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Thirty-sixth session

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CHAPTER III

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

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\* The present document is a mimeographed version of chapter III of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1981. The full report will be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/36/3/Rev.1).

81-22016

1. The Economic and Social Council considered regional co-operation at its second regular session of 1981 under agenda item 7.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Council had before it the following documents:

(a) Summary of the economic survey of Europe in 1980: recent economic developments in the ECE region (E/1981/69);

(b) Summary of the economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1980: recent economic developments, 1979-1980 (E/1981/72);

(c) Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1979-1980 (E/1981/76);

(d) Preliminary summary of the economic survey of Latin America, 1980 (E/1981/77);

(e) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region, 1980 (E/1981/78);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation (E/1981/80 and Add.1 and 2), chapter III of which contained recommendations for action by the Council.

3. At its 19th meeting, on 8 May 1981, the Council allocated the item to the First (Economic) Committee, which considered it at the 12th, 13th, 15th and 17th meetings, on 13 to 15 and on 21 July 1981. For the report of the Committee on this item, see document E/1981/105.

#### ACTION BY THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

##### Expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa

4. At its 17th meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "Expansion of the conference facilities of the Economic Commission for Africa", sponsored by Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, 1/ Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, 1/ Malawi, Togo, 1/ the United Republic of Tanzania, 1/ Zaire and Zambia. Subsequently, Djibouti, 1/ Morocco, Senegal and the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. 2/

5. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was orally revised and amendments were orally proposed, one of which was accepted by the sponsors. 3/

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1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2/ An oral statement was made on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see E/1981/C.1/SR.17).

3/ For particulars of the revision and the amendments, see the report of the Committee on this item (E/1981/105).

6. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution, as revised, and submitted it to the Council as draft resolution I. For action by the Council, see paragraph 14 (a) below.

#### Regional co-operation

7. Also at the 17th meeting, the Committee considered a draft resolution entitled "Regional co-operation", sponsored by Zambia.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee considered a second draft resolution, issued under the same title, which was submitted by the Chairman as a result of informal consultations.

9. After an amendment had been orally proposed, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended, and submitted it to the Council as draft resolution II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 14 (a) below.

10. The first draft resolution was consequently withdrawn.

#### Summaries of the economic surveys of the regional commissions

11. Also at the 17th meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision whereby the Council would take note of the summaries of the economic surveys of the respective regions of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/1981/69), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/1981/72), the Economic Commission for Africa (E/1981/76), the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/1981/77) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (E/1981/78). The draft decision was submitted to the Council as draft decision I. For action by the Council, see paragraph 14 (b) below.

#### Membership in the regional commissions

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision, proposed orally by the Chairman, concerning membership in the regional commissions and submitted it to the Council as draft decision II. For action by the Council, see paragraph 14 (b) below.

#### Economic Commission for Africa: regional institutes for population studies

13. The Committee then adopted a draft decision, also proposed orally by the Chairman, on the new statutes of the regional institutes for population studies, and submitted it to the Council as draft decision III. For action by the Council, see paragraph 14 (b) below.

ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

14. At its 41st meeting, on 24 July 1981, the Council considered the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Committee in its report (E/1981/105, paras. 18 and 19) and took action as follows:

(a) Draft resolutions I and II were adopted; for the final texts, see the annex below, Council resolutions 1981/65 and 1981/66, respectively;

(b) Draft decisions I to III were adopted; for the final texts, see the annex below, Council decisions 1981/187, 1981/188 and 1981/189, respectively.

ANNEX

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and  
Social Council under agenda item 7 a/

Resolution 1981/65. Expansion of the conference facilities of the  
Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the Economic Commission for Africa was established at Addis Ababa in 1958,

Appreciating the important contribution made by the Commission to the development of Africa over the past two decades,

Recalling that the present conference facilities of the Commission were made available by the Government of Ethiopia,

Further recalling that the conference facilities were designed to service the limited number of African countries that were States Members of the United Nations in the late 1950s,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in the number of independent States of Africa as a result of the process of decolonization,

Noting further that there are at present 50 African States Members of the United Nations and that there is the prospect of others joining the United Nations family,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, b/ adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session, held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980,

Mindful of the heavy responsibilities entrusted to the Economic Commission for Africa for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the decades to come,

Noting that the present conference facilities at the Headquarters of the Commission may be insufficient to meet the needs of the large number of African States that have become members of the Commission since its establishment and the growing number of international, intergovernmental and regional organizations participating in conferences,

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a/ A compilation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 1981 will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplements Nos. 1, 1A and 1B (E/1981/81 and Add.1 and 2).

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

Requests the General Assembly to entrust the Secretary-General, within existing resources, with a study of the adequacy of conference facilities at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa to meet the demands thereon as a result of its enlarged membership and increased activities and to ask him to report, through the Commission and through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

41st plenary meeting  
24 July 1981

Resolution 1981/66. Regional co-operation

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation, c/

Noting with appreciation the statements made to the Council by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions during the general discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments, held at the second regular session of 1981 of the Council,

Recognizing the need to intensify and expedite the efforts to decentralize economic and social activities to the regional commission, as envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Conscious of the desirability of decentralizing administrative and management responsibilities to the regional commissions as part of the transfer to them of substantive activities,

Aware that the regional commissions for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Western Asia adopted, at their plenary sessions in 1981, resolutions relating to General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979, and to Assembly decision 35/440 of 16 December 1980, d/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly, in considering the report of the Secretary-General referred to in its decision 35/440 and the resolutions adopted by the regional commissions pursuant to that decision, should request all intergovernmental organizations and the Secretariat bodies concerned to intensify and expedite the decentralization of economic and social activities to the regional commissions within the over-all context of Assembly resolution 32/197;

c/ E/1981/80 and Add.1 and 2.

d/ See resolutions 427 (XVI) of the Economic Commission for Africa, 219 (XXXVII) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 431 (XIX) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and 105 (VIII) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

3. Requests the General Assembly accordingly to consider accelerating the redeployment to the regional commissions of staff and financial resources commensurate with the substantive activities which are being transferred to them.

41st plenary meeting

24 July 1981

Decision 1981/187. Summaries of the economic surveys of the regional commissions

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 24 July 1981, the Council took note of:

- (a) Summary of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1980: recent economic developments in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe; e/
- (b) Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1980: recent economic developments, 1979-1980; f/
- (c) Summary of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1979-1980; g/
- (d) Preliminary summary of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1980; h/
- (e) Summary of the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, 1980. i/

Decision 1981/188. Membership in the regional commissions

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 24 July 1981, the Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation j/ and noting that Zimbabwe had become a full member of the Economic Commission for Africa and that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Latin America had admitted Guam and the Netherlands Antilles, respectively, to associate membership in their commissions, decided to amend the terms of reference of the commissions concerned to take account of the admission of the above-mentioned member and associate members.

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e/ E/1981/69.

f/ E/1981/72.

g/ E/1981/76.

h/ E/1981/77.

i/ E/1981/78.

j/ E/1981/80 and Add.1 and 2.

Decision 1981/189. Economic Commission for Africa: regional  
institutes for population studies

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 24 July 1981, the Council, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation k/ and recalling resolution 426 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, l/ decided to endorse the new statutes of the Regional Institute for Population Studies and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques annexed to that resolution and to recommend that the General Assembly should approve the statutes at its thirty-sixth session, in order to enable the two institutes to become operational as soon as possible.

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k/ E/1981/80 and Add.1 and 2.

l/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No. 14 (E/1981/54), para. 2.