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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Transport and Communications Decade in Africa  
Report of the Secretary-General

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OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its second regular sessions of 1979 and 1980, the Economic and Social Council took cognizance of the actions taken and activities carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) since 1978, in collaboration with the specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations, for the promotion of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and its programme of action for the first phase of the Decade, 1980-1983. It also took note of the following stages in the implementation of the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and their results:

(a) Adoption of the global strategy for the implementation of the programme for the Decade and of criteria for the selection of projects;

(b) Programme of action for the first phase of the Decade, consisting of 771 projects totalling \$US 9 billion;

(c) Results of the Pledging Conference for the Decade, held at United Nations Headquarters on 20 November 1979, and lessons to be drawn from the implementation of the programme for the Decade and for the role to be played by ECA;

(d) Ad hoc efforts by ECA in the search for and mobilization of funds;

(e) Implementation of an information mechanism to monitor the progress of the Decade;

(f) Concerns of ECA in the implementation of regional and subregional projects, as well as the financing of 221 specific studies planned for the first phase (1980-1983), whose completion before 1983-1984 would contribute to the uninterrupted progress of the programme for the Decade.

2. The Council took note of the global strategy for the implementation of the programme for the Decade and the programme of action for the first phase of the Decade (E/1979/77, parts II and V) in its resolution 1979/61 of 3 August 1979. Likewise, it anticipated the concerns of ECA by approving in substance, in resolution 1980/46 of 23 July 1980, the organization of technical consultative meetings between member States and donors. Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/46 of 23 July 1980 was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 35/108 of 5 December 1980; at the same time, the Assembly agreed to give ECA financial support in the amount of \$US 250,000 for the preparation and organization of those meetings. Such support seemed essential, since financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for basic activities related to the implementation of the programme for the Decade would reach \$US 2.165 billion at the end of 1981; that amount, which had been set as a ceiling, was not considered adequate to cover the real costs of the preparation and holding of the technical consultative meetings planned for the biennium 1981-1982.

3. The present report records the events in chronological order which have marked the Decade since July 1980, as well as action taken and progress made. It can be divided into five major sections, covering:

- (a) The 3rd and 4th meetings of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade;
- (b) The 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and preparation of the programme for the second phase of the Decade, 1984-1988;
- (c) The 7th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA;
- (d) Preparation of the technical consultative meetings between member States and donors:
  - (i) Results of the meeting held at Lomé;
  - (ii) Preparation of the meetings to be held at Yaoundé, Abidjan and Ouagadougou;
- (e) An analysis of the over-all results of the implementation of the programme for the Decade.

4. Before considering those points per se, mention should be made of some other activities that occurred during that period in connexion with the implementation of the programme for the Decade.

5. The Economic Commission for Africa participated in the Pledging Conference held by the nine countries of the South Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) at Maputo on 28 and 29 November 1980 in support of the transport and communication projects undertaken by the countries concerned, namely, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The programme submitted by SADCC to the donors, costing \$US 1.9 billion, covered 96 transport and communication projects, 29 of which had already been included in the programme for the first phase of the Decade. The total pledges made at the Conference amounted to \$US 650 million.

6. The African Diplomatic Conference on Air Tariffs was held at the headquarters of the African Civil Aviation Conference (AFCAC) at Addis Ababa from 5 to 12 December 1980, in accordance with resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.79/7 (see E/1979/77, part VI), adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its first session. Pursuant to that resolution, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Monrovia from 6 to 20 July 1979, adopted resolution CM/Res.739 (XXXIII) (see A/34/552, annex I) requesting AFCAC to take, in close collaboration with the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), ECA and OAU, the necessary measures to organize and establish an African Air Tariff Conference, a permanent body responsible for studying and setting the air tariffs to be applied by African airlines.

7. In accordance with the provisions of resolution CM/Res.739 (XXXIII), a meeting was held at AFCAC headquarters in March 1980, at which the representatives of AFCAC, OAU, ECA and AFRAA considered the principles on which the African Air Tariff

Conference would be founded. According to the participants in that meeting, the African Air Tariff Conference was warranted by the importance the States members of OAU attached to finding a solution, through the relevant African institutions, to the problems currently of concern to aviation authorities owing to the disturbing world economic situation and the effects of deregulation on air transport regulations.

8. Following the submission of the report to the OAU Council of Ministers at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Freetown from 18 to 28 June 1980, the Council adopted resolution CM/Res.805 (XXXV) (see A/35/463 and Corr.1, annex I), requesting the convocation of a diplomatic conference on the establishment of an African Air Tariff Conference.

9. At the African Diplomatic Conference on Air Tariffs, a Convention was adopted establishing the African Air Tariff Conference. The Convention, which was signed by plenipotentiaries, was opened for ratification and would enter into force on the thirtieth day following deposit of the twenty-fifth instrument of ratification or approval.

10. The Third African Telecommunications Conference took place at Monrovia from 8 to 18 December 1980. It dealt primarily with the Pan-African Telecommunication Network (PANAFTEL) and concluded that, at the end of the first phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 30,000 km of high-performance transmission lines, of which 20,000 were already in operation, would be available, together with 16 additional international telephone exchanges and 31 international telex exchanges.

11. The countries comprising Concerted Action for Development in Africa (CADA) were Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

12. At its Round Table, held at Brussels on 17 December 1980, the group confirmed its intention of making development and co-operation assistance funds in Africa available to the six countries for projects with a regional impact. Its prime objectives were:

(a) Over-all completion of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway (lead country: Belgium);

(b) Rehabilitation, development and upgrading of the rail systems of the southern African countries members of SADO in accordance with the programme submitted to the Maputo Pledging Conference (lead country: Federal Republic of Germany).

13. The CADA countries welcomed the establishment, under the auspices of ECA in July and December 1980, of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway Authority, officially instituted at Bangui on 23 February 1981. The Authority would be in a good position to promote the rapid completion of the Trans-African Highway.

II. MEETINGS OF THE INTERAGENCY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE  
ON THE DECADE

A. Third meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating  
Committee on the Decade

14. The 3rd meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade was held at Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 October 1980. The meeting was attended by 22 participants from organizations of the United Nations system and African intergovernmental organizations for the purpose of:

(a) Taking stock of progress made in the programme of action of the Decade and updating information gathered by ECA with respect to projects which were being implemented or had been completed by the United Nations specialized agencies and by African intergovernmental organizations;

(b) Establishing an ECA information mechanism;

(c) Designating Decade projects suitable for funding by UNDP in the context of its third programming cycle, 1982-1986;

(d) Eliciting suggestions on the first technical consultative meetings to be organized pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/46 and General Assembly resolution 35/108;

(e) Distributing assignments for the preparation of the 2nd meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to be held in March 1981. In that connexion, participants suggested that the second session might be a good opportunity to update the programme of action of the first phase of the Decade in conformity with paragraph 113 of the global strategy for the Decade (E/1979/77, part II). The exercise would consist of the reclassification of some projects, identification of others and the consequent recasting of the programme of action for the first phase of the Decade (E/1979/77, part V).

15. Efforts were made at the meeting to co-ordinate and harmonize studies conducted on the regional satellite communications systems by the African Posts and Telecommunications Union, with its headquarters at Brazzaville, the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, based at Kinshasa and finally the ITU/ECA/OAU/UNESCO group, whose study costing \$US 750,000 was financed by the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit). Negotiations were currently under way to work out a single project at the regional level as recommended by resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES/81/17, one of the resolutions adopted by the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

B. Fourth meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating  
Committee on the Decade

16. The 4th meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade, which was attended by the same number of participants as the 3rd meeting plus seven observers, was convened by ECA at Addis Ababa on 9 and 10 March 1981 to prepare the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

17. The Committee studied the documents prepared by ECA, made amendments and provided complementary information on the progress of projects executed by bodies of the United Nations and OAU as well as by some African intergovernmental organizations (the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African and Mauritian Common Organization), described in document E/CN.14/TRANS/167.

18. As the basic objective of the 4th meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade was the preparation of the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, the agenda of the two meetings were similar. All the documents prepared by ECA for the Conference of Ministers were first submitted to the 4th meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for initial consideration and recommendations.

19. As lead agency for the Decade, ECA was responsible for the preparation of documents for submission to the Conference of Ministers. Those documents were subsequently refined by additions and comments made by members of the Co-ordinating Committee. The Committee considered the following documents submitted to it by ECA:

(a) Report on the implementation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

(b) Measures to be taken to establish an information exchange for monitoring the implementation of the programme;

(c) Updating of the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

(d) Search for additional sources of financing for the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

(e) Arrangements for the preparation of the programme for the second phase, 1984-1988.

20. After completing its discussions, the Committee took note of the following:

(a) The priority accorded by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to the development and establishment of civil aviation training schools (flight personnel, pilots, mechanics), such as the school at Addis Ababa with instruction in English, the newly established Franceville-Mvenque centre with instruction in French, the African School of Meteorology and Civil Aviation of Niamey and the Soroti Flying School in Uganda;

(b) The programme for the construction and maintenance of priority secondary roads in the Sahel covering 3,260 km and executed by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. The total cost for studies would be \$US 1 million, which had been acquired; construction and maintenance would cost \$US 140.7 million, of which \$US 92 million had been mobilized from various sources (the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Development Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, the Canadian International Development Agency, the African Development Bank, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The contributions of interested countries (Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta) totalled about \$7.4 million;

(c) The advisability of integrating the transport and communications projects of the SADCC programme and the Kagera River Basin Organization programme into the programme for the Decade;

(d) Proposals to modify projects and create new projects for the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries which would have to be taken into account when the time came to recast the programme of action for the first phase of the Decade (E/1979/77, part V);

(e) The proposal to designate 1983 as World Communications Year, with the International Telecommunication Union acting as lead agency and entrusted with obtaining financial contributions from African States to carry out preparatory activities for the World Year and with promoting in particular the PANAFTEL projects contained in the programme for the Decade.

21. The report of the Committee on its 4th meeting was contained in document E/CN.14/TRANS/167.

### III. SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

#### A. Organizational matters

22. The 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held at Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 March 1981, took stock of the progress made in the implementation of the programme for the Decade and gave the programme a new direction with respect to the global strategy defined in document E/1979/77, part II. The report of the meeting was contained in document E/CN.14/812. The large number of participants, consisting of representatives of 43 African countries, 20 specialized agencies of the United Nations and OAU and intergovernmental organizations, was proof of the interest aroused by the Transport and Communications Decade as a vital and dynamic initiative.

23. The meeting was preceded by the following preparatory meetings:

(a) Fourth meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade on 9 and 10 March 1981;

/...



(b) Meeting of African Intergovernmental Experts held from 9 to 15 March 1981.

24. The agenda, which was the same for the two preliminary meetings, consisted of:

(a) Report on the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

(b) Measures to be taken to establish an information exchange for monitoring the implementation of the programme for the Decade;

(c) Search for additional sources of financing for the first phase of the programme, 1980-1983;

(d) Preparation of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

(e) Updating of the first phase of the programme for the Decade;

(f) Arrangements for the preparation of the programme for the second phase of the Decade, 1984-1988.

25. The agenda of the Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts also included consideration of the report of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee (E/CN.14/TRANS/167, of 11 March 1981). In addition the meeting was to consider in substance:

(a) Freedoms of the air pursuant to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.79/6 adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in May 1979 (see E/1979/77, part VI);

(b) The Convention that emerged from the Diplomatic Conference on Air Tariffs, which meet at Addis Ababa in December 1980 and whose establishment was the subject of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.79/7, which was also adopted in May 1979 by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

(c) World Communications Year (1983) and the financial implications of its implementation;

(d) The advisability or the necessity of co-ordinating studies on a regional satellite communications system.

26. The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning considered the report submitted by the experts and the reports of the two committees prepared by the experts, one on transport sectors and the other on communication sectors. Prior to consideration of those reports, the Ministers turned to an important item of the agenda, the general debate, during which 26 delegations of member States reported on the implementation of the programme for the Decade at the national level and on problems they had encountered.

## B. Topics discussed

27. The topics considered and the positions which emerged from the debate can be summarized as follows:

### 1. Implementation of the programme for the Decade

28. According to ECA, by the end of 1980 about 120 projects (44 of them specific studies) had been financed, at a cost of approximately \$US 3.25 billion. From the remarks made by the representatives of 26 countries on progress made in the programme for the Decade at the national, subregional and regional levels, it seemed that there were many more projects being implemented than ECA was aware of and that efforts made by African countries with their own resources were poorly or insufficiently known. The information mechanism being set up by ECA in accordance with resolution 391 (XV) of April 1980 1/ should remedy that situation (see annexes I and II below).

29. Moreover it was noted, as indicated by the experts, that national projects had moved ahead of other priorities mainly as a result of the structure and the limitations for the implementation of the programme for the Decade which were decided on at the Pledging Conference held in New York on 20 November 1979 (project implementation solely on the basis of bilateral and multinational agreements).

30. There was a favourable response to the matters raised by ECA on the economic viability of projects and project admissibility. Moreover, the proposal made by the experts to define the role of ECA and its future participation more carefully was agreed to by the Conference and incorporated in resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/12.

### 2. ECA information mechanism

31. The mechanism recommended by the ECA Conference of Ministers in its resolution 391 (XV) 1/ was deemed entirely suitable for monitoring the progress of the Decade. Its significance was underscored in paragraph 6 of the resolution. Questionnaires had been drawn up for the use of African States, donor countries and funding agencies.

### 3. Search for additional funding

32. The ECA Conference of Ministers in its resolution 391 (XV), proposed new approaches for mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of the Decade programme. The Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning agreed to the ECA approach to obtaining financing for the Decade through the holding of technical consultative meetings between member States and donors.

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 7 (E/1980/27), part II, sect. D.

33. The Conference decided to hold initially the following four meetings:

(a) Meeting to be held at Lomé from 8 to 11 June for the 16 ECOWAS countries to discuss roads, road transport, air transport, telecommunications, postal services;

(b) Meeting to be held at Yaoundé from 28 to 30 September 1981 for the 10 Central African States to discuss roads, road transport and inland waterways transport;

(c) Meeting to be held at Abidjan from 27 to 30 November for the 25 countries belonging to the Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on maritime transport to discuss maritime transport and ports;

(d) Meeting to be held at Ouagadougou from 20 to 23 January 1982 to discuss railway projects throughout the African region.

34. Nevertheless, the Conference considered that:

(a) The Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank (ADB), OAU and the specialized agencies of OAU and the United Nations should continue their respective activities in the search for financing (resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/12, para. 3);

(b) African countries should express stronger interest in the Decade at the pledging conferences for development activities organized each November by the United Nations in New York (resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/15).

#### 4. Updating of the programme for the first phase of the Decade

35. Specifically provided for in paragraph 113 of the global strategy, the updating of the programme for the Decade was deemed expedient and even necessary by both the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee and the experts of the Conference. In this respect, the latter endorsed the proposals made by the Co-ordinating Committee in its report (E/CN.14/TRANS/167). Since several delegations had announced new projects despite the note of caution sounded by the Executive Secretary of ECA at the Meeting of Experts, it was agreed that all proposals on updating the 1980-1983 programme should be sent to ECA by 31 May 1981, the closing date; they should be submitted as project sheets identical to those used in the programme of action for the first phase of the Decade. Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/13 refers specifically to the arrangements that resulted from the Meeting of Experts.

36. The Economic Commission for Africa has started updating the programme of action for the first phase of the Decade. It should be noted that, on 31 May 1981, additional project proposals for various countries identified in April 1981 by a mission of consultants sent to Angola, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé and Príncipe - countries which ECA had previously been unable to visit - were taken into consideration.

37. During discussions on the above-mentioned subjects, the Conference heard:

(a) A statement by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, who stressed the importance of relying on African subregional organizations to implement the programme of the Decade and congratulated ECA for taking the initiative to prepare a technical consultative meeting in June 1981 at Lomé in collaboration with ECOWAS;

(b) The representative of ADB, who accepted the leadership role conferred on ADB by the Conference in searching for funds required by the Decade. He, however, indicated that such a role could not be fully assumed without close co-operation with ECA and OAU, and mentioned financing made and planned by ADB.

(c) A statement from the Moroccan delegation on the project to establish a permanent intercontinental link between Europe and Africa through the Straits of Gibraltar and on the scope and economic importance of such a structure for African countries.

38. The representative of ADB stressed the multiplier effect (2.5 times) of ADB loans and assured the Conference of the possibilities the Bank had on the international money market. Concerning the notions of profitability/admissibility that were brought up, ADB felt that donors would not change their criteria for financing projects and that to finance projects that were not profitable enough to carry a normal rate of interest, an interest rebate fund could be set up at ECA.

#### 5. Other matters

39. Finally, the Conference of Ministers tackled the other points on its agenda concerning:

(a) Freedom of the air, by recommending, through resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/19, that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU should consider resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.79/6 for its immediate implementation;

(b) The ratification by member States of the Convention resulting from the Diplomatic Conference on Air Tariffs held at Addis Ababa in December 1980 (resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/20);

(c) The priority use of African expertise in the implementation of the projects for the Decade (resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/16);

(d) Transit facilities to be provided for land-locked countries (resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/18);

(e) Co-operation among the agencies involved in satellite communication projects, ECA/OAU/ITU/UNESCO/PATU/UAPT and UNDP, which was essential for ongoing studies; through resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/17 the Conference requested, inter alia, the organization of a co-ordination meeting for the purpose of harmonizing all activities undertaken in that field.

40. The holding of the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, at Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 March 1981 marked a major step forward in the implementation of the Decade; the meeting ended with the adoption of the final report and the unanimous acceptance of Morocco's offer to act as host to the 3rd meeting in 1983.

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C. Preparation of the programme for the second phase of the Decade (1984-1988)

41. One of the most important questions dealt with at the Conference and which, for that reason, deserves special attention, concerns the preparation of the programme for the second phase (1984-1988) of the Decade.

42. Having acknowledged that the programme for the first phase (1980-1983) of the Decade had been drawn up, given prevailing circumstances, within a very short period of time to take advantage of the enthusiasm generated by General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 12 December 1979 and stimulate the interest of the international community, the Conference felt in substance that:

(a) The specialized agencies and OAU, as well as African intergovernmental organizations, should participate more actively in the preparations for the second phase of the Decade;

(b) When including projects in the second phase, African countries should state more clearly and in a comprehensive manner, their local financial contribution in order to make those contributions (which were often considerable) clearer;

(c) Member States should send to ECA their transport and communications priorities, which were part of their national programmes;

(d) The second phase should be drawn up in a sounder fashion, with adequate time to think it out and it would hence be advisable to consider launching it in October 1981;

(e) On the modalities to be followed, it was agreed that:

(i) Each member State would establish its own programme to be implemented during the 1984-1988 period, indicating regional, subregional and national projects. ECA could establish a master plan for the whole continent based on the various national projects;

(ii) The national programme should indicate:

a. The projects that were to be financed completely from national resources;

b. The projects that would be partly financed by the Government, the rest of the funding being provided by external sources. The amount of self-financing should then be stated, in order to show the amount of external funding required;

c. The projects that would be totally financed from outside sources;

(iii) The United Nations specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations should supply the same information on regional and subregional projects for which they were responsible;

(f) On the establishment of criteria:

- (i) It was approved in principle that each country was responsible for establishing the priorities of its national programme. However, as far as the global programme for the Decade was concerned, the criteria used to classify the projects and set out in the global strategy for the Decade (E/1979/77, part II) by the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, were and would remain in force until the end of the Decade unless they were changed at another meeting of the Conference of Ministers;
- (ii) It was agreed that member States would submit their national programmes to ECA as early as October 1981, to enable ECA to co-ordinate and harmonize all the projects; together, they would constitute a programme for phase II. ECA could thus send out field missions to work out the final version of the programme with member States and write two reports, one covering projects to be financed partly by African States and the other dealing with projects to be financed by external sources.

43. Under these conditions, the Conference adopted the following schedule of activities:

October 1981	African countries to send provisional lists of projects to ECA (phase II)  ECA to define national requirements in terms of studies and project evaluation (phase II); upon the request of member countries, ECA will send consultants to the various subregions  Fifth meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee
January-June 1982	Missions of consultant to be send to member States
June 1982	The countries concerned to draw up lists of regional and subregional projects and national projects with a regional or subregional impact in co-operation with the specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations  The lists of national projects planned for phase II of the Decade by member countries to be sent to and confirmed at ECA
October 1982	Sixth meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee and presentation of the details of the final programme for phase II by those agencies
December 1982	Consideration by ECA of the reports of the consultants; translation and reproduction of the reports
January 1983	Organization of working groups according to modes of transport and communications, and meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade to consider the projects and make proposals on how to present these projects to the third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

- February 1983      Distribution of proposals on phase II to member States (list of project proposals)
- March 1983        Third meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning
- May 1983          Distribution to member States of the report of the Conference and the programme for phase II, with a view to preparing for the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and the second regular session of 1983 of the Economic and Social Council
- July 1983         Presentation of the programme for phase II to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and to the Economic and Social Council
- August-  
October 1983      Elaboration of the outlines and orientations of the programme
- November-  
December 1983    Consideration by ECA of the outlines of the programme
- Translation and reproduction of the programme for phase II of the Decade
- January 1983      Distribution of the final version of phase II of the programme for the Decade to member States and potential donors

44. In resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.81/14 adopted in this connexion by the Conference of Ministers, the General Assembly was specifically requested to give ECA financial support in the preparatory activities for the elaboration of the programme of the second phase of the Decade. To this end, ECA has established a draft budget totalling \$US 1.5 million. As part of its third programming cycle for 1982-1986, UNDP may be able to contribute \$US 770,000 to the preparatory activities for the programme for the second phase. The Economic and Social Council is requested to consider the possibility of recommending that the General Assembly should absorb the rest of the foreseeable expenditure of \$US 730,000 (for details, see annex III below).

IV. SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

45. The 7th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA was held at Freetown from 6 to 11 April 1981.

46. The representative of the secretariat introduced the report on the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held at Addis Ababa in March 1981. Before doing so, he reminded participants of the purpose of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and resolution 391 (XV), 2/ adopted by the Conference of Ministers of ECA at its sixth session, in April 1980. With respect to the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, he pointed out that the Conference had provided an opportunity for taking stock of the progress made in the implementation of the programme for the Decade and for giving the Decade a new orientation in line with the global strategy defined in document E/1979/77, part II. In preparation for that Conference, the 4th meeting of the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee on the Decade had been held on 9 and 10 March 1981 and a meeting of intergovernmental experts from African countries from 9 to 15 March 1981. The representative of the secretariat read out the agendas of those preliminary meetings and summarized the issues discussed and the positions that had emerged from the discussions, emphasizing the implementation of the programme of the Decade, the search for additional funding, the updating of the first phase of the programme of the Decade and the preparation of the second phase of that programme (1984-1988).

47. He then referred to statements made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, stressing how important it was to count on subregional organizations in Africa for the implementation of the programme for the Decade, and by the representative of ADB, who had stated that his organization had agreed to act as leader in the mobilization of financing for the Decade programme. He also referred to a communiqué received from Morocco on the project relating to a permanent intercontinental link between Africa and Europe. He drew attention to the 11 resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its 2nd meeting, which had entrusted the secretariat with greater functions and thus with more work. Although UNDP had provided finance for ECA activities related to the implementation of the Decade, those resources were clearly inadequate in view of the magnitude of the undertaking and of the role entrusted to the secretariat. Finally, he called upon the representative of Senegal to introduce a draft resolution. During the discussion that followed, some delegations proposed amendments to the draft resolution and requested clarifications. After the representative of the secretariat had given the necessary clarifications, the draft resolution was adopted as amended (Conference of Ministers resolution 422 (XVI) (see annex IV below)).

48. The Conference of Ministers of ECA considered the report of the 2nd meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (E/CN.14/812, E/CN.14/TRANS/169) and approved it in its entirety. It decided, however, to postpone until late September 1981 the Yaoundé technical consultative

2/ Ibid.



meeting for the 10 countries of Central Africa <sup>3/</sup> which was to have been held from 23 to 26 June 1981 and which would deal with the road and inland water transport sectors.

49. The full text of Conference of Ministers resolution 422 (XVI) on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa is reproduced in annex IV below.

#### V. TECHNICAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

50. Following upon Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/46 and General Assembly resolution 35/108 the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning approved the organization of four technical consultative meetings to be held among member States, African intergovernmental organizations and donors:

- (a) A meeting on roads, air transport, telecommunications and postal services for the West African subregion;
- (b) A meeting on roads and inland waterways for the Central African subregion;
- (c) A meeting on maritime transport and ports for the countries of the West and Central African subregions belonging to the Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on maritime transport;
- (d) A meeting on railways for all countries of the African region.

##### A. Technical consultative meeting held at Lomé from 8 to 11 June 1981

51. The meeting was prepared jointly by ECA and ECOWAS to deal with roads (notably the Lagos-Nouakchott and Dakar-Ndjamena trans-African highways), air transport, telecommunications and postal services on the basis of a programme worked out in collaboration with the New York engineering firms of Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton (TAMS) and Communications Studies and Planning International, Inc. (CSP) and finalized by experts from the 16 ECOWAS countries concerned at Addis Ababa during the 2nd meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

52. The cost of TAMS/CSP participation would be \$US 140,515.

53. The programme submitted to the meeting dealt substantially with:

- (a) Forty-eight road projects at an estimated cost of \$US 1,631,690,000, of which \$US 393,650,000 has been obtained;
- (b) Sixty air transport projects at an estimated cost of \$US 263,868,000, of which \$US 14,650,000 has been obtained;
- (c) Twelve telecommunication projects at an estimated cost of \$US 31,430,000, of which \$US 4,000,000 has been obtained;

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<sup>3/</sup> Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zaire.

(d) Seven training projects in the area of communications at an estimated cost of \$US 18,920,000; total financing sought;

(e) Four radio broadcasting projects at an estimated cost of \$US 13,940,000, of which \$US 1,700,000 has been obtained;

(f) Seven postal services projects at an estimated cost of \$US 44,220,000; total financing sought.

54. It comprised a total of 138 projects (roads, air transport, telecommunication and postal services) whose implementation called for financing in the order of \$US 1.6 billion (taking into account resources already obtained).

55. The projects put before the donors at the Lomé meeting had been approved by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and were sent to donors and member States at the beginning of April 1981. In May 1981, three sensitization missions led by African ministers had held meetings with the donors to explain the significance of the technical consultative meetings and to present their programmes to them.

56. The outcome of the Lomé meeting will be the subject of an addendum to the present report.

#### B. Preparations for other technical consultative meetings

57. Three other meetings have been planned.

58. The first is a meeting for the 10 countries of Central Africa, which will take place at Yaoundé from 28 to 30 September 1981. The documents for the meeting have been prepared by ECA in collaboration with the firm of T. P. O'Sullivan at a cost of \$US 65,630. The projects that will be put before the donors were approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and were sent to donors and member States in April 1981. The programme that has been set up deals with 37 road projects (6 of which concern sections of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway) at an approximate cost of \$US 4 billion and 22 inland water transport projects estimated at \$US 116 million. The African ministers who led the sensitization missions for the Lomé meeting conducted similar missions to donors for the Yaoundé meeting in May 1981.

59. Secondly, a technical consultative meeting for maritime transport and port projects is scheduled to be held at Abidjan from 27 to 30 November 1981: the programme is in the process of being drawn up but its finalization will require the assistance of a consultancy firm. The meeting will be concerned with port and maritime transport projects of the 25 countries belonging to the Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on maritime transport.

60. Thirdly, a technical consultative meeting for railway projects will be held at Ouagadougou from 20 to 23 January 1982. The meeting concerns the entire African region. It will be organized in collaboration with the Union of African Railways and will deal with all rail projects in Africa.

VI. ANALYSIS OF THE OVER-ALL RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE

61. In conclusion, it can be said that the implementation of the programme for the first phase of the Decade has begun successfully. Measures should be taken, however, to ensure that it can be implemented smoothly in accordance with the objectives and priorities that have been adopted for this purpose.

62. In the light of the current situation, as described in the report adopted by the Interagency Co-ordinating Committee and the Conference of Ministers, the major tasks appear to be:

(a) To bring up to date the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

(b) To establish practical and systematic information machinery;

(c) To confer increased responsibility on ECA for the programming and mobilization of financing for projects for the Decade, particularly for regional and subregional operations.

63. The preparation and holding of the technical consultative meetings at Lomé and Yaoundé will have used up nearly all of the \$US 250,000 placed at the disposal of ECA for these meetings. As indicated above, UNDP has until the present financed ECA activities relating to the implementation of the Decade; nevertheless, in the light of the large amount of work the secretariat must undertake in fulfilling its role, resources are clearly inadequate.

64. The staff working for the Decade within the ECA Transport, Communications and Tourism Division is limited to three Professionals (one co-ordinator and two assistants) and a core of consultants that has only recently been formed. The strengthening of the multilateral programming and operational centres (MULPOCs), as called for in the global strategy for the Decade has not been carried out for lack of available funds, with the result that all the problems of the Decade remain centralized at Addis Ababa.

65. Resources must visibly be harmonized with objectives.

66. It should be recalled in this connexion that the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, in its resolution 422 (XVI) on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (see annex IV), requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations "to provide the Commission with the necessary resources to enable it to discharge effectively its mandate as the lead agency for the implementation of the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa".

ANNEX I

Financing of projects from external sources  
 (Millions of United States dollars)

Subsector	Project No.	Contributions by donors	Programme of action for phase I of the Decade <u>a/</u>
TRANSPORT			
Roads and road transport	32	526 289	1 664 500
Railways and rail transport	19	1 812 671	1 929 550
Maritime transport	8	34 611	66 857
Maritime ports	30	706 758	1 185 063
Air transport	22	98 126	74 340
Inland water transport	8	22 720	35 210
Multimodal transport	1	500	500
Subtotal transport	120	3 201 675	4 956 020
COMMUNICATION			
Telecommunication	5	33 977	16 600
Satellite communication	1	180	180
Broadcasting	16	15 658	11 750
Postal services	2	2 330	2 330
Manpower training	1	332	6 120
Subtotal communication	25	52 477	36 980
GRAND TOTAL		3 254 152	4 993 000

a/ See E/1979/77, part V.

ANNEX II

Donor allocation

(Millions of United States dollars)

Donor	Amount	Donor	Amount
African Development Bank	129 000	BADEA/FAC/KF/IBRD/OPEC/Iraq/ EDF/EEC/ADB/CIDA	19 230
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)	10 000	EEC/IBRD/AFESD/Kuwait Fund/ Abu Dhabi Fund	5 600
European Investment Bank	13 300	Federal Republic of Germany/ IBRD	23 000
World Bank	67 100	UNDP/Norway	1 757
CCCE	23 700	EEC/Cape Verde	1 000
China	500	UNDP/ECA	50
European Development Fund (EDF)	91 137	Norway/BADEA/ADB	33 650
Saudi Fund/Belgium	31 504	IBRD/IDA	62 000
FAC	7 450	Federal Republic of Germany/ADB	84 000
IDA	25 600	Portugal/Netherlands	6 050
Kuwait	2 330	France/Belgium/OPEC	31 452
NORAD	9 000	CIDA/FAC/EDF/Federal Republic of Germany	8 339
Norway	4 590	UNDP/UNCTAD	500
OPEC	21 750	BADEA/Belgium	1 300
UNDP	18 142	ITU/OAU/ADB/ECA	100
Netherlands	800	Federal Republic of Germany/ADB/ Guinea	11 000
Federal Republic of Germany	197 450	Norway/UNESCO	1 700
Switzerland	10 000	Federal Republic of Germany/ UNESCO/France	2 730
USAID	10 000	ADB/FKD/Guinea	14 495
France	38	Nigeria	1 437 360
Belgium	17 500	Governments	625 090
World Bank/Kuwait Fund/BADEA	26 000		
KF/IDA/OPEC/Benin	22 000		
IDA/KFAED/ADF/EEC	11 400		
OPEC/UNDP/Niger	5 788		
IBRD/EDF/Nigeria	80 000		
ECA/ADB	27 250		
IBRD/FAC/USAID/EEC/Mali	40 000		
TOTAL		3 254 152	

ANNEX III

Anticipated budgetary expenditure for preparatory activities for  
the programme for the second phase of the Decade (1984-1988)

	Total		1982		1983	
	man- months	United States dollars	man- months	United States dollars	man- months	United States dollars
10.00	<u>Project personnel</u>					
11.00	Consultants					
11.01						
11.01	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.02	19	66 500	12	42 000	7	24 500
11.03	26	91 000	21	73 500	5	17 500
11.04	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.05	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.06	26	91 000	21	73 500	5	17 500
11.07	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.08	17	59 500	12	42 000		
11.09	6	21 000	6	21 000		
11.10	6	21 000	6	21 000		
11.11	26	91 000	21	73 500	5	17 500
11.12	6	21 000	6	21 000		
11.13	17	59 500	12	42 000	5	17 500
11.14	17	59 500	12	42 000	5	17 500
11.15	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.16	9	31 500	9	31 500		
11.99	207	770 000 <u>a/</u>				
13.00		70 000		45 000		25 000
15.00		438 000		400 000		38 000
16.00		30 000		20 000		10 000
39.00		85 000		50 000		35 000
49.00		25 000		25 000		
52.00		62 000		30 000		32 000
59.00		20 000		10 000		10 000
		730 000 <u>b/</u>				
99.00	207	1 500 000	183	1 220 500	32	279 500

a/ It is proposed that this should be charged to the third UNDP programming cycle.

b/ It is proposed that this should take the form of a grant from the United Nations General Assembly.

ANNEX IV

Text of resolution 422 (XVI), adopted by the Conference of  
Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its  
seventh meeting

United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

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

Further recalling its resolution 391 (XV) of 12 April 1980, b/ in which it reiterated its appeal to member States to give highest priority to the transport and communications projects adopted for the programme of the first phase of the Decade and which requested African States to take the initiative of submitting to the various sources of finance requests for the financing of the projects adopted for the first phase and requested the Executive Secretary to organize ... with groups of donor countries and the financing institutions ... consultative technical meetings ... for the purpose of finding the additional financial resources necessary,

Noting with satisfaction resolution CM/Res.806 (XXXV), c/ adopted at Freetown in July 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/46 of 23 July 1980 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Further noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 35/108 of 5 December 1980 on the organization of technical consultative meetings for the purpose of raising additional financial resources for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa programme,

Considering the results of the second Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, held at Addis Ababa from 16 to 18 March 1981, and the relevant resolutions adopted at that Conference,

Recalling the role of the Economic Commission for Africa as lead agency in the implementation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa as defined in paragraph 111 of the global strategy for the Decade and in

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a/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/5941, part III).

b/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 7 (E/1980/27), part II, sect. D.

c/ See A/35/463 and Corr.1, annex I.

paragraphs 210 to 248 of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, d/

Considering the need to update regularly the programme for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Taking account of the fact that the programme for the second phase of the Decade, which covers the period 1984-1988, should be very carefully prepared with the active participation of member States and that its preparation should not be delayed so as to enable it to be considered by donors,

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress so far made on the implementation of the programme for the first phase of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade (1980-1983);

2. Expresses its appreciation to the General Assembly for the financial resources which it has made available to the Commission for the preparation of the first phase of the Decade programme and for the organization of the technical consultative meetings with donors;

3. Also expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for the substantial support it has given to the Commission, enabling the latter to prepare the programme for the first phase of the Decade;

4. Further expresses its appreciation to donor countries and financial institutions for the assistance so far given to member States for the implementation of the first phase of the Plan of Action programme for the Decade;

5. Endorses the decision of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its 2nd meeting, authorizing the Executive Secretary to organize the following technical consultative meetings between member States and African intergovernmental organizations concerned and donors:

(a) Meeting on roads, air transport, telecommunications and postal services for the West African subregion;

(b) Meeting on roads and inland waterways for the Central African subregion;

(c) Meeting on maritime transport and ports for those countries of the West and Central African subregions which are members of the Conference of Ministers responsible for maritime transport;

(d) Meeting on railways for all countries of the region;

6. Notes with satisfaction the progress made so far by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with member States, in organizing these technical consultative meetings with donor countries and financial institutions;

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



7. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Togo, the United Republic of Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and the Upper Volta for agreeing to act as host to these four technical consultative meetings;
8. Invites the member States and intergovernmental organizations concerned to participate fully in the preparation and organization of these technical consultative meetings and to take all necessary measures to ensure their success;
9. Appeals to bilateral donor countries and financial institutions to participate fully and positively in the forthcoming technical consultative meetings;
10. Invites, in particular, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the various Arab funds to participate fully and positively in these technical consultative meetings;
11. Also invites non-African countries of the third world to express their solidarity with African countries by participating in these technical consultative meetings;
12. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report on the outcome of these technical consultative meetings to the Commission at its seventeenth session and to the Conference of Ministers at its 8th meeting;
13. Directs the Executive Secretary to update the programme for the first phase of the Decade regularly, in consultation with member States and relevant United Nations specialized agencies and African intergovernmental organizations;
14. Further requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to embark as early as possible on the preparation of the Plan of Action for the second phase of the Decade;
15. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide adequate resources to the Commission in the third programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme for the preparation and implementation of the second phase of the programme for the Decade;
16. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the Commission with the necessary resources to enable it to discharge effectively its mandate as the lead agency for the implementation of the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.