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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Economic Commission for Africa: regional institutes for  
population studies

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): regional institutes for population studies (A/36/569). In the annexes to this document the Secretary-General submits the texts of three resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers of ECA: resolution 230 (X) of 13 February 1971 on population, resolution 367 (XIV) of 27 March 1979 on regional training in population studies in Africa and resolution 426 (XVI) of 10 April 1981 on full regionalization of regional training institutes for population studies in Africa. Annexed to the last resolution are two statutes, one for the Regional Institute for Population Studies at Accra, and the other for the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques at Yaoundé. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's note, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1981/189 of 24 July 1981, decided to endorse the statutes and to recommend that the General Assembly should approve them at its thirty-sixth session in order to enable the two institutes to become operational as soon as possible.
2. The Advisory Committee points out, however, that both institutes came into being in 1972 following agreements between the United Nations and the Governments of Ghana and the United Republic of Cameroon, respectively (see A/36/569, para. 1). The Committee requested and received the texts of the two original agreements.
3. The proposed statutes presented in document A/36/569 appear to be virtually identical in text 1/ and represent a continuation of much of what is already

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1/ There are exceptions, however, for example, see para. 9 below.

provided for in the aforementioned existing agreements. One basic difference is that "bilateral" agreements are to be replaced by statutes. This is apparently in line with paragraph 3 of resolution 367 (XIV) of the Conference of Ministers of ECA, which the Conference:

"Requests the Executive Secretary to initiate negotiations with the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon and Ghana on how to modify the agreements governing the institutes in order to make them fully regional in character, by making it possible for all the countries served by the two institutes to participate fully in the Governing Councils of the institutes and to devise means whereby the Governments of these countries can all contribute materially to the support of the institutions;"

4. Another difference, related to the first, is that while up to now the institutes have had a legal personality independent of those of the parties and were not considered as forming part of either the United Nations or the Government, the statutes now under consideration provide (in art. III) that the institutes shall be subsidiary bodies of ECA.

5. The proposed statutes contain several provisions relating to administration and finance. They are article III, paragraph 4; article IV, paragraph 6 (e), (f), and (g); article V, paragraph 1 (c); articles VI to VII; and articles IX to XI.

#### Financing of the institutes

6. This question is dealt with in article V, paragraph 1 (c), and articles IX and XI. Article V, paragraph 1 (c), provides that the Chairman of the Governing Council shall "with the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive on behalf of the Institute, financial and other resources from the specialized agencies of the United Nations or other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other sources". Article XI, paragraph 1, states that the finances of the institutes will be contributed by the Governments of the countries enumerated in the appendix "as may be determined from time to time by the Conference and by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities". Pursuant to article XI, paragraph 2, further resources in cash or in kind may be provided by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations and other sources. These provisions do not give a clear picture of how the institutes are to be financed and what the role of the United Nations and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) would be. It should be noted that the relevant articles of the original agreements are quite explicit about financial responsibility.

7. In view of the reference to UNFPA in article XI of the statutes, the Committee inquired what UNFPA's financial contribution to the institutes had been in recent years and the kind of support it planned to provide in future. The Advisory Committee is informed by UNFPA that its support has been as follows:

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(a) Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques at Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroon:

<u>Expenditures</u> <u>prior to 1979</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>1979</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>1980</u>	<u>Allocation</u> <u>1981</u>
\$2,212,353	\$621,383	\$755,204	\$817,000

(b) Regional Institute for Population Studies at Accra, Ghana:

<u>Expenditures</u> <u>prior to 1979</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>1979</u>	<u>Expenditures</u> <u>1980</u>	<u>Allocation</u> <u>1981</u>
\$1,988,356	\$513,882	\$771,787	\$730,000

The Committee is further informed that UNFPA intends to continue its support to the two institutes during the forthcoming years at similar levels, subject to the availability of funds.

Personnel arrangements

8. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the proposed personnel arrangements also raise a number of questions. Article VI of the proposed statutes on the appointment of staff of the institutes does not refer to the status of such staff - and in particular whether the Professional staff members would be international staff of the United Nations, or staff whose appointments would be limited to service with the institutes. The questions of whether the staff resources of the institutes would be considered separate and apart from the extrabudgetary staff resources of ECA, and of who would be responsible for the grading of posts and the establishment of manning tables, also need to be addressed.

9. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, clarification should also be provided on article VII, paragraph 3 (e), of the proposed statute for the Institute at Accra, which is the same as article VII, paragraph 3 (f), of the proposed statute for the Institute at Yaoundé. These subparagraphs provide that the Director shall transmit the names of all applicants for appointment to Professional posts to the Executive Secretary of ECA. There is no mention, however, of the Director's power to make recommendations, as is implied in article VI, paragraph 1 (b), of both proposed statutes. In this connexion, the Committee points out that article VII differs in the two proposed statutes. Article VII of the proposed statute for the Institute at Accra has nothing equivalent to article VII, paragraph 3 (d), of the proposed statute for Yaoundé, which provides for dissemination within the countries set out in the appendix to the statute of all vacancies within the Institute. There is no apparent reason for the inclusion of this provision in one statute and its exclusion from the other.

10. There are several other technical provisions in the proposed statutes which, in the opinion of the Committee, require further study before the statutes are approved by the General Assembly. Among these are article III, paragraph 4, where

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no mention is made of the Staff Regulations of the United Nations and article VII, paragraph 2, which provides, without further specification or explanation, that the Director shall act as the legal representative of the Institute.

Recommendation

11. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that action on the proposed statutes by the General Assembly should be deferred. The Committee suggests that the Assembly recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it invite the Conference of Ministers of ECA to take up the proposed statutes once again in light of the points raised by the Advisory Committee and such suggestions as may be made by the Secretary-General after the statutes have been reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs, the Office of Financial Services and the Office of Personnel Services. In this connexion, the Committee recalls that the General Assembly adopted a similar approach with regard to the statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP). In decision 32/428 B of 21 December 1977, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to transmit that statute to the Conference of Ministers of ECA for consideration and revision in the light of the proposals made by the Secretary-General.

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