaluable assistance in the formation of ECOWAS and the PTA and its current efforts to assist in the establishment of an economic community in Central Africa. He also noted with gratification the valuable back-stopping services provided by ECA to African countries in various international negotiations and the technical assistance and the advisory services the Commission had provided to member States. He expressed the hope that such assistance would be stepped up and made more relevant to the priorities and development strategies of recipient countries.

58. Referring to the Transport and Communications and the Industrial Development Decades, he expressed the belief that, if the programmes were successfully executed, they would usher in rapid development in the continent.

59. He pinpointed the inadequacy of financial and budgetary resources as a major obstacle preventing the Commission, since its inception, from doing more than it had done for Africa. In that light, he called for voluntary contributions from member States to UNTFAD through the pledging conferences and urged member States to meet their commitments.

60. Reminding the Conference of the economic problems facing Africa, he noted that the problems of global liquidity squeeze, hyper-inflation, mounting external debts, balance-of-payment deficits, high interest rates, unemployment and general economic stagnation demanded far-reaching policies and measures which would reverse present trends and establish conditions for sustained economic growth and accelerated development. He observed that declarations on African development strategies in the 1960s and 1970s had become irrelevant because they were based primarily on inherited theories which had reinforced colonial patterns of development. Those theories had been replaced by the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action which aimed at promoting economic progress and better standards of life for Africa. He therefore appealed to the United Nations system to support Africa in its struggle to fight inflation, unemployment, protectionism, inequitable distribution of wealth, widening gap between the rich and the poor and rising debts.

61. Referring to the liberation of Africa, he stressed that Africa could not compromise on the issue of the total liberation of Azania and Namibia. He urged ECA to step up training of nationals from those countries to prepare them for eventual nation-building. He concluded by stressing the importance of peace, respect for individual freedoms and maintenance of law and order and greater sacrifice in Africa's efforts to lay the foundations for a better tomorrow.

62. In his speech transmitting the message of Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa Zabanga, President of the Republic of Zaire and founder of the Mouvement populaire de la Révolution, H.E. Nzondomyo a'Dokpe Lingo, President of the Legislative Council and member of the Central Committee of MPR, expressed his sincere thanks for the welcome extended to him and the rest of his delegation since their arrival in Addis Ababa by the Government and people of Ethiopia.

63. The celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was an occasion for the people of Zaire solemnly to express their feelings of friendship and fraternity towards the brotherly people of Socialist Ethiopia. As an example, he mentioned the victorious battles in which Zairian troops had fought side by side with allied forces to safeguard the integrity and independence of Ethiopia, and the role played by Ethiopian troops together with United Nations forces in preserving the integrity, national unity and security of Zaire.

64. The Silver Jubilee was also an excellent opportunity for African countries briefly to review the role played by ECA in the economic and social development of the African countries.

65. The economic advancement of independent Africa had been and would continue to be hampered by the constantly deteriorating economic situation throughout the world.

66. Despite all the efforts that had been made, the world as a whole and Africa in particular were facing a complex crisis. Excessive dependence of African economies on the outside had resulted in a reduction in their outlets to the markets of the industrialized countries with a consequent fall in the value of their exports and an increase in their external debt burden.

67. The disastrous economic situation facing Africa was due to a number of factors, including (a) the general slump in commodity prices; (b) the proliferation of protectionist measures of all kinds by the developed countries against the products of the developing countries; and (c) the oil bill.

68. The immediate results of that situation for non-oil-exporting African countries had been a disequilibrium in their balance of payments which had also brought about a general decline in investment and production and a substantial reduction in the imports of capital goods that were essential to their development.

69. In connection with the financial problems of the developed countries and the monetary policies which they pursued vis-à-vis the African nations, he announced that in December 1983, Zaire would host a meeting of African finance, economic development and planning ministers, organized by ECA, OAU and ADB, to review thoroughly the problems of the external debt of the African countries.

70. Although Africa was liberating itself politically, it had inherited from the colonial period economic difficulties caused by inappropriate structures which ECA was endeavouring to change by establishing the necessary institutions for African development.

71. For 25 years, ECA's achievements and activities had been directed towards reorienting development strategies and restructuring the economies of the African countries. Achievements such as ADB, IDEP, the PTA, etc., were due to the efforts, courage and devotion of well-known Africans such as Mekki Abbas, Robert Gardiner and Adebayo Adedeji and their colleagues in the secretariat, without whom ECA would not be what it was today.

72. The regional and subregional programmes launched by the Commission during the last five years with the help of member States should change the face of the African economies. Those programmes included (a) the Regional Food Plan; (b) the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; (c) the Industrial Development Decade for Africa; (d) the establishment of the West and Central African Clearing Houses; and (e) the work now in hand for the establishment of the African Monetary Fund. The Industrial Development Decade, in particular, would increase the volume and capacity of ECA's assistance to African countries in carrying out their industrialization programmes and would help them to increase their capacities in the design, formulation, preparation and implementation of industrial projects.

73. Zaire would spare no effort to encourage ECA to carry out the strategies formulated and the Lagos Plan of Action. Ratification of the Libreville Declaration and active participation in the negotiations on the establishment of the economic community of Central African States were part of Zaire's support for ECA. That support was taking shape and being consolidated at the national and subregional levels.

74. In order to curb foreign corporations operating in strategic sectors, Zaire had launched an ambitious public investment programme notably in the infrastructure, industry and energy sectors. That was part of a series of activities based on the development of natural resources and the establishment of the necessary economic, social and institutional infrastructure. Despite the difficulties and obstacles, Zaire was determined to continue its efforts to redress its difficult economic situation.

75. In conclusion, he emphasized that economic development in Africa required large-scale mobilization of human and financial resources. ECA was more than ever a technical instrument in the service of the African development priorities defined by the States that were members of OAU.

76. Zaire would encourage ECA to intensify its co-operation in the fields of training of African entrepreneurs, training of senior management staff, training of industrial technicians and, with the assistance of member States, training of the mass of the population who constituted both the protagonists and beneficiaries of development.

77. In tackling the challenge ahead of it, Africa itself would have to accept some extra sacrifices while accepting, at the same time, supplementary international aid.

78. H.R.H. Prince Ben M. Msibandze, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland, expressed fraternal felicitations from Her Majesty, Regent and Queen Mother, on the occasion of the ECA Silver Jubilee anniversary and conveyed his deep gratitude to Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and the people of Ethiopia on behalf of Eastern and Southern African States, the Kingdom of Swaziland as well as on his own behalf.

79. The ideals which lay behind the foundation of the Economic Commission for Africa should, even today, continue to bind Africa in the quest for economic independence. The present celebration should therefore serve as a continuing reminder of the desire to eradicate poverty and deprivation among the African people.

80. Further, the celebration marked a turning point in the continent's history. Developing countries had now to rely on themselves for their own survival. Africa could not depend on outside help for its survival, more especially in a world where the developed countries were engaged in a massive build up of arms whereas two thirds of mankind was going without enough food. Africa was suffering from the vagaries of the weather, drought and famine on a scale unprecedented on the continent. Other problems related to international aid where recipients were helplessly required to conform to the wishes of donors.

81. In the light of those problems, the fundamental question was where to go from there. He explained that, as wars were often of economic origin, the only answer lay in unity and collective efforts in the pursuit of the economic goals laid out in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. However, that called for the mobilization of the people and required a complete break with past policies in all sectors of economic activity. For example, there was now a need to stress food self-sufficiency for agriculture and basic needs for the development of the industrial sector. That called for greater efforts in the struggle for economic independence and he exhorted African countries to rise up and face the challenge.

82. Finally, he paid tribute to the Executive Secretary of ECA, for his dedication and leadership and to the staff for their commitment to the cause of Africa.
83. H.E. Mr. Peter Mmusi, Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana, expressed concern at the worsening economic situation in Africa. It was a sad fact that, if trends over the past 25 years continued, the future would be very bleak indeed. He referred to the falling food production in the face of rapidly increasing population, irrelevant education programmes and policies, unsuccessful industrial programmes based on imported factor inputs and the shortage of foreign exchange and poor communications systems.
84. He stressed the importance of agriculture in Africa's development, particularly as it constituted the biggest employer on the continent. He regretted, however, that today agricultural production was decreasing, resulting in abject poverty and destitution. Although the Lagos Plan of Action made food production a priority, Africa was continuing on a hopeless path of food dependency. That situation had resulted in dependence on food aid which was being used as an instrument of economic policy.
85. Africa was today an independent continent, and hence Africans must blame themselves for the bulk of their economic ills, particularly for over-dependence on foreign assistance. Foreign assistance must only fill the gaps in Africa's programmes.
86. He paid tribute to the regional economic co-operation efforts, stressing that subregional groupings must be small, manageable and based on existing economic ties and proximity. He further elaborated on the working arrangement of SADCC whose members were bound together by the desire to be free from the racist oppression, exploitation and aggression of the Pretoria regime. In SADCC, each member State was assigned a sector to co-ordinate. SADCC was hence a practical expression of the Lagos Plan of Action.
87. He thanked the Executive Secretary for the perspective study (E/ECA/CM.9/23) and urged African leaders to read the document.
88. H.E. Mr. Leon Mebiame, Prime Minister of Gabon, speaking on behalf of H.E. El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, paid a resounding tribute to H.E. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of PMAC and COPVE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia for having agreed to organize the Silver Jubilee of ECA and for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded to him. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Adebayo Adedeji who, following in the footsteps of Mr. Robert Gardiner, was using his skills in the service of Africa's economic and social development. He extended that tribute to the staff of ECA.
89. The Silver Jubilee was being celebrated at a time when the world was undergoing one of the most serious crises in its history. The world economic situation was characterized by such phenomena as high rates of inflation, fluctuating exchange rates, chronic disequilibria in the balance of payments, the decline of raw material prices and the resurgence of protectionism. African

countries in general, and in particular the least developed, island and land-locked countries, were hard hit by the consequences of those phenomena because of the vulnerability of their economic structures and their exclusion from the decision-making process that determined how African people were going to live. The situation was not conducive to the attainment by African countries of economic independence or to the achievement of national and collective self-sufficiency as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act.

90. He deplored the fact that all efforts made to remedy that state of affairs, particularly in the areas of commodities, manufactures, financial resources, monetary questions and other matters, had been futile, mainly because of lack of political will on the part of the industrialized countries. No progress had been made towards the establishment of the new international economic order. He invited African countries to pool their efforts for more vigorous action focusing on the areas of raw materials, import-substitution industries, transfer of technology and capital financing. In that connection, he laid particular emphasis on the positive role that could be played by the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the Common Fund, its prime component. He invited African countries to aim at least at producing most of the manufactured and semi-processed products that they consumed, thus promoting a new international division of labour. He recommended that local capabilities should be strengthened in order to assimilate and use external inputs to catalyse local initiative and expertise. He suggested that the channels through which African countries borrowed should be diversified so as to ensure the acquisition of real resources, that developed and developing countries should pool their efforts and that the external debt of African countries should be restructured.

91. Above all, he emphasized that African countries would have to strengthen their unity and solidarity in order to bring their full weight to bear on international negotiations. Nevertheless, should such negotiations - within the framework of UNCTAD, GATT, the North-South dialogue or another forum - fail or reach a stalemate, the African countries should put their trust in the recommendations of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act with a view to basing their development on endogenous factors, on the satisfaction of the basic needs of African people and on the socio-economic realities of African countries. He stressed the need to promote and to intensify South-South co-operation and to exploit African resources and markets before resorting to foreign resources and markets. It was important first of all to establish a new economic and social order at the national and subregional levels, and then to exploit the economic, social and trade potential of other developing countries.

92. He hoped that the twenty-fifth anniversary of ECA would provide the opportunity for African countries to reaffirm their commitment and resolve to make the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act the prime instrument for directing their economic and social development. He invited the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers to formulate proposals to that effect and recommended that ECA should adopt well-defined, limited measures rather than risk watering down its influence by over-extensive ones.

93. He commended the steps taken at the subregional level to implement the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act, which had resulted in the establishment of institutions such as ECOWAS, UNDEAC and CEPGL, not to mention the efforts being made to establish the economic community of Central African States.

94. He appealed to African States to show a spirit of sacrifice in the interest of the subregional and continent-wide communities. He called upon them to strengthen their solidarity and harmonize their activities further because they would have to count on themselves above all in the fight for their economic development against the rich selfish countries.

95. H.E. Mr. Oumarou Mamane, Prime Minister of the Niger, conveyed to the meeting the warm greetings and good wishes for success of the Government and people of the Niger. He thanked H.E. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia for the warm welcome accorded to his delegation and to himself.

96. The Economic Commission for Africa had been the first attempt to organize intra-African solidarity. Later, ECA, together with the Organization of African Unity, had been the focal point for mobilizing international assistance for the young African States. ECA had made efforts to transcend local assessment of problems and had endeavoured to evaluate the overall situation in Africa and to seek global solutions to the many difficulties facing the continent. Among the achievements of ECA were studies on various sectors of economic and social development, formulation of the specific projects and programmes and the recommendation of measures and means of action. Those achievements had culminated in the OAU Economic Summit in Lagos in 1980.

97. He analysed Africa's economic and social situation after 20 years of independence and regretted the failure of the strategies which had been implemented prior to the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action. Africa had the lowest per capita income in the world; many of its inhabitants lived in rural areas; and its levels of productivity were very low. It was plagued with malnutrition, illiteracy, high levels of mortality and unemployment and was very heavily dependent on the outside world, besides other problems. That state of affairs had resulted in uncompromising self-criticism and a spirit of determination which had facilitated the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, which were all the more justified since, in addition to Africa's already bleak prospects, the current world economic crisis had worsened. African countries were witnessing a continuing deterioration in their terms of trade which brought in their wake inflation, increased interest rates and a more expensive United States dollar, that had added to their external debt and made it more difficult to import essential commodities and have access to capital markets.

98. It was therefore extremely urgent to implement the Lagos Plan of Action. In that connection, top priority programmes should be implemented as soon as possible while those with a lower priority should be implemented after the survey on the world economic situation had been completed. The highest priority

should be accorded to achieving self-sufficiency in food production, controlling desertification, drought, etc. ECA should give maximum assistance to States members in implementing large-scale regional and subregional water projects. With specific reference to the Niger, the Kandadji hydro-electric dam was of crucial importance.

99. Another major priority was the transport and communications sector in which ECA could make a vital contribution. In that connection, he welcomed the proclamation and commencement of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and stressed the importance of developing road, rail, air and maritime networks to the Niger which was a land-locked country. That was why his country had contributed to the implementation of the Trans-Saharan Highway project and the Pan-African Telecommunications Network project. Similarly, his country was co-operating with Benin, the Ivory Coast, the Upper Volta and Togo in order to construct a railway network in the subregion.

100. Another top priority which was an essential ingredient in any development policy was training and education. He told the meeting of the efforts made by his country in that field and the results that had been achieved. He also praised ECA's efforts which had culminated in the establishment of an institute for training planners, a centre for aerial surveys, an institute for higher technical training and research, etc. He paid tribute to the Executive Secretary and staff of ECA for the work they had accomplished over the past 25 years.

101. African countries had to make great sacrifices to bridge the wide gap separating the poor nations from the highly industrialized rich ones. His own country had embarked on a path of self-development and had just accomplished an important step in that direction by laying down the structures for the Development Society of the Niger which would be an invaluable instrument in achieving economic and social welfare.

102. He concluded by appealing to African countries to close their ranks in order to achieve genuine and active solidarity in a world characterized by amazing selfishness and useless factional disputes.

103. The Secretary-General of the United Nations extended a warm welcome to all participants and expressed how greatly he valued the opportunity to exchange views again with so many Heads of State on issues of great concern to Africa and to the United Nations.

104. The proceedings of the current international conference in support of the Namibian people and his recent tour of the front-line States had left a profound impression of the repercussions of the problems of Namibia and apartheid on peace and security in southern Africa. As had been recognized by the drafters of the Charter of the United Nations, no lasting economic and social advancement was possible without political stability and security. The United Nations, frequently in conjunction with OAU, had long been engaged in the search for peaceful solutions to the continent's political problems. Unfortunately, efforts to solve the problems of southern Africa had still not met with success despite the progress achieved in particular since the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Yet, the resolution of those problems would have an extremely beneficial effect on the economic development of the entire region.

105. He had frequently stressed that the machinery provided in the Charter for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, particularly the Security Council, was available to all member States and required only their political will to be effective. His good offices were always available in finding settlements to contentious issues. The United Nations would continue to offer all possible assistance to Africa to forestall conflict and promote greater understanding.

106. The Commission had been the first inter-governmental organization in Africa to cover the whole continent, followed by OAU, and it was most gratifying to see the excellent co-operation which had grown up between the two organizations. The Commission should derive satisfaction from its pioneering role in the economic and social development of the continent and he expressed gratitude to those who had laid the foundations of the Commission and to the present Executive Secretary and his dedicated staff.

107. The Commission had gained remarkable experience during its quarter of a century of existence. Its staff represented a most useful concentration of expertise. Technical co-operation with other regional commissions had been intensified and collaboration with the specialized agencies enlarged. There was however still a gap between the Commission's resources and the vast needs of the region.

108. The anniversary session was rightly focusing on a review of economic and social development over the past 25 years and the prospects for the coming decades. The seriousness of the situation was reflected in the fact that 26 African countries were now classified as least developed as compared to 18 ten years previously. It was of greatest importance therefore that the international community should give its full support to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries and mobilize the necessary resources.

109. Despite the progress made in many fields, extreme poverty was still the lot of about 35 per cent of African population. Large areas of the continent had been made desolate or unproductive because of drought, desertification, over-grazing, soil erosion and so forth. He was therefore very glad that the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole had recommended that a special study should be undertaken on climatic changes in Africa and he would mobilize the efforts of the United Nations system to carry out the study.

110. The causes of such problems, together with the issues of unemployment, rural-urban exodus, inadequate housing and communications, extensive illiteracy and unsatisfactory health services, had to be carefully examined. At the domestic level, more had to be done to mobilize the enormous potential of human resources available in the continent, develop appropriate projects, improve domestic markets, provide adequate incentives to producers and work out efficient systems of administration. As far as external factors were concerned, Africa was feeling the grievous impact of the crises in the global economy and the flagging spirit of international co-operation, manifested in slack demand, rising protectionism and falling terms of trade. As he had stressed at the recent non-aligned summit, a concerted economic recovery policy was urgently needed. He regretted that efforts to launch global negotiations were still deadlocked and hoped that the forthcoming session of UNCTAD would promote a better understanding of the problems.

111. The Lagos Plan of Action had been designed inter alia to reduce the harmful impact of external shocks but its implementation required the total commitment of the Governments and peoples of Africa. In that regard, it was essential to monitor the Lagos Plan and mobilize international support. In that context the co-ordination role of ECA assumed special importance.

112. He was happy to note that the Addis Ababa Declaration reaffirmed African Governments' support for the Commission and he would continue to give highest priority to strengthening the role of the regional commissions.

113. He expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of Ethiopia for the generous hospitality they had extended to the United Nations over the past quarter of the century and for the facilities they had generously provided for the secretariat of the Commission.

114. There had been a transformation in the continent, thanks to the process of decolonization. Political independence, however, had to be followed by massive efforts to assure a life of dignity and hope for the people and that was the substance of the challenge facing the leadership of Africa. To rise to it Africa needed unity, the full mobilization of the resources of the continent and the assistance of the entire international community. He hoped that they would be forthcoming to enable Africa to plan a future worthy of its people and their aspirations.

115. The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity first paid resounding homage to the African spirit, the hospitality and the generosity of Socialist Ethiopia and thanked the Ethiopian authorities, most particularly Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, for the efforts and the sacrifices that had been made to ensure that ECA's Silver Jubilee was celebrated in the most fitting manner. He also thanked all the Heads of State present as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations for having graced the Jubilee with their presence, thus underscoring the importance that they attached to the development of Africa.

116. He recalled the historical conditions prevailing in Africa 25 years earlier when ECA had come into being. The Commission had provided a forum which grouped together the few independent African States and Colonial Powers of the time, each of which had their own ideas about African development. The independent African States held the view, summed up in President Nkrumah's words, that development meant a modern economy at the service of the African people, while the colonial Powers imposed in those African countries still under their rule a pattern of production and consumption geared to markets outside Africa. The accession of many African countries to independence two years after ECA had been established had enabled the Commission to begin to identify itself totally with Africa. That had resulted in a positive turn of events despite the difficulties that had had to be overcome in terms of planning and operations.

117. ECA's work had been handicapped by the particularly difficult economic and social situation that Africa had inherited on achieving independence, the result of several centuries of slave trade and almost 100 years of colonial domination. Those burdens had greatly impeded the development of Africa. In the circumstances, ECA member States had had to formulate a new economic philosophy that broke with the past and set the continent on the path to a modern economy throughout Africa, where all the productive forces of the region would be involved in the organization and development of African economic space. The new States also had to conceptualize and define a new economic policy with a view to showing ECA, now an entirely African institution, the way to performing effectively the tasks expected of it. Perhaps because they had failed to seize that singular historic opportunity, African States had not been able to derive the maximum advantage from ECA.

118. However, the Commission had been quick to react and had, in the course of the past 25 years, achieved a number of successes that made it a technical instrument beyond comparison. It had for example established the MULPOCs which provided a machinery for tackling the immense problems of subregional development. Often in concert with its younger sister, OAU, ECA, had contributed to the establishment of a great number of other regional and subregional co-operation institutions in various social and economic development sectors.

119. Since ECA was a technical economic research body of the United Nations, it could not on its own find panaceas for the development problems of Africa. Like other regional commissions, it could only seek to promote a policy of intra-African co-operation that would enable independent sovereign States to harmonize their economic relations. Its success in that area could be assured only to the extent that African States provided the guidelines and agreed to implement the proposals ECA put forward. A proper appraisal of ECA's performance over the past 25 years could be made only in light of the effective role played by African States.

120. Africa's current situation had been worsened by the structural crisis in the world economy. In particular, per capita production had fallen, as had world prices of raw materials. Other problems included balance-of-payments deficits, increasing external indebtedness, malnutrition, unemployment and underemployment. It was unfortunate that protectionism should again rear its ugly head in the industrialized countries. It was equally unfortunate that global negotiations had never got off the ground and the Common Fund Agreement had never been ratified. That situation had been the reason underlying the holding of the Monrovia Symposium which had, in its turn, led to the elaboration of the Monrovia Strategy and the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos whose basic tenets were self-sustaining development and collective self-reliance.

121. The implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act depended on a host of factors, not the least of which was political will. The responsibility for implementing the Plan and the Act rested first and foremost with the

African States and not exclusively on the secretariats of OAU and ECA. In that connection, the efforts made by ECA member States to set up subregional geo-economic institutions such as ECOWAS, PTA and the soon-to-be-established Economic Community of Central African States were commendable. The unification of Africa needed to be speeded up and should remain the prime objective of national action. The sincere and effective co-operation that existed between the OAU and ECA secretariats could play an important role in that regard. He hoped that such co-operation would continue to be intensified whatever happened in the future.

122. He congratulated the Commission, its Executive Secretary and entire staff for the work done in the service of Africa's socio-economic development over the past 25 years.

Congratulatory messages

123. The following messages were read out by the respective heads of delegation and observers:

124. H.E. Mr. Bendjedid Chadli, General Secretary of the FNL Party, President of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria presented his heartfelt congratulations to the Conference and the ECA secretariat, which had unceasingly and dynamically placed itself in the service of the integrated development of the African continent. OAU and ECA constituted a bulwark against any attempts to introduce divisions in the unity of the African continent. Algeria would continue, as in the past, to work for the strengthening of intra-African relations. It would spare no effort to participate fully in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

125. He congratulated all who were contributing to the advancement of the African people and in particular Mr. Adebayo Adedeji for his outstanding efforts for the development of Africa. He also paid tribute to the people and Government of Ethiopia for their continued contribution to the unity of the African continent.

126. H.E. Mr. Mathieu Kerekou, President of the Republic of Benin, Head of State, President of the National Executive Council and President of the Central Committee of the Popular Revolutionary Party, said that the Commission had been established 25 years ago by the Economic and Social Council to extricate the African continent from underdevelopment and poverty. Its survival had been due to the dynamism of its leaders and he congratulated them on their constant spirit of co-operation and the technical expertise of their staff.

127. Despite the particularly difficult climate in international relations, over the last five years, ECA had made best use of its limited resources and had been involved in various crucial Decade programmes, including the Transport and Communications Decade and the Industrial Development Decade.

128. Again, despite the current economic problems, all African Governments had maintained their firm belief in the Lagos Plan of Action, which was being implemented slowly but surely, particularly at the subregional level. He mentioned in that connection the recent ministerial meeting of ECOWAS held in Cotonou, where member States had demonstrated the political will to co-ordinate their national development plans. Referring to the need for collective and individual self-reliance, he said that time had come for member States to opt more and more for subregional projects and to co-ordinate and rationalize the many regional and subregional institutions in Africa. Other areas of particular concern to his country were the establishment of an African communications network, the creation of an African common market, the preparation of realistic short-, medium- and long-term programmes and harmonization of the medium-term programmes in the Lagos Plan with the programmes of the various Decades proclaimed by the United Nations system. Efforts should be made to ensure that Africa would account for 2 per cent of world industrial production by the year 2000. Equally, African economies must cease being so outward-looking since, as exporters of raw materials, they were particularly vulnerable to the effect of the economic problems of the outside world. Instead, Africa must mobilize all its domestic resources and become self-reliant.

129. He expressed deep appreciation to the Commission for its assistance to his country in many areas and in particular in compiling economic aggregates, undertaking a diagnostic study of the economy, and in establishing the household survey programme.

130. In conclusion, he thanked the Chairman and people of Ethiopia for their solidarity and hospitality.

131. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, President of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros expressed, on behalf of the people of the Comoros, the Government and on his own behalf, sincere greetings and best wishes for success to those participating in the Silver Jubilee. Although it was a newly independent country, the Comoros had been following the difficult phases that ECA had been going through to become an African organization and to establish itself as a lead agency in the struggle for the liberation, development and the economic integration of Africa.

132. Various difficulties had not managed to stifle the profound aspirations of the African peoples; thus 25 years later, the results of the remarkable efforts made by those who had steered the destinies of ECA were there for all to see. He congratulated the current Executive Secretary of ECA and his entire staff for their dedication to Africa.

133. The achievements of ECA, especially the MULPOCs, and the Preferential Trade Area, to cite but a few examples, deserved high praise because they promoted economic and social integration. After 25 years of service to Africa, ECA was, together with OAU, ready to establish an African common market by the year 2000.

134. He, together with the people and the Government of the Comoros, wished to see Africa totally liberated and adopting a united stand in all international situations and negotiations.

135. H.E. Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, extended his sincere congratulations to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa for his efforts to attain the economic and social development of Africa. He reaffirmed his support for the various activities contained in the Lagos Plan of Action, in particular those connected with the Trans-African Highway project aimed at providing land-locked countries access to the sea, and those aimed at establishing an African Monetary Fund.

136. He called upon the African community to use the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission as a time to conduct a critical appraisal of the past and to make serious projections for the future so as to strengthen the determination and solidarity of African States to achieve greater efficiency.

137. H.E. Mr. El Hadj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, President of the Republic of Djibouti, first of all thanked Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded to his delegation since its arrival in Addis Ababa.

138. He recalled that the Commission had been established after a number of African States had achieved independence. It had provided a forum for study, reflection and action geared towards the economic emancipation of Africa. Through the achievements of the Commission, Africa had taken its place within the community of nations. However, much remained to be done before Africa could achieve economic independence.

139. H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt said that 25 years earlier, Egypt had participated in the establishment of a small group of nine independent African countries that formed the nucleus of the Commission. Since that time, Egypt had followed closely the growth and achievements of the Commission. ECA was to be commended for having designed economic and social solutions to Africa's problems. Nigeria deserved similar commendation for hosting the economic summit that had resulted in the Lagos Plan of Action. He extended to the Commission, the participants in the Silver Jubilee session and the Heads of State and Government present in Addis Ababa the warmest congratulations and best wishes of the people of Egypt.

140. H.E. Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia, said the occasion of the Silver Jubilee provided a fitting moment to review and assess 25 years of ECA's service to Africa in all fields of development activities and to examine critically the continuing complex development crisis Africa was facing. His country had been following with keen interest ECA's activities which constituted a focal point for development ideas and initiatives in the region. Despite numerous difficulties the Commission had been transformed from a research oriented organization to a dynamic programming and operational organ responsive to the development needs of Africa. He hoped that ECA, with the determination and support of member States, would continue to provide assistance

in restructuring and redirecting Africa's economy towards its declared goal of collective self-reliance and self-sustaining development based on equity and justice. His country was marking the occasion by organizing a number of activities which would provide an opportunity for critical reflection on the state of its development. He finally extended best wishes to the Commission in its task of promoting the advancement of African peoples through the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

141. H.E. Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of the Republic of Ghana, commended the Commission for its contribution to the development of Africa. The Commission had provided a convenient and singular forum for the war against colonialism, racism and apartheid. He underscored the confidence which the international community placed in the regional commissions in general as manifested in the recent decision of the United Nations to enhance their role so as to enable them to function as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions. The dual mandate of the Commission as a United Nations body and as an African institution could best be fulfilled if it acted as an effective partner in Africa's search for economic and social development. He hoped that in the immediate future, ECA would use its expertise and data to advance action-oriented proposals to meet Africa's needs and serve its interests.

142. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sekou Toure, President of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, extended his most cordial congratulations to ECA for the work accomplished over the past 25 years in promoting Africa's socio-economic development. He expressed the hope that ECA would intensify its efforts by gearing them to meet the urgent needs of Africans. In that regard, he strongly emphasized that the Commission could fully and effectively accomplish its task only by adhering to the spirit and letter of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos.

143. H.E. Mr. Felix Houphouet-Boigny, President of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, commended the courage of the Economic Commission for Africa which continued its honourable struggle to emancipate Africa and to lead it out of the abyss of misery and poverty in which it had long languished. He reiterated his desire to see the twenty-fifth anniversary mark Africa's progress and prosperity with a new splendour.

144. H.E. Mr. Samuel K. Doe, Commander-in-Chief, Head of State and Chairman of the People's Redemption Council of the Republic of Liberia, extended warmest greetings to ECA on behalf of the Government, the people of Liberia and on his own behalf.

145. The birth of ECA had come about at the urging of the then independent countries and with the co-operation of other far-sighted member States at a time when most of Africa was struggling against colonial domination and exploitation.

146. He stressed the importance of the approach adopted by ECA in focusing its activities on regional and subregional co-operation in order to achieve the aims and objectives set by member States and lauded its achievements. He cited as an example the establishment of the West African Rice Development Association established by 14 West African States to improve rice breeding and production in the subregion. He then noted the historic Lagos Plan of Action which had its origins in Monrovia through the Symposium hosted by Liberia.

147. Finally, he thanked ECA and congratulated the Executive Secretary and his devoted staff for their service to Africa and wished them continued success.

148. H.E. General Moussa Traore, Secretary-General of the Democratic Union of the Malian People and President of the Republic, extended his congratulations to ECA for the commendable contribution it had made to the implementation of African national development plans. He assured the Commission that the people of Mali were entirely at its disposal to work towards the success of joint undertakings. He invited the international community to support the work of the Commission.

149. His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco, extended his greetings to ECA and recalled the close economic, social, cultural and spiritual relations the Kingdom had always maintained with other African countries despite the balkanization of the continent and erection of artificial barriers in colonial times. Morocco had thereby participated actively in achieving African unity and had been a founder member of ECA.

150. Since its establishment, the Commission had made great headway in its endeavours to fulfil the aspirations of the African peoples for economic and social development, particularly in such areas as food security studies, the development of natural resources, the improvement of transport and communications facilities and industrialization. The priority accorded to those areas would help to bring about integrated economic and social development and individual and collective self-reliance.

151. Morocco had always striven to strengthen the Commission and hosted several of the institutions established by it including the North African MULPOC. His Majesty, therefore, congratulated its administration and staff on their achievements and for the work they had done to strengthen relations among African countries.

152. H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, said that at a time when the world economic crisis was affecting Africa more than any other region of the world, it was clear that the measures adopted to cope with the crisis had not yielded the expected results. What was needed then was to develop Africa in an integrated manner, using existing regional and subregional institutions and to strengthen intra-African co-operation.

153. The Silver Jubilee provided the occasion to take stock of the activities of the Commission as the main development centre for the African region in the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. He therefore called on the Conference to propose ways of giving new impetus to the activities of the Commission; on the secretariats of ECA and OAU to indentify possible areas of co-operation; and on the international community to provide greater support to ECA and particularly to the MULPOCs.

154. He reaffirmed Senegal's active support for the Commission.

155. H.E. Dr. Siaka Stevens, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, noted that the Commission had been established 25 years ago to act as an organization for institution-building with the concrete objective of finding solutions to Africa's socio-economic problems. The Commission, he noted, become a sympathetic forum for the exchange of ideas relevant to the specific needs of the African situation and had taken giant strides, far out-stripping the expectations of those days. It had become operational in many fields and instilled in African countries greater awareness of development needs. He expressed the hope that the years ahead would witness sustained growth in the Commission's activities and that ECA and member States would together contribute towards ushering in that era of African development for which the continent was so patiently and vigorously striving. He extended Sierra Leone's congratulations and renewed confidence in the staff of the Commission.

156. H.E. Mr. Gaafar Mohamed Numeiri, President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, in sending the best wishes and warmest regards of the people of his country on the twenty-fifth anniversary of ECA, recalled that the Commission's first Executive Secretary had been one of his countrymen. Since its establishment, the Commission had fought for Africa's economic liberation and cultural development, and after the foundation of OAU, had joined with it in speeding up the economic growth and social development of the continent.

157. He reaffirmed his country's support for ECA and wished it every success in attaining its objectives.

158. H.E. General Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo, said that the Economic Commission for Africa had given ample proof of its efficiency and capacity to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the African region.

159. At a time when the future of mankind was constantly endangered by an increasing number of local conflicts and the disquieting and ever present international economic crisis, ECA had, more than ever, to direct its efforts towards safeguarding the welfare of the African people and ensuring human dignity.

160. The Government and people of Togo were determined to extend maximum co-operation and support to the Commission in carrying out its noble objectives.

161. H.E. Mr. Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic of Tunisia, praised the Economic Commission for Africa for the dynamism and imagination it had demonstrated since its establishment by contributing to the search for appropriate solutions to the economic and social problems of African countries. He hailed the results obtained in that area despite the Commission's limited resources and the diversity of the obstacles encountered by Africa. He stressed the Commission's role in supporting the efforts of African countries to meet many challenges in order to consolidate their independence and raise the standard of living of their people. The Lagos Plan of Action was the best tool the Commission had with which to carry out its activities.

162. H.E. Dr. A. Milton Obote, President of the Republic of Uganda sent fraternal greetings to all participants at the Silver Jubilee of the Economic Commission for Africa. The 25 years of its existence had witnessed such successes as the elimination of colonialism in the majority of African countries. With the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action and the commitment to an eventual African Economic Community, Africa expressed determination to take charge of its economic destiny. The collective will to establish economic co-operation, as manifested in the establishment of ECOWAS and the PTA, had been very significant. Physical integration to facilitate inter-State trade was also of utmost importance. Africa had to look into the structural and institutional changes that were required to realize a common market in accordance with the programme laid down in the Final Act of Lagos.

163. H.E. Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, congratulated the Commission on its laudable work for Africa's economic and social development and for which it had become a focal point for Africa's continental collective endeavours to eradicate poverty and accelerate social progress. It had played a key technical role in the preparation of the Lagos Plan of Action which was Africa's keen desire for collective action.

164. While Africa had made much social and economic progress in the 1960s and the 1970s as a result of national and collective efforts, it was clear that many of the problems facing member States were far from being overcome, and had even worsened owing to the unfavourable international situation. The primary responsibility for dealing with African development problems rested with those countries themselves and intensified and concerted efforts were needed. The concept of co-operative and collective action was central to those efforts and it provided the most important challenge to ECA which had to spearhead Africa's effort by helping to sustain and strengthen existing economic co-operation programmes so that they could become truly and effectively instruments of Africa's economic and political independence. Care should be taken not to bring discredit on that concept through programmes which were too ambitious to be practicable.

165. The Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania were confident that ECA would continue the task of building a new Africa and pledged their support and co-operation in that task.

166. H.E. Medecin-Commandant Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, Chairman of the People's Salvation Council and Head of State of the Upper Volta, congratulated ECA for the relentless efforts it continued to make in assisting African people to acquire the necessary means of satisfying their basic needs. The Upper Volta would continue to support the work of the Commission and would spare no effort for the successful implementation of Lagos Plan of Action and relevant United Nations resolutions on the development of developing countries and in particular of the least developed among them.

167. His Eminence Cardinal Casaroli of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See extended the warm and prayerful best wishes of His Holiness Pope John Paul II on the occasion of ECA's twenty-fifth anniversary. As efforts aimed at implementing the Lagos Plan of Action continued with the meeting in Addis Ababa to discuss the theme "Africa, past, present and future", His Holiness hoped that socio-economic progress would continue to enhance the dignity and rights of people. His Holiness invoked God's abundant blessings upon the Ministers and other members of the Commission, and hoped that the occasion would give renewed impetus to mutual collaboration and ever greater unity among all the nations of Africa.

168. The Government of Argentina transmitted a message of solidarity and friendship to the Economic Commission for Africa. It congratulated ECA for the useful work it had carried out in the area of research and economic co-operation; and was sure that ECA's activities would bring the peoples of Africa and Latin America closer together.

169. H.E. Mr. Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, expressed, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, warm congratulations to ECA. Since the founding of ECA, the African people had struggled against colonialism, imperialism, racism and big Power politics and the Chinese Government and people firmly supported African countries in the struggle to consolidate political independence and achieve economic independence. Further, China was ready to develop economic and technological co-operation in the African countries and to join Africa in the strengthening of South-South co-operation and the establishment of a just new international economic order.

170. The representative of Czechoslovakia pointed out that the anniversary session of the Commission was being held at a time of increasing international political and economic problems. He surveyed the arms build up and the inequality and injustice in economic relations. He cited Czechoslovakia's economic, scientific and technological co-operation with African countries, its associated experiences and appealed for a sympathetic world public opinion on humanitarian issues.

171. He wished the continent good luck in the task of developing peaceful co-operation among nations in the interests of the prosperity of all people in the whole world.

172. The representative of France reiterated his country's interest in ECA's activities and hoped to welcome the Executive Secretary of ECA to Paris at the invitation of French Minister of Co-operation and Development. France was seizing the occasion to renew its support for the oldest of Africa's regional organizations. He cited his country's support to such ECA activities as PADIS, the Transport and Communications Decade and subregional organizations. He appreciated ECA's reflections on the situation in Africa which had brought out serious problems in agriculture and food supply, rapid population growth requiring more food, education and employment and the deforestation problem. Acknowledging the serious economic crisis facing Africa since 1981, which tended to make developed countries forget the need of the most vulnerable countries, he emphasized the need for greater economic interdependence which he regretted had thus far been asymmetrical in the North-South dialogue and to the detriment of the South. He cited the problems of fluctuations in the international monetary system, energy, food security, debts and of the resources and policies of IMF and others as problems whose solution depended on the political will of the international community. Noting the interrelationships between politics and economics, he hoped that OAU would find solutions to its current problems and preserve its unity. He called for the unconditional implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on Namibia. Finally, he expressed the hope that the picture 25 years hence would be brighter than that presented at the moment.

173. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic conveyed his best wishes to the Commission on the occasion on its Silver Jubilee anniversary and congratulated it for its efforts in promoting peace and economic independence. He then conveyed to the Commission the solidarity of the German Democratic Republic with the African peoples and pledged its assistance in the endeavours to overcome the colonial heritage and underdevelopment in the pursuit of a better future.

174. H.E. Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, congratulated the Commission on its contribution to the improvement of economic and social conditions in Africa.

175. Regional organizations, especially in Africa, which faced a variety of conflicts, were indispensable to political stability and ECA was transcending its original purpose in seeking to serve the cause of Africa.

176. The Federal Government would continue to participate as far as possible in ECA's endeavours by providing financial and technical assistance to help to secure the independence and right to self-determination of the African countries.

177. The representative of India, having transmitted the greetings of the Government and the people of India to the meeting, said that ECA had provided resurgent Africa with leadership and had spurred a tremendous upsurge of developmental activities all over the continent. He extended special congratulations to the Executive Secretary and his colleagues.

178. There were exceedingly difficult days ahead because of the looming international economic crisis: protectionist barriers were being imposed by developed countries, with a consequent decline in the export earnings of the developing countries; commodity markets were contracting; commodity prices were collapsing and the prices of raw materials were being manipulated. Inadequate food supplies were aggravating that serious situation.

179. The position of the least developed among the developing countries was unenviable. The implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action adopted in Paris in 1981 had not been encouraging. It was to be hoped that the world community would give urgent attention to meeting the commitment envisaged in that programme.

180. As far as Africa was concerned, the situation was further aggravated by the barbarous policies and oppressive practices of the racist regime of Pretoria, which was attempting to destabilize its independent neighbours and to perpetuate its colonial domination in Namibia.

181. The present meeting was taking place soon after the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned countries in New Delhi, which had resolved that there was an urgent need for rapid democratization of the international system to usher in the new international economic order. The Conference had agreed on steps to promote co-operation in economic and other fields to reinforce the position of developing countries in negotiations with developed countries. It had called upon the world community as a whole to provide adequate financial and other aid. The developing countries had to be given the means of solving their acute balance-of-payment problems without interrupting their development process. An international conference on money and finance for development aimed at proposing measures for comprehensive restructuring of the international monetary and financial systems was to be convened, while steps should be taken to implement a programme of immediate measures in favour of the developing countries. All those matters should receive consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

182. India had been engaged actively in co-operation with other developing countries over the past three decades. India's development strategy recognized the urgency of integrated rural development for the alleviation of poverty, and its integrated rural development programme was designed to reach 15 million families during the sixth five-year plan period, 1980-1985. India was now increasingly sharing its experiences in the field with various countries in Africa.

183. India had given active support to the establishment of a project development mechanism for techno-economic co-operation among developing countries. The speedy implementation of that proposal could contribute towards the development of the South.

184. He also hoped that the draft Statute of the Centre for Science and Technology for non-aligned and other developing countries would be approved at an early date. India had an intensive programme of TCDC, which during the past year had included field training in India for professionals from other developing countries, and the sending of a large number of Indian experts to such countries. Nearly 400 trainees from developing countries had followed courses in India during the year and there were thousands of foreign students in Indian universities.

185. India's commitment to Africa went back to the days when India had identified itself with the African cause through Mahatma Gandhi and was in the vanguard of the struggle to raise the standard of living of the vast masses of deprived people in the world. It was committed to the principle of the collective self-reliance of developing countries. He reaffirmed India's solidarity with the struggle for development and economic prosperity and he had no doubt that Indo-ECA projects would expand and multiply in such a way as to become a model of South-South co-operation.

186. The representative of Italy paid tribute to ECA on its Silver Jubilee anniversary. Noting that the message of the Council of the European Community had dealt with the position of the ten member States, he confined himself to areas of Italy's participation in co-operation towards development in Africa. They included the support Italy had always given to the activities of ECA, participation in the efforts of the institutions of the Lome Convention, and commitments made in international fora particularly in favour of the least developed countries. Italy gave highest priority to Africa including in particular the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Southern Mediterranean countries and Southern Africa where development problems were aggravated by the destabilization policies pursued by South Africa. For Italy, bilateral co-operation in food self-sufficiency, regional and subregional co-operation and integration of African countries, education, health services and transport were priority sectors.

187. The representative of Mexico said that, as one of the Member States which had sponsored the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution establishing the Economic Commission for Africa, Mexico joined with special satisfaction in the Silver Jubilee celebrations and congratulated the Commission for its achievements during the last 25 years.

188. Mexico sent its best wishes to the Commission for the success of its future activities and hoped that the co-operation existing between the Economic Commission for Latin America and Economic Commission for Africa would continue as an expression of political will for mutual co-operation in the efforts to achieve collective self-reliance.

189. The Government of Sweden congratulated ECA on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee. Noting that about 60 per cent of Sweden's bilateral assistance went to African countries, it expressed the wish to see Sweden's assistance contribute to the realization of the great development potential of the African countries. Sweden considered the United Nations regional commissions as useful channels for information flows on a global scale and for economic co-operation among developing countries. The Swedish Government commended ECA for its achievements in promoting economic development of Africa and for strengthening economic relations among African countries and wished it continued success in the important tasks of serving African development and integration.

190. The message from the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics recalled the active participation of the Economic Commission for Africa in the elaboration of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action. Africa had done a lot although international imperialism had tried to tie up the African nations in chains of neocolonial dependence and had kept them at the periphery of the international capitalist economy while controlling the natural resources of Africa. The imperialist circles also used the racist regime of South Africa to interfere in the affairs of sovereign African States and to hinder the implementation of the United Nations decisions on granting independence to Namibia. The Soviet Union opposed all attempts to divide Africa into "spheres of influence". It supported the struggle for economic independence, the sovereignty of African States over their natural resources and the establishment of a new international economic order. The Soviet Union intended to develop further mutually beneficial co-operation in trade, economic, scientific and technical fields with interested independent African States. It was concerned about the threat of war and the need to curb the arms race since progress in disarmament would permit the release of enormous funds for assisting developing countries.

191. H.E. Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, said that his country was proud to have assisted in ECA's development efforts through its general contributions and through the Agency for International Development.

192. ECA had been particularly fortunate in the stewardship of the Executive Secretary, who had successfully sought to lessen the impact of the difficult current international economic situation on Africa and who, through the Lagos Plan of Action, was striving to channel African countries into productive pursuits.

193. He was confident that ECA's accomplishment in the next 25 years would be even greater than in the past.

194. The representative of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) expressed sincerest gratitude for the warm welcome extended to PAC and the invitation to participate in the Silver Jubilee anniversary. PAC lauded ECA's performance and its contribution to the socio-economic development of Africa in the past 25 years.

195. The international economic situation and the present world recession had an adverse effect on the economies of African States and the root of the problem lay in the unequal exchange between the economic North and the consumer South. The problem that faced the developing South was that its resources were exploited by the economic North for its own advancement and development. The only remedy lay in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos which would to a very large extent remove Africa's dependence on outsiders and pave the way to self-sufficiency and economic independence and finally would enable a united Africa fully to assist those still under colonial rule.

196. Concerning racist and fascist South Africa, he stressed that the Universal Declaration on Human Rights stated categorically that all peoples had the right to self-determination and that the white minority Government of racist South Africa had denied the majority of inhabitants their national sovereignty and violated the territorial integrity of their country. He pleaded for continued support and assistance from politically free African States as well as from individuals.

197. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations congratulated the Executive Secretary of ECA, the staff and all those that had been associated with ECA in the past for the many achievements of ECA. ECA and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had maintained close relations in paying attention to the needs of women, youth, the handicapped and the aging, and crime prevention. For all those groups of the population, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had played an important role including, in particular, the organization of the 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, and the 1982 World Assembly on Aging. Now the Centre was organizing the International Youth Year, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and the seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. At the regional level, the first of the regional seminars on the International Youth Year and the African preparatory meeting for the seventh Congress on Crime Prevention would take place in June and October 1983 respectively.

198. Among the regions of the world, Africa had the most advanced regional structures in respect of formulating and administering women's programmes in the form of the African Training and Research Centre for Women and the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee which worked through MULPOCs. Greater collaboration would be welcome between ECA and the Centre regarding women and apartheid. The Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women under the jurisdiction of the Centre had served as an important vehicle for promoting innovative programmes for women and, of the 327 projects backed by the Fund, 118 were in Africa at a total cost of \$7.6 million.

199. She referred to the issue of popular and democratic participation adding that, in the quest for a more human society, attention should be paid to the long-standing traditional practices of providing welfare, health, educational and other social services with a view to ascertaining whether they were compatible with existing resources and needs. In that regard institutional care could be de-emphasized in favour of self-help and mutual aid in a spirit of self-reliance.

200. In his statement, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe expressed his appreciation at being able to participate in the twenty-fifth anniversary session of ECA. He indicated that in order to counter the worsening world economic recession and its impact on developing countries, efforts should be made to mobilize the resources of those countries.

201. He enumerated some of ECE's programmes which might have a direct impact on Africa, with emphasis on current co-operation activities between ECE and certain African countries particularly as part of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

202. He had held useful discussions with the Executive Secretary of ECA which had enabled him to formulate work programmes that might be of interest to African States and propose them to ECE.

203. He joined his colleagues from other regional commissions in congratulating ECA on its twenty-fifth anniversary and wished it a success in the future in carrying out the objectives assigned to it.

204. The Director of UNSO, said that the silver Jubilee provided an opportunity to reflect not only on efforts to contribute to socio-economic development in Africa but also on many problems among which the most pressing and severe, according to several representatives, were drought and desertification.

205. To devise effective and pragmatic ways of dealing with such problems, UNSO, in fulfilment of the mandate conferred upon it by the General Assembly, worked closely with the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region in developing programmes and priority projects dealing with the wide range of problems relating to drought rehabilitation and desertification control. UNSO had mobilized and continued to mobilize resources to fund those projects and co-operated with the Governments in their implementation and monitoring. To date, UNSO's collaboration with the 19 countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region, including the eight States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), involved approximately 400 projects and programmes mainly in the fields of water resources management, soil erosion control, range management, sand dune fixation, reforestation and fuelwood plantation, development of appropriate technology, renewable sources of energy and the formulation of desertification control strategies. The aggregate cost of those projects at the end of 1982 was \$1.064 billion of which \$488 million had already been mobilized. UNSO enjoyed the collaboration of the various agencies of the United Nations system and stood ready to enlarge and intensify its already fruitful co-operation with ECA.

206. The representative of UNCTAD, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of his organization, expressed appreciation for the co-operation his organization had enjoyed with ECA since the establishment of UNCTAD. He particularly mentioned co-operation in the field of technical assistance to African sub-regional economic co-operation and integration grouping, land-locked African countries and the transfer and development of technology in Africa. He recalled with appreciation the important role played by ECA in assisting African countries during the negotiations which were taking place in UNCTAD and hoped ECA would continue to mobilize African countries to ensure their effective participation in the Sixth Session of UNCTAD which would take place in Belgrade in June 1983. He hoped that UNCTAD's relationship with ECA would be strengthened further and expanded, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

207. The Executive Director of UNEP extended his most sincere congratulations on the occasion of ECA's Silver Jubilee, a milestone which marked 25 years of solid achievement for which UNEP saluted the Executive Secretary and his staff. The anniversary afforded UNEP an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to regional co-operation in Africa. UNEP had been privileged to see at first hand the effectiveness of ECA and it would take careful note of any recommendations emerging from the Conference on how it could strengthen its already close links with ECA. At the 1982 special session of UNEP's Governing Council held in Nairobi, 105 Governments had recognized that UNEP had first built and then maintained good working relations with the regional commissions, including ECA, other agencies and Governments. That same meeting had also called for a consolidation and extension of UNEP's important regional activities in Africa for which the Regional Office for Africa based at Nairobi was primarily responsible. While the environmental dimension to Africa's economic impoverishment had not received enough attention in the past, it was gratifying to note that decision-makers, often up to the level of Heads of State, were becoming increasingly aware of the need to build resource conservation into overall economic development so that such problems as deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, the spread of environmental diseases, destruction of wild genetic resources, and damage to marine and coastal resources which were only a few of the processes of environmental deterioration undermining the long-term recovery of the African economy might be attended to. Through its Regional Office, UNEP had worked closely with ECA's Environment Co-ordination Unit in areas covering individual projects such as environmental protection legislation in Africa. UNEP pledged its continued support to ECA and to the countries of Africa.

208. In his message to ECA on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, the Executive Director of UNIDO, transmitted his best wishes to the Commission and lauded its achievements in establishing regional and subregional institutions such as ADB, IDEP, PTA and the MULPOCs and its research and analytical work supplemented by operational initiatives which had contributed significantly to enhancing economic co-operation and co-ordination in several fields. He emphasized that such achievements had been possible because of the guidance of the Commission and the dedicated leadership of the present Executive Secretary and of his distinguished predecessors. He recalled the long and fruitful co-operation which ECA and UNIDO had maintained to achieve the industrialization

goals of the countries of the region. Such co-operation covered the establishment of a joint ECA/UNIDO Division and the joint role of the two organizations in assisting member States in launching the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Acknowledging that Africa's future was fraught with problems, he expressed the belief that they were not so intractable as to defy the collective wisdom and action of African countries. Finally, he assured the Conference of UNIDO's readiness to make timely, though modest, contributions to the efforts of Africa and to strengthen its co-operation with ECA.

209. In his message read on his behalf by the Acting Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, the Administrator of UNDP regretted that it was impossible for him to participate personally in the Silver Jubilee meetings and conveyed to the Conference his highest congratulations and most sincere good wishes on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee anniversary of the Commission. He recalled that, since its establishment, ECA had proven to be a particularly effective organ of the United Nations and had demonstrated its ability to bring a valuable contribution to the development efforts of the continent. UNDP was privileged to be associated with it in the common development endeavour and would continue to enhance further the already close and fruitful collaboration for the benefit of the African countries they were privileged to serve.

210. In his own statement, the Acting Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa congratulated ECA for its 25 years of service, work and accomplishment. In that context, he reviewed briefly UNDP and ECA's past and present relationship and gave an outline of the relationship in the immediate future. Between 1958 and now, the relationship had moved through three stages: initial contacts leading to a modest cross-fertilization of ideas and experience; the establishment of a formal liaison office in Africa Hall under the leadership of a senior official in 1977; and the designation of ECA as executing agency of UNDP projects even before historic General Assembly resolution 32/197, a role which had grown so quickly that ECA had become one of the most important executing agencies for regional projects in Africa and which had led to ECA being fully involved in the formulation and decision-making process of the UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa for the 1982-1986 cycle.

211. Looking ahead in specific terms, UNDP would intensify its collaboration with ECA in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, particularly where ECA, along with OAU, had responsibility for its implementation, the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa for which ECA had been designated lead agency, PADIS, the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and the regional programme for the integration of women in development with which UNDP was currently assisting ECA through the MULPOCs. He hoped that the successful implementation of those programmes would contribute significantly to the efforts of individual African countries and wished ECA great success in the fulfilment of its vital missions during its next quarter century.

212. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development said that, since more than 80 per cent of the population in most African countries depended on agriculture, IFAD was taking it upon itself to increase its operations in Africa. In that respect, in the period 1978-1982, IFAD had assisted 34 African countries in financing 44 projects whose total cost was \$1.2 billion. The projects thus financed were wide-ranging, including institution-building, strengthening village associations, training farmers, assistance in the reorientation of agricultural research, promotion of food production, encouragement of rainfed farming techniques, and promoting integration of livestock and agricultural practices, to mention only a few. In conclusion, he reaffirmed that IFAD's keen interest in and concern for the rural development of the African countries would continue.

213. The representative of the World Food Programme conveyed his best wishes to ECA, noting that his organization was also celebrating its twentieth anniversary. The commitments of WFP for development projects had grown substantially from an average of \$20 million in 1963 to \$613 million in 1982. Commitments for emergency projects amounted to \$193 million in 1982. About \$5.4 billion of assistance had been granted to 114 developing countries. However, the overall inadequacy of resources had compelled WFP to lay down strict priorities in assistance allocation with 80 per cent of food aid going to low-income deficit countries which happened to be concentrated in Africa. Projects in the ECA member States were valued at \$1,235 million.

214. WFP had followed with interest the Lagos Plan of Action and more than 100 of a total of 170 professional staff were deployed in Africa. Examples of typical WFP projects in Africa included the rural development projects, rehabilitation of forest, grazing and agricultural land, the creation of national food security stocks, restructuring of the cereal marketing system, and emergency food assistance. Many African countries were seeking WFP assistance in the long-term rehabilitation of refugees. He also indicated that the "triangular transactions" in commodity purchases had facilitated relief operations in 17 African countries. In the face of the world recession, WFP was willing to assist African countries to find ways to buffer the effects of inadequate food intakes and higher food prices. He hoped that co-operation between ECA and WFP would be strengthened.

215. The Director-General of the International Labour Organisation conveyed his congratulations to the Executive Secretary and his colleagues on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee anniversary. He expressed his appreciation of the services ECA had rendered to African development and integration and to the collaboration that had existed between the two organizations. He hoped that co-operation would continue and wished ECA many years of fruitful services to Africa.

216. The Director-General of FAO joined the numerous well-wishers in congratulating ECA on its Silver Jubilee. In doing so, FAO saluted a sister organization with which it had enjoyed 25 years of fruitful co-operation, notably through the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division. Among the most recent and noteworthy examples of that productive working relationship was FAO's co-operation in preparing AFPLAN and agricultural component of the Lagos Plan of Action. He

emphasized that Africa's food crisis constituted one of the greatest development challenges in the world today. In that connection, he was particularly happy to note the documentation on the food situation in Africa. FAO, as lead agency for food, agricultural and rural development within the United Nations system, was confident that the review of socio-economic development from 1958 to 1983 would assist in focusing on the urgency of decisive action by Africa and its development partners to improve the continent's food and agricultural situation.

217. Since April 1980, FAO's assistance programmes in Africa had been designed and implemented in furtherance of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action. Africa now had pride of place in his organization's priorities and in the current biennium some 35 per cent of the regular programme was devoted to Africa, just as Africa's share of the Special Action Programme had received over one third of the resources of the technical co-operation programme. He hoped that the Silver Jubilee Declaration would accord to the food and agricultural sector the attention it deserved, and would assist FAO in its continuing efforts to mobilize even more resources for the development of agriculture in Africa.

218. The representative of UNESCO transmitted the best wishes of the Director-General of his organization to ECA for the success of its invaluable work in future decades for the welfare of Africa and to ensure that African States co-operated actively in their development efforts. He assured the Conference that UNESCO would spare no effort to collaborate with ECA in order to implement the Lagos Plan of Action.

219. The representative of ICAO extended to the Conference a message of best wishes from ICAO, its President and its Secretary-General on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee anniversary of the Commission. Out of 50 independent African countries 49 were contracting States of ICAO. ICAO had been privileged to contribute to the efforts of those States over the years to exploit to the full the potential contribution civil aviation could make to their economic development. To that end, ICAO had laid emphasis on its regional set up, with offices in Cairo and Dakar respectively playing major role. It was in the process of establishing a third office in Nairobi to serve Eastern and Southern African States. ICAO had worked very closely with ECA in establishing the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC). ICAO had carried out a number of studies, some of which had led to the establishment in African countries of several civil aviation institutions for manpower training. In conclusion, ICAO pledged its continued support to and co-operation with ECA and African Governments in promoting the accelerated growth of safe regular, efficient and economical international civil aviation operations in Africa.

220. The President of the World Bank thanked ECA and the Government of Ethiopia which had hosted the Silver Jubilee celebration. The World Bank applauded the achievements of ECA, which had been playing a major role in the development of Africa. The presence of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee indicated the importance of Africa and the concerned attention that it was receiving within the United Nations family.

The World Bank and the IDA mission in Africa was to assist sound productive development and thereby help to improve living standards and alleviate poverty. Its affiliate, IFC, which helped to promote growth in the private sector of the developing countries, was giving special attention to Africa to find ways to stimulate private initiatives and to tailor programmes to particular conditions in Africa. The focus given by ECA, through the MULPOCs, to specific regional problems was a most welcome development.

221. Creating bigger markets through regional initiatives, prominently sponsored by ECA and through subregional co-operation, was another objective and the Bank had participated in all the meetings of SADCC and welcomed progress being made in other areas particularly in transport and communications. The World Bank supported the initiatives to expand technical and managerial skills which were essential to more effective planning and implementation at the national and local levels. Noting that the Bank Group had expended \$21.6 billion for development projects in Africa since 1960, the President added that his Bank had always pledged to give the problems of Africa priority and renewed that pledge on the occasion of ECA Silver Jubilee celebration.

222. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) took pride and pleasure in greeting the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Commission on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee session. It saluted ECA for its initiative, drive and innovative spirit in providing guidance for the development of Africa. IMO would continue to co-operate with ECA within the framework of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa programme. IMO also gave the highest priority to the development of human resources. It had therefore established a world maritime university in Sweden for the benefit of developing countries to provide training for the highest level of technical maritime personnel such as technical advisers, surveyors, examiners, casualty inspectors, technical managers, general maritime administrators, etc. IMO would be only too happy to provide further detailed information on the world maritime university programme to States members of ECA and others interested in it.

223. The Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) lauded WIPO/ECA collaboration and appreciated the preparedness of ECA staff to perform their tasks. WIPO had made available to ECA its own specialized skills and contacts related to national laws and inter-governmental co-operation for the promotion of creativity and the communication and use of science and technology for development. In that context, he cited ECA/WIPO collaboration in organizing inter-governmental meetings and executing a UNDP-financed project on the establishment of a patent documentation and information centre for English-speaking African countries. WIPO, would collaborate with ECA in specialized institution-building and training. Wishing ECA many happy returns, he said that WIPO looked forward to ever stronger co-operation with ECA for the benefit of the countries and peoples of Africa.

224. The Director of the International Trade Centre congratulated the Executive Secretary and staff of the Commission for their invaluable contribution to the socio-economic progress that Africa had made in the past 25 years. He renewed the Centre's commitment to continue to contribute, within its mandate, to the

attainment of ECA's goals and objectives. Identifying foreign trade as an engine of growth in the economic development of African countries, he stressed the importance of structural transformation and the expansion of intra-African trade. In that context, his Centre had assisted many African countries and national liberation organizations and was committed to greater co-operation in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. He reviewed collaboration in such areas as the setting up of appropriate liaison mechanisms, the publication of African Trade Directory, the organization of the Khartoum Trade Fair, PADIS, the establishment of the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce, etc. and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to join hands with ECA in serving Africa even more extensively in the years ahead.

225. The Vice-President of the African Development Bank Group expressed his appreciation to Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam for his hospitality and noted that the objectives of ECA were broadly the same as those of the ADB Group. The Group had been providing development finance and technical assistance to its member countries since 1967 and gave preference to multinational projects. By the end of 1982, the Group had financed some 600 projects valued at \$3 billion.

226. He paid tribute to ECA and its Executive Secretary and pledged the continued unflinching support of the ADB Group.

227. A representative of ECA-sponsored institutions thanked member States on his behalf and on behalf of all institutions for initiating the establishment of those institutions whose activities were geared to the requirements of the Lagos Plan of Action. He indicated that the report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole contained references and recommendations about the institutions which formed a vital part of the essential infrastructure for the development of the continent. All those institutions had in their work programmes a component of training and manpower development. In spite of their vital role, almost all institutions were suffering from financial constraints which curtailed the implementation of their work programmes. He appealed to member States, bilateral and multilateral donors to extend financial assistance to the institutions.

228. The Chairperson of ARCC said that the Silver Jubilee of ECA was of crucial importance to African women committed to the development process. African Women produced nearly 60 per cent of the continent's food and did 60 to 75 per cent of farm work in Africa; they represented 50 per cent of all persons employed in the informal sectors.

229. In February 1975, the Conference of Ministers of ECA had adopted a resolution establishing ATRCW, which had been set up on 31 March 1975. ATRCW had served as a model and as an example to the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico in June 1975. The terms of reference and functions of ARCC had been formulated in 1979 at Rabat. In 1983, that work had borne fruit in the decision to transfer ATRCW to the Office of the Executive Secretary, which demonstrated the latter's interest in ATRCW.

230. The results of bringing women into the development process had been encouraging. In that connection, she paid a well-deserved tribute to the African Governments, ECA, UNDP and the other United Nations institutions for the efforts they had made to integrate women into the development process.

231. However, the African Governments should give more attention to young girls who had not been able to finish their education and to young women who had never been to school by strengthening vocational training structures.

232. The next World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would be held in 1985 in Nairobi and would have before it technical studies and specific reports on: (a) the role of women in the execution of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Plan of Action of Copenhagen; (b) women and the food crisis in Africa; (c) women living under the regime of apartheid and the problems of refugee women; (d) the role of women in the Industrial Development Decade in Africa; (e) African women in the year 2000.

233. Finally, she appealed to Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Zaire and Nigeria which were members of the Preparatory Committee to participate in the preparatory work for the Conference and particularly in the meeting to be held in Vienna in May 1983.

234. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, speaking on behalf of the President of the Council of the European Community expressed, in the name of the 10 States members of the Community, best wishes to ECA. He pointed out that Africa was one of Europe's traditional partners and regretted the instances when African countries were involved in East-West divisions. Members of the European Community supported the principle that disputes in Africa should be resolved by the African countries themselves although they were prepared to contribute to decreasing tensions in Africa in cases where Africa wanted them to do so. The members of the European Community called for the rapid implementation of an internationally acceptable solution to the Namibian problem on the basis of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and also condemned the inhuman apartheid system. The European Community welcomed regional and subregional co-operation projects and, therefore, supported the integrating role of ECA and other organizations like the PTA and SADCC.

235. Through its member States and the European Development Fund, the European Community assured the transfer of resources to Africa on favourable terms. Indeed the two regions were highly interdependent, a fact which had led to the Lome Convention combining financial, commercial and institutional components. Noting that the growth rate of trade between Europe and Africa had slowed down and that the trade structure was inflexible, he said that the development and structure of trade between the EEC and ACP countries was under study and the special session of the Council would allow for an examination of the STABEX system. In recent discussions, self-reliance and food, rural development and the development of human resources had emerged as important areas. It was also recognized that trade and reliable export earnings were critical for developing countries. The European Community had also concluded co-ordinated agreements

with the Maghreb and Mashrek States. He stressed that the development of the third world in peace and economic and social stability was crucial for the future of humanity.

236. The Director of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) said that, although the Silver Jubilee was a time for celebration, he wished to point out the low and deteriorating standards of living, stagnating economic output and large number of African countries that had been classified as least developed by the United Nations. He appealed for full employment and indicated his organization's efforts in that area in accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action. He also stressed his organization's efforts in pressing 16 Governments of industrialized countries to reach the United Nations target for aid of 0.7 per cent of GNP by the mid-1980s. In conclusion he surveyed the role of trade unions in development and indicated that free and independent organizations of workers could be vital partners for Governments in the evolution of balanced national development plans.

237. The representative of the Union of African Journalists recalled Robert Gardiner's memorable review of the first decade of ECA and his belief that a breakthrough in dealing with African economic and social problems depended basically on individual efforts and the goodwill and co-operation of African Governments. Today Africa was celebrating its 25 years of existence amid the gloom and despair imposed by the global economic situation with its well known repercussions on Africa. It was most heartening that in its projections ECA hoped that by the year 2008 Africa would emerge at last as a truly interdependent economy in the international economic system.

238. The Union of African Journalists firmly believed that the press had an important role to play in the positive process of implementing the various programmes for the new international economic order as concretized in the Lagos Plan of Action. The achievements of ECA within the past 25 years enforced its conviction that African problems were best solved by African initiatives. He hoped to see closer co-operation between the two pan-African institutions in the interest of African unity and development.

A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983 (item 6)
ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008 - A preliminary perspective study
(item 7)

General debate

239. The representative of Egypt expressed Egypt's pride in its contribution to the establishment of ECA in 1958, and indicated that his country had then hoped ECA would be an appropriate and effective framework for co-operation in the application of the doctrines of interdependence and mutual aid. To that extent, it had watched ECA grow and contributed to its success.

240. However, although there had been some achievements, obstacles to Africa's integration still remained. They included the lack of transport and communications and other infrastructure, insufficient complementarity in production and trade patterns, the continuing orientation of the African countries towards the old metropolises; lack of financial resources and unco-ordinated paths to development.

241. The proliferation of regional and subregional institutions would not help in the development process if they were not co-ordinated or if they aimed simply at removing customs or trade barriers. Groupings should be established on scientific, economic and legitimate grounds and there was now an urgent need to review all regional and subregional groupings. He Hoped that ECA would play a catalytic role in that exercise. Groupings must be based on a community of interests as was the case in the Nile basin.

242. In conclusion, he said that achievement of the goals of the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Act of Lagos would be possible only with the reorganization of mangement and planning structures and a centralized operational approach to economic co-operation. There was now a need to establish an African economic community secretariat.

243. The representative of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya said that he was satisfied with the role of ECA up to now but, because of the acute world economic crisis with its adverse repercussions on Africa which was intensified by protectionist measures on the part of the developed countries and deterioration in the terms of trade, the Commission needed to be strengthened.

244. He was also satisfied with the work of the Committee of the Whole. The Addis Ababa Declaration adopted on the occasion of the ECA Silver Jubilee was in line with Africa's opposition to external forces and domination. He was satisfied with the resolutions proposed by the Committee of the Whole including the ones on transport and communications, strengthening of the MULPOCs, and the integration of women in development. Productive forces should be mobilized and he appealed to institutions that were potential providers of aid to double their efforts to end the continent's current food crisis. He therefore requested ECA/FAO to provide member States with annual reports on the evolution of the situation.

245. His country was endeavouring to attain economic independence and he emphasized in that connection the obstacles that it had encountered with respect to imports of manufactured products and the training of its cadres abroad who were subject to continual boycott or blackmail.

246. He stressed the need to harmonize industrialization policies, which had to develop hand in hand with agriculture, to set up an African Monetary Fund, and to strengthen co-operation in the development of energy and the transfer of technology.

247. He particularly stressed the need to combat the machinations of the Zionist movement in both Namibia and Palestine in frustrating the legitimate aspirations of the people of those Territories and called for increased support to their liberation movements.

248. Finally, he congratulated the Executive Secretary of ECA for his untiring efforts for the development of Africa.

249. The representative of Mauritius congratulated ECA but expressed concern about the current economic situation, particularly Africa's plight in the face of world economic crises.

250. He recalled the objectives for which ECA had been established and urged that efforts be doubled to achieve them with new vigour and determination. He paid tribute to ECA for setting up the basic institutional framework for concerted economic action such as the MULPOCs and the PTA. He expressed hope that the essential political will would prevail in the years ahead to enable those institutions to function with vitality. He emphasized the need for collective efforts in formulating strategies to attain the objectives of the Commission which must include, as a priority, food self-sufficiency. Africa was witnessing a demographic explosion at the same time as there was a serious decline in food production, leading to a fundamental disequilibrium.

251. He further urged that genuine regional co-operation be given a new dimension and suggested setting up an association of coastal and island States of Africa for marine science and technology as a step towards exploration and exploitation of Africa's resources of the sea and which could deal with such subjects as fisheries development, salt making, boat and ship building, and coastal and port management as basis for improving the living standards of the peoples of those countries. That would go a long way in easing the current serious food problem facing African States today. He called on the Economic Commission for Africa to be instrumental in that venture and urged all member States to rededicate themselves to the task of strengthening the Commission and ensuring that it fulfilled its mission to Africa.

252. The representative of Morocco said that his country was happy to take part in the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA, which was of particular significance because it coincided with the Commission's Silver Jubilee.

253. Some items on the agenda recurred periodically: the development of human resources, the improvement of means of transport, the difficulties of the least developed, land-locked or island countries and the problem of industrialization, to mention only the most important. That showed how Africa continued to suffer.

254. None the less, ECA and its member States were continuing their joint efforts and trying their best to help Africa to live with dignity despite the current international context, characterized by recession and the continued pressure of inflation. For the African countries, that situation was one more burden in addition to food shortages, the adverse effects of drought, the high price of imported energy, the deterioration in the terms of trade and balance-of-payments deficits.

255. Because of those adverse developments, it was absolutely essential for African countries that the global negotiations should be relaunched, in view of the profound economic and political consequences that those negotiations could have on North-South-relations.

256. The African countries had a duty to establish sound and lasting co-operation with each other in order to draw full benefit from their food resources and ensure their security and self-sufficiency in that vital sphere. To that end, it was essential to make judicious use of all the continent's human and material resources so as to ensure its development in a spirit of mutual aid and solidarity.

257. He also told the Conference of recent developments in intra-Maghreb relations, as evinced by the historical meetings between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Benjedid Chadli on the one hand, and the latter and President Habib Bourguiba on the other. Those meetings had resulted in the normalization of relations between the three parties in a desire to build the greater Arab Maghreb. That kind of approach in the pooling of efforts was endorsed by ECA which, through the MULPOCs, encouraged the integration of national economies.

258. He praised the efforts of ECA which was ceaselessly fighting to secure effective external outlets for Africa. The programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade, 1978-1988, which included the projected fixed link between Europe and Africa via the Straits of Gibraltar and other projects, was an expression of that policy, which was incorporated in the Lagos Plan of Action.

259. Recalling that there were other possible forms of co-operation between African countries, notably in financial and monetary and in scientific and technological matters, he called upon the African countries to stand united in dealing with their partners of the North in current and future economic negotiations.

260. The representative of Tunisia said that he would have liked to see the current celebrations being held in an Africa that had achieved all the objectives it had set for itself in 1958 when the Economic Commission for Africa was established. Unfortunately, for various reasons, not all the objectives had been attained.

261. While he shared the Executive Secretary's point of view, he felt that history or natural conditions and climate were not the sole causes for failure to attain all those objectives. Political and economic measures, which had not always been in conformity with Africa's needs, were also to blame.

262. However, although currently Africa seemed to be the weakest and least developed region, it could boast of many victories attained by individual African countries or under the auspices of ECA which, together with OAU, was an indispensable component of the structures that unified post-independent Africa.

263. The preliminary perspective study carried out by ECA had made it possible to affirm that no one who had Africa's development at heart could tolerate the persistence of certain negative trends from the past. Man should be considered as the focal point of socio-economic development. Africa should play fully its role in international economic negotiations in order to enrich them with its experience and to derive legitimate benefits from them.

264. Finally, ECA should streamline and continue to improve its methods of work. It should strengthen its action in the area of subregional co-operation while continuing to support projects of a continental nature as well as Afro-Arab co-operation. In that regard, primary concern should be given to utilizing existing national and subregional capacities, and he therefore welcomed the adoption by Conference, on the recommendation of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, of resolution 477 (XVIII) which should lead to the harmonization of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU.

265. The representative of Zimbabwe viewed the ECA Silver Jubilee anniversary as a very momentous occasion epitomizing 25 long years during which an arduous and bitter struggle had been waged individually and/or collectively to rid African economies and the continent of hunger, disease, ignorance and poverty. He stressed that the international economic order was neither conducive to nor promotive of the quest to develop African economies. Therefore, there was no alternative to negotiations and consultations in order to solve the problems that confronted Africa. In that connection, an effective South-South dialogue was the sine qua non for deriving meaningful gains from the North-South negotiations. He urged that Africa as a continent should take pride in the production of the Libreville Memorandum, which had contributed to the Buenos Aires political platform, and further urged that the same organizational talent and unity of purpose should be applied for a successor agreement to Lome II in the context of ACP-EEC relations, GATT and at all other international fora.

266. It was important for Africa to continue to appraise its own performance. Today Africa imported more food than it exported and its food losses were great. Food self-sufficiency and food security should therefore be a major concern. The African region continued to suffer from the vagaries of nature, particularly drought, and he suggested that Governments should seriously consider the causes of drought and the measures required to contain its effects. A region that was persistently drought-stricken easily developed into a desert, which in

turn contributed to its underdevelopment. In that respect, research into improved high-yielding, disease- and drought-resistant crop varieties should be increased.

267. The performance of the industrial sector had also been very disappointing. Development of heavy industries had been inhibited by inadequate market size and the lack of technical and management expertise, a problem which in Zimbabwe had been approached on a grand scale using both local and external training facilities and for which a whole Ministry had been set up to look into manpower, research, training and utilization. He briefly reviewed the political atmosphere in Southern Africa where the people of Namibia and Azania were to that day being denied their sovereignty and right to self-determination. He condemned the South African regime for its policy and said that Zimbabwe would continue to support the peoples of those Territories. He expressed his gratitude and that of his delegation for all the excellent statements made by the esteemed Heads of State and Government as well as to Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Government and the people of Socialist Ethiopia.

268. The representative of the South-West African People's Organization expressed his pleasure at attending the Silver Jubilee anniversary and said that his presence in Addis Ababa was a testimony to the unequivocal support of the revolutionary Government of Ethiopia and of the ECA secretariat for the heroic struggle of the Namibian people for liberation.

269. Since its inception, ECA had served as a catalyst in the process of the economic development and integration of the African region. It had played a leading role in the formulation of long-term strategies to create what would become a truly continental economy serving the needs of the African people and reducing dependence on their former colonial masters. With such monumental achievements as ECOWAS, SADCC and so forth, which would soon bear positive results, Africa would extricate itself from poverty and deprivation as long as its team spirit was not undermined by the imperialists.

270. Political independence was a prerequisite for economic progress. However, South Africa and Namibia were still languishing under inhuman and oppressive colonial domination. More than 75 per cent of Namibia's annual national wealth was either distributed among the white minority or exported in the form of corporate profits, leaving the African majority with the lowest per capita income on the continent. Moreover, the Pretoria regime, backed by the NATO bloc under the patronage of United States imperialism, had been waging a genocidal war against the Namibian people for 16 years. The military machine resorted to terror tactics and half the country had been under martial law since 1974. Despite the numerous resolutions of OAU, the United Nations and the non-aligned movement, the war was still going on and Western multinational corporations continued to strip Namibia of its strategic mineral wealth in a way which amounted to criminal theft on a large scale. It was therefore crucial for the meeting to denounce Western economic and military collaboration with South Africa and to appeal to all member States and United Nations agencies to provide SWAPO with multipurpose material aid.

271. The chances of a political settlement of the Namibian issue were slim, particularly in view of the United States policy of linking Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which was a pretext for perpetuating the illegal occupation of Namibia. The so-called "contact group" and in particular the Reagan administration were sabotaging the United Nations efforts to secure Namibia's independence in line with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

272. He availed himself of the occasion afforded by the Silver Jubilee to thank all OAU member States, Socialist countries and others for their support and assured them that SWAPO would liberate Namibia in the shortest possible time.

273. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics congratulated the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia on the revolutionary transformations they were making in the country.

274. The establishment of ECA had been a true victory over the forces of imperialism and he wished it and the Executive Secretary every success.

275. The Lagos Plan of Action reflected the aspirations of African countries for genuine economic independence. Because his country believed in a new type of economic relations to achieve economic decolonization, it stood ready to assist the newly independent States in their struggle to overcome their backwardness and in that regard he noted that in 1980 the Soviet Union had allocated 1.3 per cent of its GDP to assist the developing countries and had supplied the developing countries with a variety of equipment required for their development.

276. He also expressed concern at the deterioration in detente due to the aggressiveness of the imperialist forces and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries. His and other Socialist countries had recently put forward proposals for the non-use of military force and for peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO countries, since tension was undermining international co-operation and the efforts to establish a new international economic order.

277. He then reviewed the assistance which his country had extended and continued to extend to ECA. A number of technical seminars had been organized for African experts in the Soviet Union in recent years and three more were planned for 1983. It had undertaken studies on maritime legislation in implementation of the Transport and Communications Decade and had produced a number of specialized maps of Africa. It would continue to provide expertise and was ready to conduct research on the impact of transnational corporations on developing countries in order to assist ECA in its struggle for peace, economic independence and social progress.

278. A representative of the Alexandria Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), an Egyptian institution, congratulated ECA on its Silver Jubilee anniversary. The Academy had been established in 1972 with UNDP assistance and with the co-operation of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other United Nations agencies. As of 1980, the Academy had been fully financed and supported by Egypt. During 1980-1983, the Academy had awarded 670 fellowships to African students and seconded 11 experts to African and Asian institutes. However, ECA's assistance in providing funds for fellowship schemes as well as supporting the Academy's technical capability was much needed. He also drew the attention of the meeting to the Code of Conduct on Liner Conferences due to come into force. It would allow developing countries to establish their national fleets and thereby give them a more equitable share of foreign trade. He supported the idea of establishing an African Maritime Organization.

279. In winding up the general debate, the Executive Secretary of ECA first thanked all the Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries including the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity who had spoken before him since the official opening of the eighteenth session of the Commission/ninth meeting of the Conference on 27 April 1983, and did so not only for their addresses but also for their presence at the historic occasion. He emphasized that not only their messages had been a great source of inspiration to him but they would also without doubt inspire the millions who would now and in the future have the opportunity to read them. He pledged his commitment and that of his colleagues to rededicate themselves to the daunting task that lay ahead so that when ECA celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the year 2008, the hope expressed in the Addis Ababa Declaration would have become a reality.

280. After recalling the historic decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish ECA, he reviewed the socio-economic development of the continent over the past 25 years particularly through technical co-operation among developing countries TCDC and economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC) even before those concepts had become fashionable. The early studies on and discussions of possible co-operation among West African countries and the Maghreb countries of North Africa and on the establishment of an African development financing institution as well as an institution for the training of African economists and statisticians were the beginning of CEAO and ECOWAS on the one hand and of ADB and IDEP on the other. To provide an objective basis for evaluating overall performance at the national level since 1958, he indicated that he and his colleagues had prepared a paper entitled "A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983" which had revealed that, despite the progress that had been made, African economies still remained economically backward and that Africa was still faced with a menacing economic crisis that challenged its survival. However, it would be a grave mistake to fail to acknowledge Africa's achievement and to support the view that events in the continent since independence had been an unmitigated disaster and that Africa did not have the capacity to sustain alone a modern State let alone transform it economically and socially since such views were directed at sapping the self-confidence of Africans.

281. In that connection, he stressed the importance of the need to be objective in the evaluation of past progress since a continuing pessimistic view could be damaging to attempts to march forward and the need for self-confidence. In his view, whatever the present economic and social difficulties, there was no doubt that Africa had made significant progress since the early 1960s when many African countries had become politically independent, especially when it was realized that the colonial period did not prepare the continent for socio-economic development. Pessimism could damage self-confidence, which was a prerequisite to the determination to succeed. He emphasized that lack of confidence could lead one to continue to depend on external sources for the supply of almost all the strategic factors needed for development and economic growth, a situation that was contrary to the underlying principles of the Lagos Plan of Action. What was important was to learn from the mistakes of the past and try to invent a future that would give rise to prospects of economic self-determination and of national and collective self-reliance and self-sustainment.

282. The success of African Heads of State and Government in adopting the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos in 1980 was a major step in inventing such a future and for the ECA secretariat, the Lagos economic summit with its Lagos Plan of Action was perhaps the most important development in Africa in pursuit of a regional approach to economic decolonization since ECA was established. He promised that he and the Secretary-General of OAU would ensure that regular economic summit meetings were held.

283. To assist further in bringing about such a willed and dignified future for Africa as early as possible, and definitely before ECA's Golden Jubilee in 2008, the secretariat had produced the study entitled "ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008 - A preliminary perspective study." In the study, two scenarios were used: one based on the assumption of the continuation of the present policies and socio-economic and growth patterns and the other on the assumption that the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos would be achieved. The implication of the assumption of a continuation of present policies and patterns was that Africa would, by the year 2008 - half a century after independence - depend on foreign sources of supply in almost all essential areas. That sombre outlook would doubtless have disastrous effects on the food and energy situation and on such social services as education, health and housing.

284. That was why a normative scenario had been designed to facilitate the radical and substantial transformation of African economies as recommended in the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action. The changes advocated in those two documents were not only desirable but possible.

285. He briefly mentioned the success that would be achieved in such noble undertakings as the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa and of other subregional economic communities.

286. Stressing the important role that ECA would have to play, he said that if Africa managed to harness its vast natural or potential resources, to check desertification which continued to lay waste the land, to launch a scientific and technical drive in endogenous development, to democratize its development process, to improve the management of its economies and utilize its wealth more effectively and rationally for the benefit of the masses through just and equitable distribution, the aspirations and hopes contained in the Addis Ababa Declaration would one day become a reality even before ECA celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

287. He concluded by emphasizing that ECA and its secretariat could not have achieved what had been achieved without the material, moral and political support given by the Government and the people of Ethiopia. As one of the founding members of the Commission, the Government of Ethiopia had discharged its responsibilities beyond the call of duty. That was also borne out by the wealth of the hospitality which the Government had bestowed in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations and all such support and hospitality had been possible because of the personal interest and support of His Excellency Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of PMAC and of COPWE and Comander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army. He and his colleagues expressed their personal indebtedness to him.

Status and constraints in human resources development in Africa ! Report of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Nine of the Implementation of Decisions of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization (item 8);

Report of the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on the Implementation of the United Nations Transport and communications Decade in Africa (item 9);

Report of the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries (item 10);

Report of the seventh Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa (item 11);

288. The Chairman introduced the relevant reports (documents E/ECA/CM.9/4, 26, 27 and 29) which contained the decisions of the respective sectoral Conferences of Ministers concerned and the Conference took note of them all. (See resolutions 466 (XVIII), 481 (XVIII) and 482 (XVIII) in chapter IV below).

Report and recommendations of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (item 12);

289. The Chairman of the Committee introduced the report document E/ECA/CM.9/28 and highlighted the level of participation and the draft resolutions and declaration adopted by the Technical Preparatory Committee.

316. Zimbabwe. The representative of Zimbabwe expressed his support for the spirit of collective self-reliance and reiterated his country's dedication to the United Nations system. He said that an amount of \$26,040 would be transferred to ECA from New York.

317. In his observation on draft resolution 12 (IV) [Conference of Ministers resolution 471 (XVIII)], the representative of UNCTAD stressed the need for ECA member States to notify the UNCTAD secretariat of their willingness to participate effectively in forthcoming negotiations for the establishment of a Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) and informed the Conference of the meeting taking place from 2 to 6 May 1983 in Geneva during which developing countries participating in the GSTP negotiations would be expected to indicate the nature, scope and extent of the assistance required from UNCTAD.

318. The observer for the World Food Programme informed the meeting that during the general debate on items 6 and 7, operational organizations were not given sufficient time to contribute to the work of the Conference and appealed to the Conference to give more time in the future to such operational organizations so that they could participate fully in the deliberations. In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of the Commission reminded the meeting that under the rules of procedure of the Commission, sufficient opportunities were provided for operational organizations and other specialized agencies to work effectively with the secretariat and participate fully in the work of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole whose meeting usually lasted longer than that of the Ministers so that during the meeting of the Ministers only statements of general nature would be made by the Heads of such organizations. If that approach was adopted, the operational and other specialized agencies would be able to make their points of view and have their recommendations incorporated into the report of the technical Preparatory Committee which was submitted to the Conference of Ministers. He hoped that in the future the secretariats of such organizations would take advantage of the provisions in the rules.

Date and venue of the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and fifth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (item 15)

319. The Conference agreed that the meetings would be held in 1984 at about the same time of the year. With regard to the venue, the Executive Secretary explained that according to the principle of rotating the venue it was the turn of either a Central or a Southern African country to host the meetings. It was agreed that member States would be informed as soon as the necessary consultations were completed.

Adoption of the Silver Jubilee Commemorative Declaration (item 16)

320. The Declaration was adopted on 27 April 1983 and formally read out in Arabic, English and French on 29 April 1983 by representatives of Guinea, Lesotho, Morocco and the United Republic of Cameroon acting on behalf of their respective subregion in the presence of the Heads of State and other dignitaries.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting (item 17)

321. At its 229th meeting on 2 May 1983 the Conference adopted the present report and resolutions.

Closure of the meeting (item 18)

322. The representative of Egypt proposed a vote of thanks to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Ethiopia and to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their warm hospitality and services rendered to the Commission over the past 25 years.

323. The representative of the Gambia proposed a vote of thanks to the President of Kenya and current Chairman of OAU, the President of Zambia, the President of Rwanda, the Vice-President of Nigeria, the President of the Legislative Council of Zaire, the Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland, the Vice-President of Botswana, the Prime Minister of Gabon, the Prime Minister of the Niger and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for having graced the Silver Jubilee anniversary with their presence.

324. The representative of the Congo proposed a vote of thanks to all African Governments, non-African Governments and international organizations who had participated in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee.

325. The Executive Secretary said that the many activities that had taken place since the 27 of April and the presence of so many Heads of State and of the Secretary-General testified to the significance of the Silver Jubilee anniversary. It was the first time in the history of ECA that so many Heads of State had graced the occasion with their presence and delivered inspiring addresses. Others, who had not been present in person, had sent messages. The Addis Ababa Declaration had also become public. The time had been memorable also for the secretariat and other events had taken place in different parts of the continent. For all that, he was most grateful and encouraged by the recognition given to the Commission. The Commission had been inspired by the statements and messages and challenged to face up to the task ahead. As the Chairman declared the meeting closed, participants would not go home with a feeling of self-satisfaction, but with a sense of determination to take up the challenge. On behalf of all his colleagues, he reaffirmed his total commitment to the cause of the African continent and stated that he would leave no stone unturned in discharging his responsibilities.

326. He also expressed his appreciation to the members of the Bureau for the able way in which they had conducted the proceedings. Without their dedication and efficiency, the work of the Conference would have been well nigh impossible. He also thanks the members of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole without whose thorough preparations the Conference would not have been able to conclude its deliberations.

327. In conclusion he hoped that, in the 12 months ahead before the next meeting of the Conference, the foundation would have been laid for a new Africa, the Africa epitomized in the Addis Ababa Declaration, an Africa that arose to the challenge and told the world that self-reliance was no longer just a political slogan.

328. The Chairman, speaking on behalf of the Conference and on his own behalf, expressed his sincere appreciation to all who had contributed to the success of the deliberations and, more specifically, to the Heads of State and Government, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU who had graced the celebration with their presence and had made contributions which had enriched the content of the Conference's report.

329. His job as Chairman had been easy because of the full understanding and co-operation participants had extended to him. He was also indebted to the other members of the Bureau for their valuable assistance. He also wished to pay tribute to the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole which had examined in detail all the documents presented to it and prepared a comprehensive report and set of resolutions, together with the Addis Ababa Declaration, for the approval of the Conference. He also expressed deep thanks to the Executive Secretary who had worked with the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole and offered his wise counsel. He admired the competent leadership the Executive Secretary had provided to ECA and the dedication he had demonstrated for the development of Africa, particularly in impressing that the salvation of Africa lay in self-reliance. For such tireless efforts the Executive Secretary indeed deserved full support in his mission to contribute to the attainment of self-reliance based on the pillars and programmes of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. He also expressed sincere appreciation to the staff and experts of ECA whose dedication to African development he had witnessed during the past years. The wealth of material prepared for the Conference and the Technical Preparatory Committee was commendable.

330. The Chairman then declared closed the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

D. Programme of work and priorities

331. The work programme for the biennium 1984-1985 (E/ECA/CM.9/3) represents the first in part of the United Nations 1984-1989 medium-term plan under the six-year programming cycle. The draft proposals of the plan were examined by the Conference of Ministers at its seventh meeting at Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1981 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/93 requesting in part that measures be taken to involve more closely the sectoral, regional and functional programme-formulating organs in the planning and programming process. The document has now been adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, taking into account the views and suggestions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant Committees of the Assembly itself and now constitutes the principal policy directive. The plan assures some degree of flexibility in that it will be revised every two years in order to incorporate any developments and programme changes that are likely to arise during the implementation of the Plan.

332. Contrary to past practices in which medium-term plans were of four years' duration, the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in 1979 took a decision in resolution 34/224 to lengthen the planning period to cover six years thus synchronizing the planning period of the United Nations with those of some of the specialized agencies and thus also using this common standard as one of the measures for the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.

333. A major feature of the work programme for the biennium 1984-1985, which derives from the medium-term plan for 1984-1989 is the relationship of causality existing between the strategies enunciated in the medium-term plan and the "final outputs".

334. Another distinct feature of the work programme, also deriving from the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, is the integration of economic co-operation, education and training, and labour, employment and manpower planning for development into development issues and policies as well as the elevation of energy to the level of a programme.

335. As in the past biennium, the preparation of this work programme has been done on the basis of a policy of maximum budget restraint and austerity in which proposals of programme activities have been made within the level of resources of the approved programme budget for 1982-1983 and are primarily for both those programme activities which are regarded as essential to meet legislative objectives as well as those that supplement them. Programmed outputs indicated in the document as far as possible represent what programme managers will be in a position to deliver.

336. Since the work programme is based on the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, its underlying strategies are the Declaration on the establishment of a New International Economic Order, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos. In effect priorities include regional self-sufficiency in food; establishment of a sound industrial base, institutional infrastructure, intra-African co-operation; physical integration; the attainment of a substantial share of intra-African trade in the total trade of Africa, etc. The programme reflects the need for rapid, simultaneous and interlinked advances on several strategic points and takes into account the present low level of self-reliance and of self-sustaining growth and structural diversification characteristic of most countries of the region.

337. The main thrust of the work programme and activities in food and agriculture for 1984-1985 will be to provide countries with information and analyses of agricultural development policies, of integrated development and of agricultural marketing institutions whilst the work programme and activities in natural resources primarily will be to assist the African countries in improving knowledge of their mineral resources and the development of appropriate institutional structures and technical and managerial capabilities for the efficient utilization of the mineral resources potential of the continent.

338. Similarly, in industrial development the thrust of the work programme and activities will be to assist countries in the formulation of policies and strategies for the translation of industrial objectives into specifics as well as assisting them in the establishment of appropriate machineries to improve capabilities for greater industrial development.

339. The supply of real factor inputs (skilled and semi-skilled manpower for entrepreneurial functions, management, production, marketing and distribution, research and development, technologies, equipment, raw materials, institutional services, etc.) whilst of primary concern to work programmes and activities in public administration, management and manpower, is also found in other work programmes including science and technology, statistics, environment and trade. The accent now being placed by the secretariat on the work of the inter-divisional committees for the least developed countries and integrated rural development gives added recognition to past Conference of Ministers resolutions on these topics.

340. The study of population policies and their assessment in socio-economic development forms the thrust of the work programme in population for the biennium 1984-1985 and also forms part of the overall development strategy of ensuring recognition of the close relationship between population trends and other sectors.

341. Recognition continues to be given to transport and communications particularly with a view to strengthening intraregional and interregional links.

CHAPTER IV. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE
AT ITS NINTH MEETING

- 460 (XVIII) - Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa
- 461 (XVIII) - Support to African land-locked and island countries
- 462 (XVIII) - Situation of food and agriculture in Africa
- 463 (XVIII) - Assistance to the livestock sector in Africa
- 464 (XVIII) - United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
- 465 (XVIII) - Problems of freedoms of the air in Africa
- 466 (XVIII) - Implementation of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa
- 467 (XVIII) - Establishment of an African Monetary Fund
- 468 (XVIII) - Interregional economic and technical co-operation
- 469 (XVIII) - African statistical services
- 470 (XVIII) - Perspective studies in African countries
- 471 (XVIII) - Africa and the on-going international economic negotiations
- 472 (XVIII) - Women in development in Africa
- 473 (XVIII) - The climatic situation and drought in Africa
- 474 (XVIII) - Strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters
- 475 (XVIII) - Human settlements
- 476 (XVIII) - Development of cartographic services in Africa
- 477 (XVIII) - Evaluation and harmonization of the activities of African multi-national institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU
- 478 (XVIII) - Development of resources of the sea
- 479 (XVIII) - Strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres
- 480 (XVIII) - Support to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
- 481 (XVIII) - Measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries
- 482 (XVIII) - First round of review meetings for the African least developed countries
- 483 (XVIII) - Activities of the secretariat
- 484 (XVIII) - Vote of thanks to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia
- 485 (XVIII) - Vote of thanks to the Heads of State and Government of Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Zaire, Botswana, Gabon, the Niger and Swaziland and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- 486 (XVIII) - Vote of thanks to all African Governments, non-African Governments and organizations

460 (XVIII). Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa^{1/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 404 (XVI) of 10 April 1981,

Emphasizing once again the importance of the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa for a continuous assessment of the economic and social situation of African countries and in assisting member States to identify appropriate policy measures to deal with their current and long-term development problems,

Congratulating the secretariat for preparing the document entitled "Economic and social survey of Africa, 1958-1983" 2/ and the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1981-1982, 3/

Noting with concern the difficulties that the secretariat continues to encounter in preparing the Survey,

1. Calls on each member State to provide the secretariat with the information required to prepare the Survey as called for in resolution 404 (XVI);
2. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the secretariat to broaden the scope of the Survey by including short-term forecasts of the major macro-economic variables for the region as a whole, for subregions and for country groupings;
3. Requests the secretariat to improve the quality of the forecasting exercise in the Survey;
4. Further requests the secretariat to do everything in its power to ensure the realization of the Survey.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

^{1/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 239 to 287 and 289 to 295 above.

^{2/} E/ECA/CM.9/20.

^{3/} E/ECA/CM.9/5.

461 (XVIII). Support to African land-locked and island countries^{4/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling the global strategy and programme of action 5/ adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as well as by the Economic and Social Council in May and July 1979 respectively,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African region in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted on 18 July 1979 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII),

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy, 6/ in particular the chapter on transport and communications, adopted by African Heads of State and Government on 29 April 1980,

Conscious of the need to reduce the adverse effects experienced by land-locked and island countries,

Noting with concern that the initiatives taken so far in favour of land-locked and island countries have not been very effective,

1. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members of the Commission and international organizations to take effective measures in order to mobilize financial and technical resources for the benefit of land-locked and island countries;
2. Requests that appropriations under the United Nations Special Fund for Land-Locked Developing Countries should be increased in order to expand their capability to respond positively to development needs;
3. Requests the Commission secretariat to co-operate with all relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system in implementing an appropriate programme of action in favour of land-locked countries.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

^{4/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{5/} E/CN.14/726.

^{6/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

462 (XVIII). Situation of food and agriculture in Africa^{7/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 4/78 on the Regional Food Plan for Africa adopted by the FAO Regional Conference for Africa held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in September 1978,

Recalling also its resolution 351 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 in which it appealed to member States effectively to implement the Regional Food Plan for Africa,

Further recalling the decision taken, by the Heads of State and Government in April 1980 in the Lagos Plan of Action, 8/ to the effect that African Governments, in their efforts to develop food, should focus their attention on most urgent programmes and activities, namely the reduction of post-harvest losses, establishment of food security programmes and increased production of food crops, livestock and fisheries and adopt policies and measures to increase investments,

Noting with deep concern the continued decline of the food self-sufficiency ratio and the shortfall in domestic inputs and external financial assistance,

1. Calls on the Governments of the region to intensify their efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to adopt and implement policies and measures for expanding food production, reducing food losses and setting up food security systems;
2. Further calls on the Governments of member States to give special emphasis to price and other incentive measures and to adequate water and other resource utilization in their efforts to increase food crop, livestock and fisheries production;
3. Requests Governments of member States to accord priority to research, to the exchange of information on scientific research and to technological progress for food development;
4. Calls on international financial institutions and donor countries to increase substantially their investment in the agriculture sector in Africa;
5. Calls on the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to intensify efforts to assist member States in the implementation of the African Food Plan and the Lagos Plan of Action;
6. Calls on the Commission to update the document on the situation of food and agriculture in Africa in the light of the discussions and recommendations made at the fourth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole before submitting it to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

^{7/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{8/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

7. Requests the Commission, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other United Nations specialized agencies, to undertake an intensive study to ascertain the cause of the apparent discrepancy between the increasing resource allocation to food and agriculture and the declining performance of that sector;

8. Calls on the relevant United Nations agencies to assist the countries of the region to mount action-oriented programmes to improve the food situation in Africa and in bridging the technological gap;

9. Requests the Food and Agriculture Organization to continue to strengthen its support to the Commission and, through the latter, to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, for implementing the Regional Food Plan for Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action at the regional and subregional levels.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

463 (XVIII). Assistance to the livestock sector in Africa^{9/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action 10/ for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa of July 1979,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 35/69 of 5 December 1980, 36/186 of 17 December 1981 and 37/245 of 21 December 1982,

Convinced of the need for the rapid implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action,

Taking note of the report 11/ by the Commission secretariat on the situation of food and agriculture,

Bearing in mind the need to develop the livestock sector as an essential component of food and a support for agriculture,

Aware of the worrying state of the livestock sector deriving from the destruction of herds by scourges such as drought, desertification and bovine diseases and taking into account the importance of the sector in the national economies of African States in terms of both food and trade,

9/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

10/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

11/ E/ECA/CM.9/15 and summary.

1. Congratulates the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and institutions within the United Nations system such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant organizations for their research work in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors with a view to increasing production of food crops and animal products;

2. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to conduct, in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture, perspective studies in the livestock sector, evaluate progress and work out a specific approach to the development of this sector in order to increase the contribution of the livestock sector to food and agriculture development;

3. Calls on the States members of the Commission to pay special attention to this sector when drawing up national economic development programmes.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

464 (XVIII). United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa^{12/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977, Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 435 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/54 of 29 July 1982 and General Assembly resolution 37/140 of 17 December 1982,

Considering that the programme of the Decade requires constant adjustment during the entire period of the Decade,

Having considered the progress report on the implementation of the programme of the first phase of the Decade (1980-1983) and the report on the draft programme of the second phase (1984-1988), ^{13/}

Noting with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the programme of the second phase and the timetable set up in this regard,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary in his quest for ways and means to finalize the programme of the second phase in a satisfactory way and to secure its financing,

^{12/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{13/} E/ECA/CM.9/7 and 8.

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the financial support which they have provided for the organization of the fifth consultative technical meeting and the preparation of the plan of action of the second phase of the Decade;

2. Appeals to donor countries and financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the fifth consultative technical meeting scheduled to be held from 11 to 14 October 1983;

3. Notes with satisfaction the progress so far made in implementing the programme of the first phase of the Decade and the efforts made towards the preparation of the programme for the second phase;

4. Endorses resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.83/23 of 11 March 1983 of the third Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning; 14/

5. Recommends that, in view of the success of the consultative technical meetings organized for the mobilization of resources for financing the programme of the first phase, other consultative technical meetings should be organized as soon as possible after the launching of the second phase of the Decade in 1984 and in any event not later than the middle of 1985 for the following subsectors of transport and communications:

- (a) Broadcasting;
- (b) Postal services;
- (c) Air transport;
- (d) Railways and rail transport;

6. Appeals once more to donor countries and financial institutions to lend substantial financial support to the Decade projects and to accord particular attention to the programming, financing and implementation of transport and communications projects of the land-locked countries;

7. Supports the decision of the Executive Secretary to organize an informal round table to be held in Paris from 21 to 24 June 1983 on problems related to the implementation of the Decade programme;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure better co-ordination and harmonization among the various modes of transport and communications so as to avoid duplication and competition in drawing up subregional and regional master plans for each mode of transport and communications as well as an integrated master plan for all modes;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Economic Commission for Africa sufficient financial resources to enable it to;

(a) Organize the four consultative technical meetings referred to in paragraph 5 above;

(b) Undertake studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications;

(c) Prepare, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, a study of manpower needs of all African countries for all modes of transport and communications;

(d) Draw up a priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked countries;

(e) Organize in January 1984 the fourth Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the implementation of the present resolution and to submit regularly to the Conference a report on the implementation of the Decade programme.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

465 (XVIII). Problems of freedoms of the air in Africa^{15/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolutions ECA/UNTACDA/Res.79/6 adopted on 12 May 1979 and ECA/UNTACDA/res.81/19 adopted on 18 March 1981 by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.890 (XXXIII) on freedoms of the air adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at Nairobi in 1981,

Noting that little progress has been made in the implementation of these resolutions by member States,

Convinced that non-implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions has constituted a major obstacle to the harmonization of air transport schedules in Africa and, hence, is impeding the development of air transport in Africa,

Having noted the report of the third Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, 16/

15/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

16/ E/ECA/CM.9/26.

1. Urges African States to implement the above resolution of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as well as the various recommendations approved by the Conference of Ministers within the framework of the Decade programme;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the African Civil Aviation Commission and the Association of African Airlines, to convene in 1984 a conference of representatives of African Governments and African airline companies to examine ways and means of implementing the resolutions on freedoms of the air;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make available to the Commission sufficient financial resources to enable it to organize this conference.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

466 (XVIII). Implementation of the Industrial Development Decade in Africa^{17/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/66 B of 15 December 1980 proclaiming the 1980s as the Industrial Development Decade in Africa, resolution 1 (VI) of November 1981 adopted by the sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, its own resolution 442 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade in Africa and resolution 55 (XVI) of 28 May 1982 of the Industrial Development Board on the Industrial Development Decade in Africa,

Considering that the effective implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action will, to a large extent, depend on the sustained development of industry as a supplier and user of goods and services and, therefore, on the structural adjustment in the industrial sector with emphasis on selected strategic core industries,

Convinced that the effective and rapid implementation of the Decade programme will reduce the vulnerability of African countries to the deepening world economic crisis,

Concerned with the fact that the funds originally earmarked by the United Nations Development Programme as its minimum contribution towards the implementation of the Decade objectives are not likely to be available,

1. Urgently calls upon member States to intensify their individual and collective efforts to mobilize resources for implementation of the Decade at the national, subregional and regional levels;

^{17/} See chapter III, section C, paragraph 288 above.

2. Notes with appreciation the allocation of \$US 1 billion by the African Development Bank and the promise of future expansion beyond this initial amount to finance industrial projects in African countries during the period 1982-1986;

3. Urges African countries to participate actively in the meetings of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme with a view to emphasizing the high priority accorded to industry by African countries in the Lagos Plan of Action. 18/

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

467 (XVIII). Establishment of an African Monetary Fund^{19/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned at the fact that the world economic situation, especially the international financial and monetary crisis, has aggravated the problems faced by the African countries as reflected in the mounting external indebtedness, balance-of-payments deficits and the depletion of their external reserves,

Mindful of the fact that the contribution made by the International Monetary Fund in assisting African countries to overcome their financial and monetary problems and in particular their balance-of-payments problems has been very limited and inadequate to overcome such problems,

Aware that at present no effective mechanism exists in Africa for ensuring that sound and regional monetary and financial policies are adopted to protect African countries from the adverse effects of the world monetary crisis and to overcome the problems of the multiplicity and inconvertibility of African currencies as well as the absence or inadequacy of financial markets,

Recalling the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity taken at the Economic Summit held in Lagos, Nigeria, in April 1980, to establish an African Monetary Fund by 1985 as a means of assisting member States in overcoming these problems,

Noting with satisfaction the progress so far achieved towards the establishment of the Fund as reflected in the outcome of the meeting of senior officials of ministries of finance and central banks held in Addis Ababa from 4 to 7 October 1982, and the preliminary technical work done by the co-operating secretariats of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the African Development Bank and the African Centre for Monetary Studies,

18/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

19/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

Noting further the delay in carrying out the studies on the establishment of the Fund, keeping in mind the difficulties experienced by the Executive Secretary in recruiting an African co-ordinator for such studies,

1. Appreciates the financial support provided by Algeria for carrying out the feasibility studies on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund and for the convening of the meeting of senior officials of ministries of finance and central banks;

2. Appeals to the African Governments to lend their political and financial support for the establishment of the proposed Fund;

3. Urges the African regional financial institutions, such as the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund, also to make financial contributions towards the realization of this objective;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the co-operating African regional institutions, to expedite the preparation of the feasibility studies and the convening of the related meetings, in line with the schedule of activities recommended by the above-mentioned meeting of government officials and to report on the progress made on the establishment of the African Monetary Fund to the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of the Commission to be held in 1984.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

468 (XVIII). Interregional economic and technical co-operation^{20/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in March 1977, in Cairo, Egypt,

Recalling its resolution 301 (XIII) of 28 February 1977 calling for co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling further its request made in March 1981 in Freetown to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to invite the secretariat of the League of Arab States to attend as an observer, meetings organized by the Economic Commission for Africa,

Considering the Amman Strategy for Arab States,

^{20/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

Recalling further the Arusha Declaration of February 1979 21/ on collective self-reliance for relaunching South-South Dialogue and the Caracas programme on economic co-operation among developing countries 22/ of May 1981,

Noting the efforts made by the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre concerning the development of Afro-Arab co-operation and calling upon the other Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to act in the same way,

Aware of the fact that the Executive Secretary should pursue his efforts to promote interregional co-operation with the Arab world within the framework of the memorandum of agreement between the Commission and the Economic Commission for Western Asia and in active collaboration with the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States in the course of the meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation and other Afro-Arab solidarity organizations such as the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa,

Aware also of the current economic and technical co-operation activities between States members of the Economic Commission for Africa on the one hand and those of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the other hand,

Recalling the report of the Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation, 23/ held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 4 June 1982, and the action-oriented proposals in three priority fields, namely interregional trade, human resources development and utilization and science and technology for development which the Meeting agreed to implement jointly,

Recalling in particular, resolution II adopted by the meeting which, inter alia, urged the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting and, to that end, to establish an appropriate mechanism for consultation at the interregional level and also to create or strengthen national focal points for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries,

Noting that the study tour of African specialists in mineral resources development to five Latin American countries in October 1982 to study the organization, financing and management of mineral resources development activities, and the visit by the African representatives are among the initial steps taken by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America with a view to implementing the joint action-oriented proposals,

21/ TD/236.

22/ A/36/333.

23/ ECO/ETC/1/5.

Appreciating the assistance given by the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of the Netherlands in financing economic and technical co-operation among developing countries activities and thereby promoting interregional co-operation,

Conscious of the limitations imposed on the development of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, by the inadequacy of resources,

1. Congratulates the executive secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa on having convened the first Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation;
2. Recognizes the joint action-oriented proposals as contained in the report of the meeting, including those in resolution II annexed to the report, as constituting the basis for interregional co-operation between States members of the two Commissions and urges the two executive secretaries to assist the States members of their respective regions to implement them fully and speedily;
3. Commends States members of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America on the steps already taken to implement the action-oriented proposals in respect of mineral resources development and trade promotion, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, to intensify the efforts in assisting member States in this regard;
4. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue rendering assistance to member States in their co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary to contribute effectively to the dynamic development of Afro-Arab co-operation by collaborating fully with the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and by participating in meetings of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Co-operation, and to assist specialist bodies dealing with Afro-Arab co-operation in implementing concrete projects and programmes for strengthening Afro-Arab co-operation;
6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to assist member States in conducting multilateral negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences and related economic matters within the framework of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as agreed at meetings of the Group of 77 in Caracas and elsewhere;
7. Commends the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of the Netherlands for their support to the Commission's interregional technical and economic co-operation activities and appeals to them and to other funding agencies which have not yet done so, to render generous support to the Commission's interregional economic and technical co-operation programme;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the nineteenth session of the Commission on progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

469 (XVIII). African statistical services^{24/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the urgent need to improve economic and social policy formulation planning, administration and analysis in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action ^{25/} which aims to promote African development through collective self-reliance,

Recognizing that the effective organization of these activities requires adequate quantitative information at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting that many African statistical services are not yet able to supply this information in a satisfactory and timely manner because of significant interrelated constraints which include low data demand for non-technical planning, statistical brain drain, management weaknesses, data processing difficulties and failure to regard data applications as a principal guide in organizing data collection, processing and analysis,

Further noting that there is still a lack of co-ordination in external assistance to statistics and international recommendations in this field do not adequately cover data analysis and applications,

1. Urges Governments of the region to:

- (a) Accord higher priority generally to the improvement and strengthening of their statistical services so as to provide data which will assist in assessing current economic and social problems and in accelerating development;
- (b) Identify data applications as a basis for determining priorities for data collection and analysis in each subject field;
- (c) Utilize fully available training facilities to provide staff for statistical services and ensure that these services are efficiently managed;
- (d) Take steps to overcome existing data processing difficulties through the provision of adequate equipment and by ensuring that statistical personnel play a more direct and active role in computerized data processing;
- (e) Make increasing use of national statistics co-ordinating organs for the planning and co-ordination of activities and for the preparation of realistic and integrated statistical development programmes, which should be incorporated in national development plans as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action;
- (f) Within the context of their development programmes, ensure that statistical services prepare annual work programmes for issuing regular publications and reports on surveys, etc. and for conducting other activities in a timely manner;

^{24/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{25/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

(g) Encourage both central planning agencies and those dealing with particular subject fields to adopt a more technical and analytical approach to plan preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review;

2. Recommends that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should:

(a) Continue existing efforts to co-ordinate technical co-operation in all aspects of quantitative information;

(b) Extend international statistical recommendations to include guidelines on data analysis and applications;

3. Appeals to inter-governmental agencies, multilateral and bilateral organizations to:

(a) Continue to assist in strengthening the operation of statistical infrastructure in the region;

(b) Support activities designed to improve the utilization of statistical data for development;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all necessary steps to assist the improvement of African statistics along the lines indicated above.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

470 (XVIII). Perspective studies in African countries^{26/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Monrovia Strategy for the African Region in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted in resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII) by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on 18 July 1979,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action 27/ for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy, adopted by the second Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 29 April 1980,

Bearing in mind the necessity for African countries to undertake periodic perspective studies with a view to devising and assessing alternative ways of implementing the Lagos Plan of Action,

^{26/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 239 to 287 and 289 to 295 above.

^{27/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

Taking note of the secretariat's preliminary perspective study for the African region by the year 2008 28/ which highlights the prospects of critical areas such as population and human resources, food, energy, industry, transport and external trade and finance,

Also taking note of the increasing number of African countries which have embarked on perspective studies with a view to laying the foundations of proper and efficient planning,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary of the Commission for having taken the initiative to prepare a comprehensive study on the perspectives of the region by 2008;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Circulate the study widely to African Governments, universities and research institutions with a view to stimulating initiative and actions for the efficient implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in African countries;

(b) Provide, on request, technical assistance to Governments in devising tools for perspective studies on their respective economies;

(c) Update the study every five years, to serve as a tool for assessing the degree of implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the African region;

(d) Include consideration of the study in the agenda of the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

3. Calls upon member States to examine the study critically with a view to identifying areas of interest to them and taking appropriate action for perspective studies on their economies.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

471 (XVIII). Africa and the on-going international economic negotiations ^{29/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the resolution on the participation of Africa in international economic negotiations adopted by the African Heads of State and Government as contained in annex III to the Lagos Plan of Action, 30/

28/ E/ECA/CM.9/23.

29/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

30/ A/S-11/14, annex III.

Recognizing that the on-going and forthcoming international economic negotiations conducted within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the successor agreement to Lome II and the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations are likely to have a deep and far-reaching impact on Africa's socio-economic development prospects,

Aware that it is in Africa's own interest to participate fully and effectively in these and other on-going negotiations,

Noting with disappointment the results of the Meeting of the Ministers of External Trade of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held in Geneva in November 1982 and the failure of such negotiations to take full cognizance of the development problems facing the African countries, the problems experienced in the implementation of the Lome II agreement, and in the negotiations on the Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the adoption of a common African position on the issues to be discussed at the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as reflected in the Libreville Memorandum 31/ and of the harmonization of positions of developing countries on these issues that was arrived at the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77 held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 5 to 9 April 1983;
2. Urges the African Group members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to follow up effectively on the issues that were unresolved at the recent Meeting of Ministers of External Trade of the Agreement within the framework of the permanent machinery of the Agreement to safeguard their interest in these negotiations;
3. Appeals to all States members of the Commission to participate fully and effectively in all international economic negotiations and in particular the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to ensure that they harmonize their positions and that where possible there is continuity in the individuals representing African countries in each set of negotiations;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to continue to provide technical, logistic and advisory support to the African Groups participating in such negotiations;
5. Calls upon the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on International Trade and Finance for African Development to assess the outcome of the above-mentioned negotiations, on the basis of studies to be done by the secretariat of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity;
6. Requests the Executive Secretary to make available to the Conference of Ministers, at its tenth session, the results of such an assessment.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

472 (XVIII). Women in development in Africa^{32/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 360 (XIV), 361 (XIV) and 362 (XIV) of 27 March 1979, 407 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 and 447 (XVIII) of 30 April 1982 on the implementation of programmes and mobilization of resources for the advancement of women in Africa,

Recalling also its resolution 332 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on the Development Strategy for Africa for the Third Development Decade,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and 35/136 of 11 December 1980,

Conscious that the Lagos Plan of Action ^{33/} not only places importance on human resource development and utilization but also calls for special action to promote the technical, social, economic, cultural and political advancement of women,

Aware that women had been largely left out of the mainstream of development and suffered from an imbalance of opportunities for the development and application of their latent capabilities as well as social attitudes,

Aware also that progress in the integration of women in development at the national, subregional and regional levels had been hampered by serious constraints in human and financial resources,

Having considered the report of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 11 to 13 April 1983, ^{34/}

1. Endorses the report and recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;
2. Urges member States and national machineries for the integration of women in development to take the necessary steps to assess the contribution of women to national development and to meet their needs effectively through national policies, legislation and development programmes;
3. Calls upon member States to ensure greater and more effective participation of women in the decision-making process at the national, subregional and regional levels;

^{32/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{33/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

^{34/} E/ECA/TPCW.4/8.

4. Calls upon African Governments, national machineries for the integration of women in development, the United Nations and other international development agencies to intensify their efforts to train women and girls in all socio-economic fields;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit the document 35/ on the institutional framework governing relations between the various organs established to promote the integration of women in development to member States for their views and comments which should be incorporated in a revised version of the document to be submitted to the next meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

6. Appeals to member States to contribute adequate human, material and financial resources for the strengthening of the national machineries for the integration of women in development to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively;

7. Appeals further to member States, African inter-governmental organizations and the international community to continue to contribute to the sub-regional and regional women's programmes and to accord special privilege to projects concerning women at the Silver Jubilee (fourth) Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for the African Development;

8. Calls upon the secretariats of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity, the Bureau of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the Pan-African Women's Organization to collaborate closely in the preparation of the third Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development in 1984 which should define Africa's position at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace due to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985;

9. Urges member States to give their fullest support to the above-mentioned third Regional Conference and to the World Conference.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

473 (XVIII). The climatic situation and drought in Africa^{36/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 239 (XI) of 23 February 1973 on the Sahelian drought,

Aware that drought which had affected the Sahel region in the 1970s is now seriously affecting 34 African countries, 24 of which are among the least developed and some of which are located outside the Sudano-Sahelian region and the Kalahari desert region,

35/ ATRCW/ARCC/83/WD.8.

36/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

Realizing that drought is now a chronic, natural phenomenon whose causes, frequency and trends are currently difficult to control and must be studied scientifically,

Conscious of the linear relationship between drought, desertification and underdevelopment,

Further recalling its resolution 416 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Deeply concerned about the worsening climatic situation and dire effects of recurring drought, erosion, cyclones and famine on the peoples of Africa and on the African economy in general,

1. Urgently requests the Executive Secretary to organize a special scientific round table to which all States members of the Commission would be invited. The round table would consist of national experts from the invited countries as well as international experts on climate, land, water and soil resources, ecology and the environment, on the problems of the climatic situation in Africa with a view to examining the causes, periodicity, trends and effects of drought on the African economy and to proposing measures that can be taken in the short, medium and long terms to deal with the problem;
2. Appeals to the relevant United Nations organs, organizations and bodies such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization of African Unity and other relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to collaborate actively with the Commission in this urgent task;
3. Calls upon Governments to give high priority, through both financial and manpower allocation, to the problem of understanding climatic variability in their countries in order to facilitate advance planning for drought, erosion, cyclones famine and their related effects;
4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide additional resources to the Commission to enable it undertake this most important task;
5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the outcome of the scientific round table on the climatic situation in Africa to the nineteenth session of the Commission/tenth Conference of Ministers;
6. Calls upon the international community and bilateral and multilateral aid donors to grant increased financial resources to the countries affected by drought and desertification and to the institutions engaged in combating these phenomena.

474 (XVIII). Strengthening of African capabilities in environmental matters^{37/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 378 (XV) of 12 April 1978 and 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which decided to establish an inter-governmental regional committee on environmental matters jointly with human settlements,

Further recalling its resolution 498 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which established the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979,

Aware that the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa ^{38/} provides inter alia priority areas of environmental concern for the African region which has been supported by decision GC.9/12 of 26 May 1981 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, on priorities for serious environmental problems in developing countries,

Noting General Assembly resolutions 36/192 of 17 December 1981 and 37/217 of 20 December 1982 on international co-operation in the field of the environment,

Further noting the catalytic role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in its decision GC.10/26 of 31 May 1982, for raising, inter alia, additional resources to the Environment Fund to assist developing countries in dealing with serious environmental problems and while recognizing the arrangements being made for the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme by its Governing Council decision GC.10/2 of 31 May 1982 to strengthen environmental capabilities, especially in the African region,

Having considered the report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and the first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, ^{39/}

1. Takes note of the report of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment and resolutions 1(1), 2(1) and 3(1) on the strengthening of environment co-ordination and capabilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, in the African region and environmental education and training in Africa respectively;

^{37/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

^{38/} A/S-11/14, annex I.

^{39/} E/ECA/HUS/ENV.1.

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue to strengthen the environmental capabilities of the Commission within the framework of the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme, for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of inter-governmental activities dealing with serious environmental problems such as drought, desertification and erosion in the continent when the present project ends after the 1982-1983 biennium;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to co-operate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to implement the latter's decision GC.10/25 A to promote environmental education and training in Africa for manpower development on environmental matters, taking into account the findings of the meeting of experts from Governments and the scientific community in Africa and existing national training institutions in the region offering environmental courses and to strengthen them where appropriate, and the activities of the International Labour Office and other United Nations organizations in environmental education and training in the region;

4. Calls upon Governments in the African region to:

(a) Strengthen their national environmental capabilities to cope with the assessment of natural resources exploitation and pollution control during rapid industrialization of the Industrial Development Decade by incorporating environmental considerations into national development planning, reviewing the terms of reference of various licensing boards and corporations for exploiting natural resources, setting up national standards boards for an industrial code as well as health criteria for industrial workers, establishing supporting analytical laboratory facilities and strengthening the legal and legislative machinery for implementing environmental policies into environmental laws and regulations with the infrastructural support for effective law enforcement;

(b) Organize intensive human resources development programmes to train the scientists, technicians, planners, policy-makers, industrial managers in environmental assessment and management techniques, needed for the Industrial Development Decade;

(c) Endeavour to plough back some of the profits of economic growth to provide national services for meeting basic human needs especially through programme for mass education, primary health care and nutrition, in order to improve the quality of life of mass of the African population and provide the work force needed for sustainable economic development;

5. Calls upon the international community and financial institutions as well as the competent United Nations organizations, organs and bodies to respond positively to the African initiative on environment and development by providing the necessary funds, trained manpower and technological expertise;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the second meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment on the matter.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

475 (XVIII). Human settlements^{40/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and 358 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on institutional arrangements for human settlements,

Recalling also its resolution 408 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 which extended the mandate of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to include environmental matters,

Further recalling resolution 8 (IV) of the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry of 26 November 1977,

Having examined the report 41/ of the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment held at Addis Ababa from 28 June to 2 July 1982 and the resolutions adopted at that meeting,

Noting with concern that the support of the United Nations Development Programme to the building materials and construction industries development programme is to be terminated by the end of 1983, which would seriously affect the continuation of ongoing activities and the implementation of projects planned in the framework of the Programme with the result that the objective of self-sufficiency in this sector by the year 2000 would hardly be achieved,

1. Endorses the report and resolutions adopted at the third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;
2. Approves the emphasis on physical planning, housing financing mechanisms and building materials policies and programmes as necessary priority issues for the development of a regional human settlements policy and programme in pursuance of the objectives and strategies of the Monrovia Declaration 42/ and the Lagos Plan of Action, 43/
3. Urges member States to take steps to implement the specific actions defined in the resolutions adopted by the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

40/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

41/ E/ECA/HUS/ENV.1.

42/ Organization of African Unity, Council of Ministers resolution CM/722 (XXXIII).

43/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

4. Calls upon the Commission on Human Settlements to assist the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment in the implementation of the regional human settlements priorities decided by the said Committee;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps, in consultation with member States, the United Nations Development Programme, other United Nations and international organizations, to ensure the speedy and successful implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions, and particularly the continuation of the building materials and construction industries development programme far beyond its present termination date until the objective of self-sufficiency in building materials and construction industries enshrined in the Lagos Plan of Action is achieved;

6. Invites member States to take measures aimed at strengthening regional co-operation for the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

476 (XVIII). Development of cartographic services in Africa^{44/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa, 45/ held at Cairo, Egypt, from 28 February to 7 March 1983 and the resolutions adopted by the Conference,

Conscious of the urgent need to strengthen cartographic institutions in the member States as the services required of them constitute the bedrock for the exploration and inventorying of their national resources,

Noting with satisfaction that the resolutions of the aforementioned Conference are consistent with the tenets of the Monrovia Strategy 46/ for the Economic Development of Africa and the Lagos Plan of Action, 47/

Mindful of the crucial role which modern space geodesy plays in the accurate and rapid fixation of control points which are basic to the preparation of maps and charts and which in turn are the prerequisites for effective planning and execution of development projects,

44/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

45/ E/ECA/TPCW.4/6.

46/ Organization of African Unity, Council of Ministers resolution CM/Res. 722 (XXXIII).

47/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

Bearing in mind that United Nations regional cartographic conferences for Africa provide a forum for the transfer of the technology essential for the development of cartographic capabilities as well as for facilitating the exchange of experience including assisting the Economic Commission for Africa in the formulation of its programme of work,

1. Endorses the report of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the resolutions contained therein;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to convene the sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa in 1986 and requests the Economic and Social Council to establish systematic and effective collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa in order to provide budgetary backstopping in the organization of future regional cartographic conferences;

3. Invites member States which are yet to render their full support to the regional centres for cartography and remote sensing to do so, thereby justifying their faith in technical co-operation among African countries;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Collaborate with the African Association of Cartography to undertake an assessment of the training requirements of each member State in the various fields in cartography as recommended in resolution 6 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa;

(b) Publish a directory of cartographic training centres in Africa which would form a basis for possible regionalization of certain national cartographic centres;

5. Urges member States to give moral, political and material support to the African Doppler Survey project and to make available all relevant data at their disposal for the establishment of regional and subregional African geodetic data banks;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to encourage member States and interested bodies to give financial support to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing for the execution of the African Doppler Survey project;

7. Endorses in particular resolution 13 (V) of the fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa the declaration of a year for cartography in Africa, and accordingly declares 1986 as "The Year of Cartography in Africa",

8. Further requests the Executive Secretary to convene during 1983 a meeting of all regional and subregional organizations in Africa with responsibility for surveying, mapping and remote sensing matters with a view to harmonizing their structures so as to ensure their viability and effectiveness.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

477 (XVIII). Evaluation and harmonization of the activities of African multinational institutions sponsored by ECA and OAU 48/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos 49/ adopted by Heads of State and Government in April 1980 in Lagos, notably in chapter VIII,

Recalling also the importance which the Heads of State and Government attach to the role of African inter-governmental institutions in the implementation of the Plan and the Act,

Still believing that inter-governmental institutions constitute a conditio sine qua non for effective self-reliant development in the region,

Conscious that existing inter-governmental institutions face acute financial and other problems which constrain them from pursuing effectively the goals and objectives for which they were established,

Convinced that the harmonization and/or integration of these institutions could be more beneficial to African countries and better enable the Commission to lend to the institutions its effective support,

Having examined the document prepared by Nigeria on the subject 50/ and the associated recommendations prepared by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole at its fourth session, 51/

1. Thanks the Government of Nigeria for its initiative;
2. Decides to establish an ad hoc committee consisting of ten member States to be appointed by the Conference of Ministers on the principle of equitable geographical representation, assisted by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; to undertake an assessment of the objectives and operations of the various existing multinational institutions established under the aegis of the Commission and the Organization of African Unity with a view to making proposals as to their continued relevance and effectiveness and to advise on ways and means by which the activities may be better rationalized, co-ordinated, harmonized and/or integrated in accordance with paragraph 4 of its resolution 390 (XV) of 12 April 1980 and the instruction of the Heads of State and Government as contained in paragraph 264 (i) of the Lagos Plan of Action;
3. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit its report to the nineteenth session of the Commission and tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

48/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

49/ A/S-11/14, annexes I and II.

50/ E/ECA/TPCW.4/7.

51/ E/ECA/CM.9/28.

4. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to give every technical support to the Ad Hoc Committee;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to ensure that no new multinational institutions should be created unless their creation has been thoroughly examined and after the possibilities offered by national institutions, or existing multinational ones, have first been fully considered.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

478 (XVIII). Development of resources of the sea^{52/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 340 (XIV) of 27 March 1979,

Noting with satisfaction the resolution on the development of national marine science, technology and ocean services infrastructures adopted by the third Conference on the Law of the Sea at its 181st meeting on 30 April 1982,

Aware of the need for member States, in the light of the recently adopted Convention on the Law of the Sea, individually and collectively to move expeditiously in making provisions for the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea,

Welcoming the preparation of a medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and a programme budget for the bienniums 1982-1983 and 1984-1985 designed to undertake activities to assist member States in this regard,

1. Strongly urges member States to give high priority, individually and collectively, to the development, management and conservation of their resources of the sea;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, to assist member States in this regard;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary similarly to assist member States in the implementation of provisions of the Convention on the Law of the sea relating to land-locked States;

^{52/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

4. Appeals to the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all the financial and human resources needed with effect from January 1984 to enable the Commission to discharge fully its responsibilities as they relate to the resources of the sea programme during the medium-term plan period 1984-1989 and beyond.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

479 (XVIII). Strengthening of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres 53/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 335 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 and 418 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recalling further its resolution 450 (XVII) of 30 April 1982,

Noting with appreciation General Assembly resolution 37/138 of 17 December 1982,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the General Assembly for the support it has given to the Centres by allocating to them regular budget resources;
2. Appeals once more to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to render financial support to the operational activities of the Centres during the 1982-1986 programming cycle;
3. Urges member States to continue to pledge generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, earmarking part of their contributions for support to the Centres and to second staff at their own cost to the Centres on a short-term basis wherever feasible for the implementation of specific projects;
4. Urges the Executive Secretary to intensify his efforts to secure financial resources for operational activities of the Centres from other United Nations organizations and organs as well as from multinational and bilateral donors;
5. Further urges the Executive Secretary to speed up the implementation of resolution 335 (XIV) on the decentralization of the Commission staff from its headquarters to the Centres.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

53/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

480 (XVIII). Support to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development 54/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report on pledges and payments by member States and institutions and on project implementation and expenditure for the period 1981/1982 55/ as well as the report on resources required for the biennium 1984-1985, 56/

Recognizing the efforts made by the Executive Secretary in collection of pledged contributions,

Taking note of the results of the fourth Biennial Pledging Conference, 57/ and reaffirming its support for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development,

Appreciative of the goodwill of member States and African financial institutions as well as non-African Governments in contributing to the Fund,

1. Thanks these member States, African financial institutions and non-African Governments for their generous contributions to the Fund;
2. Appeals to those member States, African financial institutions and non-African Governments and financial institutions which have not contributed to the Fund to do so as soon as possible in order to provide the full measure of resources needed for the implementation of the high-priority work programme adopted by the Commission within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action; 58/
3. Appeals further to all contributors to the Fund to make prompt payment of their unpaid pledged contributions in order to ensure the implementation of the priority projects of the Commission;
4. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue to keep member States informed of the utilization of the resources of the Fund.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

54/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 316 above.

55/ E/ECA/CM.9/17 and summary.

56/ E/ECA/CM.9/16 and summary.

57/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 296 to 316 above.

58/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

481 (XVIII). Measures for accelerating the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African Least Developed Countries 59/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 397 (XV) of 12 April 1980 entrusting the Conference of Ministers of African least developed countries with the responsibility for ensuring the co-ordination of efforts, establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating progress under the Comprehensive New Programme of Action in African least developed countries,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/194 of 17 December 1981 endorsing the Substantial New Programme of Action for least developed countries adopted by the United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1981,

Taking note of the tremendous efforts made by the African least developed countries in the preparation of their respective country review meetings, especially in devising policies aimed at ensuring the successful implementation of their national programmes,

Expressing deep concern at the disappointing results of the second meeting of bilateral and multilateral financial and technical assistance institutions with least developed countries held in October 1982 in Geneva,

Noting that the review meetings so far organized have not totally met the expectations of the least developed countries, since the commitments made by donor countries, organizations and institutions have not fully matched the provisions of the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Recalling to that effect General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 which inter alia calls upon donor countries and institutions to implement their commitments, as contained in paragraphs 61 to 69 of the Substantial New Programme of Action, so as to achieve a substantial increase in resources for the development of least developed countries,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariats respectively on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in least developed countries, which underline the fact that there was no substantial increase in aid flows to African least developed countries in 1981-1982,

Further taking note of the Libreville Memorandum 60/ of February 1983 by the African Ministers of Trade on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in least developed countries, further endorsed by the preparatory meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires in April 1983,

59/ See chapter III, section C, paragraph 288 above.

60/ E/ECA/OAU/Trade/1.

Bearing in mind its resolution 457 (XVII) of 30 April 1982 on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action within the framework of national and collective self-reliance,

1. Reaffirms that the primary responsibility for development rests with the African least developed countries themselves and that external aid is only complementary to domestic efforts for the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and not a permanent source of support;
2. Calls upon African least developed countries to intensify their efforts in devising practical measures for mobilizing domestic resources for development and better economic management;
3. Strongly urges developed countries and those developing countries in a position to do so, multilateral development and financing institutions, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take immediate and concrete action to accelerate the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for 1980s for the least developed countries;
4. Calls particularly upon donor countries and institutions to implement their commitments with respect to aid flows especially the target of 0.15 per cent of the gross national product of donor countries for assistance to least developed countries and the doubling of resource flows to least developed countries by 1985;
5. Calls upon donor countries and institutions to take concrete actions to honour their respective commitments made during the country review meetings so far organized and those to be made in future review meetings in order to enable the countries concerned to implement their programmes in the most effective and expeditious ways;
6. Also calls upon donor countries and multilateral development and financial institutions urgently to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid to African least developed countries with a view to enabling them to use more effectively and expeditiously the resources made available to them;
7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to provide assistance to African least developed countries, in collaboration with the lead agencies, in all aspects of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action and in particular to assist (a) in undertaking, upon request by Governments, studies aimed at enabling the African least developed countries to mobilize domestic resources for development; (b) in establishing national follow-up mechanisms to the review meetings and monitoring of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action; and in general, to assist the least developed countries to attain a self-reliant and self-sustained economic growth and development;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to bring the contents of the present resolution to the attention of the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

482 (XVIII). First round of review meetings for the African least developed countries 61/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling paragraphs 110 to 116 of the Substantial New Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 recommending strongly that the first round of review meetings at the country level on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action should be completed by 1983,

Considering the experience that has so far been obtained from the review meetings that have been completed by six African least developed countries,

Aware that, with the additional five African countries that were admitted to the group of least developed countries by the General Assembly in resolution 37/133 of 17 December 1983 there are still 20 African least developed countries that have to organize review meetings,

Further aware that the clustering of review meetings to comply with the 1983 deadline will negatively affect their final results,

Noting with concern that the present declining trend in official development assistance to least developed countries is incompatible with the commitments undertaken in the Substantial New Programme of Action,

Convinced that review meetings should serve as a mechanism for reaching concrete decisions between the recipient least developed countries and the donor countries and agencies and not merely a forum for exchanging views on the development needs of individual least developed countries, particularly because of the importance which the least developed countries attach to these review meetings and the cost incurred in holding them,

1. Calls upon all the African least developed countries that still have to organize review meetings urgently to hold high-level consultations among themselves and with the lead agencies with a view to rescheduling and appropriately spacing their individual review meetings if necessary up to the end of 1984 but in any case before the 1985 mid-term review;

2. Calls upon the sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to recommend to the General Assembly the possibility of making special allowance for African least developed countries to organize their first round of review meetings beyond the time frame recommended in paragraph 114 of the Substantial New Programme of Action and in General Assembly resolution 37/224 of 20 December 1982 in the light of the outcome of the high level consultations;

3. Requests African least developed countries to ensure the establishment of an effective follow-up mechanism to the review meetings;

61/ See chapter III, section C, paragraph 288 above.

4. Urges the United Nations system to effectively co-ordinate activities for assisting African least developed countries in preparing review meetings so as to utilize fully the available resources of the various organizations of the United Nations system;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the lead agencies, to undertake periodically an assessment of the results and effectiveness of review meetings sometimes after they have taken place, and to undertake an overall assessment upon completion of the first round of review meetings;

6. Calls upon member States to ensure during the organization of their individual country review meetings the availability of well-identified projects wherever possible, and to take into effective consideration the regional dimensions of their programmes as provided for in the Substantial New Programme of Action;

7. Further calls upon the donor countries, organizations and institutions to ensure effective representation at the country review meetings so that concrete commitments and final decisions could be made;

8. Appeals to other developing countries in a position to do so to participate at appropriate levels at the country review meetings in conformity with the principles and objectives of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to draw the attention of the sixth session of that Conference to the contents of the present resolution during the discussion on agenda item 12.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

483 (XVIII). Activities of the secretariat^{62/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Welcoming the Commission's increasing involvement in efforts to solve the problems impeding the development of the African continent,

Noting with satisfaction the Executive Secretary's constant efforts to promote intra-African co-operation and economic integration and to Africanize the secretariat staff,

Considering the active role played by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and African delegations, who have encouraged the United Nations General Assembly to give all the necessary favourable consideration to requests for financial resources to implement the Commission's priority programmes,

^{62/} See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 289 to 295 above.

1. Takes the opportunity, on the occasion of the Commission's Silver Jubilee anniversary, to congratulate the Executive Secretary and his colleagues, to express its confidence in the dedicated work being undertaken and to urge them to continue their efforts in the service of Africa and the international community;

2. Thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his continued support to the Executive Secretary and the Commission and urges him to strengthen that support;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the African Group and the Group of 77 at the United Nations for their support for the Commission during United Nations General Assembly sessions;

4. Requests the Chairman of the eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference to transmit the present resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of States members of the Commission.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

484 (XVIII). Vote of thanks to the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia 63/

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply appreciative of the generous and genuinely African hospitality offered by the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia throughout the series of conferences held in the beautiful and historic city of Addis Ababa,

Deeply appreciative also of the facilities and services made available to the Economic Commission for Africa over the past 25 years, for all the meetings it has organized,

Aware of the fact that the services provided by the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for the holding of all the meetings in Addis Ababa provide a unique opportunity for the representatives of States members of the Commission and other organizations to exchange views on various aspects of Africa's economic and social situation and proposed measures to expedite Africa's development within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

1. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their warm hospitality and for the facilities and services that they so generously made available to the meetings and those who participated in them;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Socialist Ethiopia.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

485 (XVIII). Vote of thanks to the Heads of State and Government of Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Zaire, Botswana, Gabon, the Niger, and Swaziland and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations 64/

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting with profound appreciation the presence of distinguished Heads of State and Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Silver Jubilee of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the inspiring addresses of the distinguished Heads of State and Government and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and particularly their accurate analysis of the various factors which have impeded political, economic, social and cultural progress in Africa during the past 25 years,

Noting also with satisfaction their full awareness of past, present and future obstacles to the socio-economic development of the African continent and their reaffirmed commitment to concerted efforts to promote accelerated, self-reliant and self-sustaining growth in Africa within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to Their Excellencies the Rt. Hon. Daniel Arap Moi, M.P., President of the Republic of Kenya; Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia; General Juvenal Habyarimana, President of the Rwandese Republic and Founder-President of the Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement; Dr. Alex Ekwueme, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Citoyen Nzondomyo a'Dokpe Lingo, President of the Legislative Council of Zaire, Member of the Central Committee; Peter Mmusi, Vice-President of the Republic of Botswana; Leon Mebiame, Prime Minister of the Gabonese Republic; Oumarou Mamane, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Niger; Ben Ndzibanze, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland; and Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for gracing the Silver Jubilee Session of the Commission with their presence, for addressing the session and for participating in some of the major events in celebration of the Silver Jubilee;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present resolution to the Heads of State and Government of Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Zaire, Botswana, Gabon, the Niger and Swaziland and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

486 (XVIII). Vote of thanks to all African Governments, non-African Governments and Organizations 65/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 455 (XVII) on the Silver Jubilee anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the unprecedentedly large number of participants from African and non-African Governments as well as from organizations in the celebration of the Silver Jubilee and eighteenth session of the Commission and ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, their high level interventions and the generous contributions made by all towards the success of the Silver Jubilee and the session,

Noting with satisfaction the dedication of States members of the Commission to the total liberation of the continent as expressed to the Addis Ababa Declaration adopted on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee anniversary celebration of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,

1. Expresses its most sincere thanks to the Heads of State and Government who personally attended, addressed and participated in the Silver Jubilee session of the Commission;

2. Expresses also its most sincere thanks to all the other Heads of State, African and non-African and to the heads of all organizations who addressed messages of goodwill to the Economic Commission for Africa on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee session;

3. Desires to express to all member States its appreciation for the generous contributions that they have made at the national and at headquarters levels by issuing commemorative postage stamps, organizing events to celebrate the anniversary, placing at the disposal of the Commission their works of art, films and, in some cases sending their folk dance groups and football teams to Addis Ababa to enhance the events marking the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee anniversary;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue to extend its moral and financial support to the Economic Commission for Africa;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present resolution and the Addis Ababa Declaration on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee anniversary celebration of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to all States members of the Commission, to organizations and to the international community.

229th meeting,
2 May 1983.

65/ See chapter III, section C, paragraph 324 above.

CHAPTER V. ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

We, the representatives of the States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, acting for and on behalf of all the peoples of Africa, assembled at the headquarters of the Commission from 27 April to 2 May 1983 on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee anniversary of the establishment of the Commission, now solemnly declare on this day, 29 April 1983, as follows:

1. We reaffirm our faith in and total commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as enshrined in Chapter I, Article, of its Charter, namely, to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace; and to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.
2. We also reaffirm our faith in the purposes of the Organization of African Unity as enshrined in Article II of its Charter in particular to promote the unity and solidarity of the African States; to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence; and to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa.
3. We dedicate ourselves and our peoples to the pursuit of the total liberation of our continent and in this regard, uphold the inalienable right of the Namibian people to immediate nationhood and abhor the obstinate refusal of the racist regime in South Africa to withdraw its unlawful presence from the Territory and abide by the resolutions, decisions and opinions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice. We denounce the introduction of the linkage proposal which has become the obstacle to the solution of the Namibian problem. We equally denounce the inhuman oppression of the South African people by the Pretoria regime, manifested in its obnoxious policy of apartheid and resolve severally and collectively on behalf of our peoples and ourselves to continue to mobilize all resources at our disposal so that the people of Namibia may be free and majority rule may be established in South Africa.
4. We recall General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order.
5. We also recall the Economic Declaration of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned Countries at New Delhi, India, in March 1983.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa including the Final Act of Lagos adopted by our Heads of State and Government at their Economic Summit held in Lagos, Nigeria, on 28 and 29 April 1980.
7. We pledge to continue to pursue the objectives of international co-operation enumerated in Chapter I, Article I, and Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations which are reflected and amplified in the terms of reference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 1/ and reaffirm our support for General Assembly resolutions 32/197 2/ of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 3/ on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system.
8. We note with satisfaction that, Africa has, during the past twenty-five years, made noteworthy progress in various aspects of economic and social development, despite all forms of exploitation and domination of which it has been a victim.
9. We fully appreciate in this context the role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa which continues to conduct in-depth social and economic analyses of the conditions in the continent with a view to highlighting achievements and problems and proposing policies for dealing with them. It has also provided a vigorous forum for the exchange of ideas on the international economic and social situation and for pronouncing common statements on international issues in the interest of the continent as well as for formulating regional development strategies and plans of action for their implementation. As a catalyst for developing awareness of the important role of regional co-operation and integration as an imperative means of fostering development and economic growth in the region, it has spared no effort to foster the creation of multinational co-operation groupings at the subregional and regional levels and the establishment of regional and sub-regional institutions to promote economic and technical co-operation at the sectoral level.
10. We fully appreciate also the role played over the years by the international community which, through bilateral and multilateral co-operation arrangements, particularly among developing countries, and the United Nations system activities, has increasingly expressed its support for African countries in their quest for self-reliant and self-sustaining development and provided financial and technical assistance in various forms.
11. We note with serious concern that, in spite of the achievements, there have been adverse trends and disturbing setbacks manifested in devastating crises which are now afflicting our continent, namely, chronic food deficits, pernicious drought which is now spreading throughout many countries of the continent, natural disasters, high costs of imports, particularly manufactured goods, capital goods and energy, deteriorating terms of trade with the consequential chronic balance-of-payments deficits, mounting external debts and problems of economic management.

1/ E/CN.14/111/Rev.8.

2/ General Assembly Official Records: Thirty-second session, Supplement No. 45 (A/32/45).

3/ General Assembly, Official Records: Thirty-third session, Supplement No. 45 (A/33/45).

12. We also note with concern that these disturbing features of our economies derive from several factors: namely, the erroneous belief that development and economic growth depended mostly on external demand and supply factors; the consequent neglect of the development of adequate indigenous entrepreneurs, high-level manpower, and national, subregional and regional markets; and inappropriate agricultural and industrial policies.

13. We are gravely concerned that if past and present domestic and external trends and policies continue, our continent in the year 2008, when the Commission would be celebrating its Golden Jubilee, would, as reported in the study entitled "ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2008" ^{4/} have worse crises of food and energy shortages and of balance-of-payments deficits; and most of the factor inputs of the region would be coming from abroad, implying that our continent by the year 2008 would be highly marginalized.

14. We solemnly resolve to implement the goals, objectives and philosophy of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, in the full understanding that the burden of developing our economies for the purpose of continuously raising the standards of living of our peoples rest on our Governments and our peoples.

15. We however call upon the international community, through the United Nations General Assembly, to support this endeavour by providing the necessary moral, technical and financial support to the efforts of African countries in their faithful implementation of the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, in accordance with the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. In this context, we make an urgent appeal for the immediate initiation of the proposed global negotiations as part of the continuing efforts to restructure the international economic and social system and establish an equitable new international economic and social order. We also urge that, in any such restructuring exercise, full account should be taken of the special circumstances of the African continent and in particular the fact that twenty-six of the fifty independent African countries are classified as least developed, and, together with others, are also classified as food-deficit and most seriously affected countries.

16. We similarly appeal to the developed countries to increase their official development assistance to the developing countries to the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product and more specifically to earmark 0.15 per cent of their gross national product for aid to the least developed countries and urge the developed countries, multinational agencies and other concerned bodies to implement the measures adopted in the Substantial New Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries.

17. We call upon the United Nations specialized agencies and African inter-governmental organizations at all levels to take into account, when reordering their priorities and redesigning their programme of work, the goals, objectives and principles of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and to provide technical backstopping and, where appropriate, increased financial assistance to member States in their efforts to implement the goals and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and in this context to co-operate closely with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity in the areas of:

- Food and agriculture with a view to achieving food self-sufficiency and security in the region;
- Transport and communications with a view to achieving the objective of a physically integrated continent;
- Human resources development and utilization leading to self-sufficiency in the supply of middle- and high-level manpower;
- Industry with the objective of achieving the goals and objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;
- Trade and finance in the framework of increasing intra-African trade and finance co-operation;
- Science and technology in order to reinforce the transfer, development and adaptation of appropriate technologies for development in the region;
- Natural resources with the objective of full knowledge and better exploration, development and utilization of natural resources;
- Economic co-operation and integration for collective self-reliance.

18. We appeal to all the groups concerned, to ensure the success of the forthcoming sixth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development bearing in mind that no single country or group of countries, however powerful, is in a position to pull out single-handedly the world economy from the present crisis and put it on a healthy course of recovery of growth and development.

19. We call upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to intensify his efforts to popularize the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, to monitor and evaluate systematically progress in the implementation of the Plan and the Act.

20. Finally, we hereby affirm our confidence in the Economic Commission for Africa, resolve to increase our support to it and pledge anew our commitment to make fuller use of it in our economic negotiations with the international community, as one of our principal organs for research, data collection and dissemination of information, for promoting economic and technical co-operation within Africa and between Africa and the other regions of the world, and as our

regional think-tank in mapping African economic and social development. We also call upon the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give adequate material and financial resources to the Commission.

21. We make this solemn Declaration in the belief that, when our Governments and peoples, in full partnership with the international community, assemble to celebrate the Commission's Golden Jubilee in the year 2008, we would have succeeded in establishing at the national level, subregional and regional levels in Africa truly dynamic, prosperous, self-reliant and interdependent economies capable of functioning as true and reliable partners in the international economic system within the context of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos.

Done at Addis Ababa this twenty-ninth day of April 1983.

ANNEX I

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE^{1/}

A. Resolution 462 (XVIII)

Under the terms of paragraph 7 of resolution 462 (XVIII) the Conference of Ministers requests the Commission to carry out, in close collaboration with FAO and other United Nations specialized agencies, a study on the apparent discrepancy between the increasing allocation of resources to food and agricultural programmes in the face of decreasing production, for submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

The collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies would involve close contacts, among others, with FAO, IFAD, WFC, UNCTAD, ILO and OAU, and African Governments and national institutions as well as regional and subregional inter-governmental organizations. It is envisaged that the activities to be undertaken for the study will involve, with the aid of consultants, field missions to countries of the region. ECA would be responsible for the basic report of the study which will incorporate all the various inputs from the other organizations and institutions.

The report will contain basic information on the allocation and utilization of resources for food and agricultural development; an appraisal of investments in the agricultural sector and their utilization; analyses of the correlation between investments in the agricultural sector and agricultural production and the constraints to increased agricultural production in relation to increased investments; as well as advice and recommendations on ways and means for improving the control and follow-up of resources for agricultural development in order to improve the impact on food and agricultural development in the countries in the region.

The related costs are estimated at \$180,000, broken down as follows:

Consultancy services:

Fees: 12 work/months	60 000.00
Travel on mission (6 months)	20 000.00
ECA <u>per diem</u>	40 000.00
ECA and FAO backstopping (including travel):	30 000.00
Research assistant	10 000.00
Secretarial support staff	10 000.00
Stationery and equipment	<u>10 000.00</u>
	180 000.00
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^{1/} All figures are expressed in United States dollars.

B. Resolution 463 (XVIII)

Under the terms of paragraph 2 of the resolution 463 (XVIII), the Conference of Ministers requests the Commission, in close collaboration with FAO and other specialized agencies, to carry out perspective studies in the livestock sector evaluate progress and work out a specific approach to the development of the sector in order to increase its contribution to food and agriculture production.

In conducting the study, ECA will work in close contact, among others, with FAO, ILCA, IBAR, African Governments and national institutions; regional and subregional inter-governmental organizations. The ECA will be responsible for the basic report of the study which will incorporate all the various inputs from other organizations and institutions. It is envisaged that the activities to be undertaken for the study will involve field missions to countries of each MULPOC.

The report will contain prospects, constraints to, strategies and policies of livestock research and development at the level of each MULPOC and will make recommendations on specific approach for effective improvement of the performance of the livestock sector.

The related costs are estimated at \$300,000 over two years as follows:

Mission cost	270 000
Administrative support	20 000
Stationery and equipment	<u>10 000</u>
	300 000
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C. Resolutions 464 (XVIII) and 465 (XVIII)

By resolution 464 (XVIII) the Conference recommended the organization, during the second half of 1983, of a fifth consultative technical meeting for the countries of North Africa, East Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean. The meeting will be held from 11 to 14 October 1983.

In view of the satisfactory results of the four consultative technical meetings held so far (Lome, Togo; Ouagadougou, the Upper Volta; Yaounde, the United Republic of Cameroon; and Abidjan, the Ivory Coast;) the Conference considered it necessary to repeat this experience for the programme of the second phase also. Therefore, it recommended in paragraph 5 of resolution 464 (XVIII) that four consultative technical meetings be organized in 1984-1985 on broadcasting, air transport, postal services and railways.

The Conference also considered that the programme of the first and the second phase of the Decade should be harmonized and co-ordinated so as to avoid duplication. Particular attention ought to be paid to manpower problems and problems of land-locked countries. Training of qualified personnel should go hand in hand with the development of transport and communications infrastructures.

In paragraph 9 the Conference accordingly requested the Secretary-General to provide ECA with sufficient resources to enable it to fulfil all the tasks assigned to it.

By resolution 465 (XVIII) the Conference considered that the best solution to the problem of the freedoms of the air would be to call a conference of all interested parties to discuss the issue. In paragraph 2, it therefore recommended that such a conference be organized in 1984.

The financial implications of resolutions 464 (XVIII) and 465 (XVIII) for the years 1984-1985 are as follows:

Resolution 464 (XVIII)

1. Organization of consultative technical meetings

A. Broadcasting

The meeting will take place from 5 to 7 June 1984 at Port Louis, Mauritius.

Preparation of documents	50 600
Preparatory work and documentation	31 000
Organization of meetings	3 500
In-session costs	<u>60 000</u>
Total	145 100

B. Air transport

The meeting will take place from 21 to 23 November 1984 at Brazzaville, the Congo.

Preparation of documents	56 900
Preparatory work and documentation	37 000
Organization of meetings	4 000
In-session costs	<u>56 500</u>
Total	154 400

C. Postal services

The meeting will take place in May 1985 at Maputo, Mozambique.

Preparation of documents	54 900
Preparatory work and documentation	35 000
Organization of meetings	4 000
In-session costs	64 000
Total	<u>157 900</u>

D. Railways

The meeting will take place in October 1985 at Blantyre, Malawi.

Preparation of documents	56 900
Preparatory work and documentation	37 000
Organization of meetings	4 000
In-session costs	60 500
Total	<u>158 400</u>

2. Studies on harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications

The total estimated cost of the proposed study for an African Highway Master Plan is \$1,249,440 (for 1984-1985).

3. Study on manpower needs for all modes of transport and communications

(a) Manpower and training survey in transport for Africa

Fees	849 000
DSA	475 440
Travel	100 000
Production of report	75 000
General temporary assistance	76 000
	<u>1 575 440</u>
10 per cent contingency	157 544
Total	<u>1 732 984</u>

(b) Manpower and training survey in communications for Africa

Fees	300 000
DSA	168 000
Fee for Co-ordinator	150 000
DSA for Co-ordinator	13 440
Travel for all	60 000

General temporary assistance	64 000
Reproduction	15 000
Contingency	<u>50 000</u>
Total	820 440

Total for survey (1984-1985)

Transport	1 732 984
Communications	<u>820 440</u>
	2 553 424

4. Priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked countries

For this programme the services of two consultants are required for three months each.

Fees	24 000
DSA	12 000
Travel	10 000
Translation	16 000
Reproduction	7 000
General temporary assistance	4 500
Supplies and materials	<u>1 500</u>
	75 000

5. Organizations of the fourth Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

At the moment the only cost projections that can be made is for interpreters, estimated at \$36,899. Other estimates can be furnished only after discussions with the Guinean authorities.

Resolution 465 (XVIII)

The documents for the Conference will be prepared by ECA in collaboration with OAU, AFCAC and AFRAA with the assistance of two consultants for three months each.

Fees	24 000
DSA	12 600
Travel	12 000
Translation	20 000
General temporary assistance	4 000
Travel ECA staff	3 600
Reproduction	5 000
Organization of the conference	<u>52 976</u>
Total	134 176

D. Resolution 473 (XVIII)

Paragraph 1 of the resolution requests the Executive Secretary to organize a special scientific round table to which all States members of the Commission will be invited. The round table would consist of experts on climate, land, water and soil resources, ecology and the environment and will be drawn from:

- (a) National experts from interested invited member States;
- (b) International experts in the above fields from outside Africa.

In organizing the scientific round table, ECA will collaborate closely with WMO, UNEP, UNSO, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP, OAU and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, to analyse available climatic data on African countries with a view to discovering the trends in and periodicity of drought. It would be necessary to carry out missions to selected African countries in different climatic zones to collect additional data on climatic variability over several decades from local meteorological records.

The estimated cost of organizing the scientific round table will be as follows:

I. Participants and consultants

5 man/months of consultancy service to 15 selected African countries in different climatic zones	75 000
Travel to and DSA at Addis Ababa for 30 national experts from States members of the Commission (estimates)	50 000
Travel to and DSA at Addis Ababa for 10 international experts (world-wide) (estimates)	29 900

II. Conference services

6 sets of interpreters, two English, two French, two Arabic: estimates for travel, DSA and fees	25 800
Local transportation	<u>3 000</u>
Total	183 700

The meeting will be held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, unless a member State offers to host the meetings from 13 to 18 February 1984 (tentative dates).

E. Resolution 478 (XVIII)

By this resolution the Conference of Ministers asked the Executive Secretary of ECA, in co-operation with the Secretary-General of OAU and international organizations, to assist member States with their resources of the sea programmes. It was also noted that, since 1978, when the resources of the sea subprogramme was first approved by the General Assembly, no resources have been provided up to the end of 1983 for the implementation of the programme. It therefore appealed to the General Assembly to provide ECA with financial and human resources needed for the implementation of the subprogramme during the 1984-1989 medium-term plan and beyond.

The financial implications of this resolution for the 1984-1985 biennium would be as follows:

Salaries: (at 1983 rates per standard cost version 2a)

P-5 50 per cent of 51,500 = 25,750

P-4 50 per cent of 44,500 = 22,250

48,000 per year x 2 years = 96,000.00

Common staff costs

P-5 50 per cent of 25,800 = 12,900

P-4 50 per cent of 22,300 = 11,150

24,050 per year x 2 years = 48,100.00

Consultants

7,400.00

Travel of staff

10,000.00

Total

161,500.00

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ANNEX II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING
THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

Body and officers	Meetings or sessions	Document symbol
<u>Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment</u>	Third meeting of the Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and first meeting of the Joint Inter-governmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment Addis Ababa 28 June-2 July 1982	E/ECA/HUS/ENV/1
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Mustafa Nyang'anyi (United Republic of Tanzania)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Ms. Lebohang Letsie (Botswana)		
<u>Follow-up Committee (of the Whole) on Industrialization in Africa</u>	Seventh meeting Kigali (Rwanda) 16-19 March 1983	E/ECA/INR/3
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Mathieu Ngiriva (Rwanda)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Dzikamai Mvhaire (Zimbabwe)		
<u>Inter-governmental Committee Experts of African Least Developed Countries</u>	Third meeting Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) 11-13 April 1983	E/ECA/LDCs.3/6/Rev.1
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Mersie Ejigu (Ethiopia)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Francis E. Karemo (Sierra Leone)		

Body and officers	Meetings or sessions	Document symbols
<u>Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries</u>	Third meeting Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) 25-26 April 1983	E/ECA/CM.9/29
<u>Chairman:</u>		
Mr. Wollie Chekol (Ethiopia)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u>		
Mr. Francias E. Karemo (Sierra Leone)		
<u>Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning</u>	Third meeting Cairo (Egypt) 8-11 March 1983	E/ECA/CM.9/26
<u>Chairman:</u>		
Mr. Soliman Metwalli (Egypt)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u>		
Mr. Maurice A. Mayombe (Gabon)		
<u>Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole</u>	Fourth meeting Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) 14-22 April 1983	E/ECA/CM.9/28
<u>Chairman:</u>		
Mr. Mersie Ejigu (Ethiopia)		
<u>Rapporteur:</u>		
Mr. A.D.J. Blankson (Nigeria)		

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- E/ECA/CM.9/1 Joint progress report by the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary
- E/ECA/CM.9/2 Provisional agenda of the ninth meeting of the Conference of Ministers
- E/ECA/CM.9/3 Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1984-1985 (including MULPOCs' substantive programme of work)
- E/ECA/CM.9/4 Status and constraints in human resources development in Africa
- E/ECA/CM.9/5 Survey of socio-economic conditions in Africa: 1981-1982
- E/ECA/CM.9/6 Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990: Progress report
- E/ECA/CM.9/7 United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Progress report on phase I, 1980-1983
- E/ECA/CM.9/8 United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: Draft programme for phase II, 1984-1988
- F/ECA/CM.9/9 Establishment of an African Monetary Fund: Progress report
- E/ECA/CM.9/10 Regional and subregional economic and technical co-operation and integration: Progress report
- E/ECA/CM.9/11 Statistical support for development in Africa: Issues, progress and problems
- E/ECA/CM.9/12 Africa and current international economic negotiations
- E/ECA/CM.9/13 Preparatory activities for the International Youth Year
- E/ECA/CM.9/14 Third Conference of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored Institutions: Issues and recommendations
- E/ECA/CM.9/15 Situation of food and agriculture in Africa
- E/ECA/CM.9/16 United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: Projects for funding in the biennium 1984-1985
- E/ECA/CM.9/17 United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: Report on the utilization of pledges for 1981 and 1982

- E/ECA/CM.9/18 Implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1982-1983
- E/ECA/CM.9/19 Negotiation on the Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations
- E/ECA/CM.9/20 A review of socio-economic development in Africa, 1958-1983
- E/ECA/CM.9/21 Contributions by ECA-sponsored institutions to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos
- E/ECA/CM.9/22 Interregional economic and technical co-operation
- E/ECA/CM.9/23 ECA and Africa's development, 1983-2000: A preliminary perspective study
- E/ECA/CM.9/24 Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, that are of interest to the Commission
- E/ECA/CM.9/25 Personnel and administrative questions
- E/ECA/CM.9/26 Report of the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning
- E/ECA/CM.9/27 Report of the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa
- E/ECA/CM.9/28 Report of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on its fourth meeting
- E/ECA/CM.9/29 Report of the third meeting of the Conference of African Least Developed Countries.

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