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NOTE

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period from 5 May 1978 to 28 March 1979. ^{1/} It is submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1979, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference.

PART I

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

2. In accordance with rule 67 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the attention of the Economic and Social Council is drawn to Conference of Ministers resolution 330(XIV) ^{2/}adopted at its 207th meeting on 27 March 1979 concerning the restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa.

Chapter II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE 5 MAY 1978

A. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

3. During the period under review, the Commission organized meetings of the Executive Committee, the Technical Committee of Experts, the Conference of African Planners and the Conference of African Demographers. A list of the meetings held by these bodies, together with further information concerning their officers and their reports, is contained in the annexes to the present report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4. The activities carried out under the Commission's programme of work for 1977-1978, and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers, are described below.

Agriculture

5. During the period under review, the secretariat's approach to the problems facing the agricultural sector has continued to focus on subregional and inter-governmental organizations and has become increasingly action-oriented.

6. The study of co-operation and trade in food, livestock, fishery and forestry products in the West African subregion, which was initiated during the last period, is now being implemented at the request of the secretariat of ECOWAS. Consultants have made reports on the food crop and livestock sectors and other consultants are working on the fishery and forestry sectors. Preparations are still in progress for two future studies on agricultural production potential in the ECOWAS subregion and development of river and lake basins in the ECOWAS subregion for which the secretariat has prepared project documents and terms of reference of experts.

^{1/} For the previous report of the Commission, covering the period from 4 March 1977 to 4 May 1978, see Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 10 and Addendum (E/1978/50 and Add.1).

^{2/} See chapter IV below.

7. In relation with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the projects prepared in late 1977 by the Multidonors mission have been revised in FAO Headquarters with assistance from the secretariat. At the request of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, a project for institutional support to that organizations secretariat has been prepared. The secretariat has established a special interdivisional committee for the monitoring and evaluation of Lake Chad Basin development activities and a request has been made to UNDP for financing activities in this context. A project for dairy development in the Lake Chad Basin Commission area has been prepared.
8. Regarding UDEAC, the secretariat has prepared terms of reference for one expert to be recruited by FAO for the preparation of the study of co-operation and trade in the field of agriculture among UDEAC member States.
9. The secretariat assisted the Eastern and Southern African MULPOC in implementing the recommendations of the prefeasibility studies on integrated rural development of the Mbeya and Rukwa Regions of the United Republic of Tanzania and of the northern province of Zambia. It participated also in the consultations held with the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya on the terms of reference for the studies on the integrated development of the Dawa river basin, the Omo - Turkana/ Rudolf basin, and the improvement of the network of feeder roads in these areas. The secretariat also organized a Conference on eradication of trypanosomiasis in Eastern and Southern Africa in Gaborone. It participated in the preliminary discussions for organizing the mission that will undertake the preparation of a comprehensive development plan of the Ruzizi Valley basin within the context of the work programme of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes MULPOC. Equally, the secretariat has assisted the Central African MULPOC in implementing the project on the promotion of multinational co-operation in agronomic research. The secretariat held discussions with the director of the West African MULPOC to define the nature and scope of the co-operation that might be required in future for the implementation of the work programme of that Centre. As for the North African MULPOC, it was agreed that the secretariat would provide a consultant to assist the countries in the sub-region to implement the recommendations of the African Food Plan.
10. The secretariat continued to attend meetings of the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) and the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA).
11. The promotion of food production was also a major concern of the secretariat. In collaboration with FAO, a paper was prepared for the presentation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa at the FAO Regional Conference held in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) in September 1978. The recommendations adopted by the Conference called on the secretariat to follow up implementation of the Food Plan at the level of intergovernmental organizations. This is currently being done with the assistance of funds provided by the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development.
12. The secretariat also carried out a mission to various East African countries in preparation for a seminar on prevention of food losses.
13. In preparation of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the secretariat contributed a paper to the basic document

entitled "Review and analysis of past developments and policies in agrarian reform and rural development since the mid-1960s" that is being prepared by the secretariat of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Rome, attended the tenth ECA/FAO Regional Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture and also participated in a Technical Meeting on Integrated Rural Development; both meetings were held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania.

14. During the same period the secretariat provided assistance to various countries, in particular to Senegal for the preparation of four rural development projects.

15. The secretariat has collaborated closely with the FAO through its Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division. The collaboration was most effective in the preparation of a Regional Food Plan for Africa. Relations were also strengthened with subregional intergovernmental organizations such as ECOWAS, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and UDEAC (see above).

Development planning, projections and policies

16. During the period under review, the secretariat concentrated on the preparation and publication of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa for 1978, on the preparation of documents for, and the convening of, the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners and on work connected with formulating a new strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

17. Part I of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa for 1978 reviewed the international economic situation and international monetary policy, growth, investment and domestic savings since 1970, agriculture since 1970 and the Regional Food Plan for Africa and the prospects up to 1990, developments in manufacturing, the social situation, consumer prices and monetary policies, aid, resource flows and external debt, external trade and balance of payments and demographic trends and policies. Part II was devoted to an analysis of current economic developments and policies in the individual countries of the region. These documents were submitted to the Conference of Ministers at its fifth meeting held in Rabat, in March 1979.

18. The secretariat prepared the following papers for the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners: "Planning for the indigenization of African economies", "Planning for environmentally sound development"; and "The search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade".

19. In response to General Assembly resolution 3508(XXX), the Commission evolved a preliminary specification of a standard projection model for African countries under alternative sets of development scenarios. It covers macro-projections of the main aspects of the African economy on an individual country and regional basis, especially with regard to such macro-variables as sectoral output, investment and employment, public and private consumption and imports and exports by the major commodity group.

20. This projection exercise aims at (i) analysing the structure of individual country economies so as to facilitate the implementation of the national and international development strategies by making available to planners the country-specific implications of a variety of structural and policy parameters, both national and external, and (ii) eventually assisting ECA member Governments in project preparation at the micro-level.

21. In addition to feeding ECA computer with the necessary quantitative tools, the secretariat made trial preliminary studies and forecasts on eight African countries which account for about 47 per cent of developing Africa's GDP and 46 per cent of its population. These preliminary studies were presented in the above-mentioned paper on the search for a strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

22. A special subprogramme on the least developed countries was formulated. The aim of the subprogramme is to study and evaluate possible ways and means of assisting the least developed countries in Africa in overcoming the hindrance to their development, thereby accelerating their rate of growth.

Promotion of economic co-operation and integration

23. The main activity in the field of economic co-operation during 1978 was to get the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) off the ground in pursuance of the various resolutions on economic co-operation during the thirteenth session of the Commission/fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers which met in Kinshasa in February/March 1977, in particular resolution 311(XIII) on the creation of the MULPOCs.

24. As soon as the MULPOCs were launched, implementation of their work programmes began. In this regard, various missions were undertaken and meetings organized. One major project, among others, that preoccupied the secretariat was the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States.

25. The secretariat was also involved in such other activities as preparations for and participation in the Buenos Aires Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, arranging several meetings of African intergovernmental organizations, drawing up preparatory assistance and full project documents for submission to UNDP in request of financial support for the MULPOCs.

26. The process of launching the five MULPOCs in Africa had been virtually completed by the end of the period under review. The last MULPOC to be established, the North African one, was convened during the first quarter of 1978 and held its inaugural meeting in conjunction with the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Rabat. The main purpose of the inaugural meetings was to establish the formal decision-making machinery for the MULPOCs and approve their work programmes. This done, mobilization of manpower and financial resources for implementation of the programmes could then begin. A detailed and up to date progress report on the implementation of the MULPOC work programme is to be found in document E/CN.14/CAP.7/5.

27. With regard to the area covered by the Lusaka-based MULPOC, the secretariat worked to a tight schedule during the year under review in implementing the Preferential Trade Area project. First, two missions were sent to all the countries members of the Lusaka MULPOC in preparation for the inaugural meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Team which was held in Addis Ababa in June 1978. Thereafter, action consisted essentially in the preparation of documents and organization of follow-up meetings of the negotiating team. Thus, a second meeting of the team was held in Mbabane, Swaziland, in

November 1978 and a third in February 1979 in Addis Ababa. Several more meetings are to be convened before 1980 to examine various aspects of the draft treaty and protocols.

28. In general, the bulk of the activities connected with the other MULPOCs was of a preparatory nature - setting up institutional organs, carrying out consultations with intergovernmental bodies, assembling interdisciplinary teams ready to commence field work etc. The UNDP financing provided for these activities up to 31 December 1978 was, characteristically, for the "preparatory assistance phase".

29. The secretariat also assisted in the preparation of basic legal documents and studies for the establishment and management of various institutions including the African Regional Centre for Technology, the African Remote Sensing Council, the West African Health Community, the East African Mineral Resources Development Centre, the Institute of Higher Technical Training and Research, and the African Centre for Solar Energy. Moreover, it rendered legal assistance to ECOWAS in the preparation of a multinational convention on the free movement of persons and drafted model laws for the Industrial Property Organization for English-speaking Africa.

Education and training

30. Operationally, education and training activities focused on non-formal education, enhancement of skills and development of definitive training policies for effective training development, institution building and the expanded fellowship and training programme for Africa.

31. The non-formal education project activities culminated in the successful regional symposium on non-formal education at which guidelines for direction and subsequent follow-up programme development activities were developed. Beginning in the first quarter of 1979, the first of a series of planned seminars in the field will be held at the country level, the purpose of which is to sensitize selected African Governments to the need to formulate policies aimed at formalizing and making more systematic the utilization of non-formal forms of education and training for rapid manpower preparation and skill development.

32. Distant education activities resulted in the twinning of 14 adult education institutions for collaborative co-operation together with the organization of country-level workshops as well as one publication.

33. The ECA/Netherlands instructor training programme placed 54 fellows under individual institutional study and exchange programme for study in a number of fields within African national institutions. Under the same programme, three national trainers workshops for instructors in pre- and in-service training institutions were conducted, one management and accountancy course run, and one subregional workshop for training/staff development officers in parastatal and government ministerial agencies for training managers conducted.

34. The fellowships and training programme was reviewed and developed into the expanded training and fellowship programme for Africa. Focusing on fostering multinational and intergovernmental co-operation in the development and utilization of training facilities and resources, the programme mobilized financial resources from Lesotho and Turkey and received offers of opportunity for study from Chile and Turkey with further pledges of support in terms of later opportunities still awaited.

35. Institution building efforts saw three field missions undertaken, the preparation of reports completed, intergovernmental expert group meetings. Agreement was also reached to establish two subregional Graduate Schools of Business Management and Finance (Nairobi and Accra) and the location of the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research was referred to a plenipotentiaries' meeting. None the less, the principle and conceptual framework were accepted. While programmes leading to the establishment of two of the subregional Graduate Schools have already started in the University of Nairobi, Kenya and the University of Ghana, Legon, the third one for North African countries, will, it is hoped, be decided upon at a meeting to be held in Tunis in April 1979. The proposed conversion of the East African Management Institute into a subregional institution for use of 16 countries of East and Southern Africa has had a draft constitution and memorandum of understanding jointly developed by the secretariat and the Institute.

36. A constitution for the development of a similar bilingual institution has been developed and submitted for consideration of the West African subregion under the aegis of ECOWAS.

37. Manpower activities focused on surveys of manpower requirements for basic industries and the related utilization policies, study missions on brain drain, employment situations and desk studies plus the preparation of a basic working document on manpower development and utilization policies and strategies with special reference to indigenization of African economies for the use of the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners.

38. Although UNDP funding has been secured to enable studies on manpower profiles for basic industries to be undertaken, difficulties of identifying a suitable consultant were experienced.

39. Efforts in the localization of examinations and certification in accountancy as well as organization of consultancy services continued with a field mission to Eastern and Southern Africa undertaken with the respective reports prepared and submitted to interested parties. A subsequent follow-up which is now awaited is the setting up of an Association of Eastern African Consultancy Organizations similar to the one set up in West Africa in 1977. Funds are being sought to enable this exercise to be continued with a promotional mission in North Africa and a subsequent creation of a consultancy association in that subregion.

40. The review of the Directory of African Specialists and Consultancy Organizations got under way with publication expected this year.

41. The guidance and counselling subproject reached a take-off stage with a field mission undertaken to a number of countries to assess the nature and scope of the service and related policies as well as identify resource persons for development of project ideas and guidelines. The guidelines are to be circulated for comments and subsequent indication of the nature of collaboration for further development of the subprogramme. A project document is also under preparation.

Human settlements

42. A Working Group of African Specialists on Building Materials and Construction met in Addis Ababa from 17 to 21 July 1978 and evaluated the work done subsequent to the field mission undertaken in 1977. The Group elaborated on the targets and priority projects which will enable the African region to achieve self-sufficiency in building materials by the year 2000. Its deliberations formed the basis for a UNDP-financed regional programme in building materials for the period 1978-1981. In a related development, the project personnel responsible for the building materials and construction industries development programme visited Togo and Ghana from 12 August to 6 September 1978 to compile documents for the preliminary phase of the regional building materials programme.

43. Pursuant to Conference of Ministers resolution 316(XIII) and General Assembly resolution 32/162, the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements was held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 October 1978. The secretariat prepared eight documents for the consideration of the meeting. The meeting approved the structure of the Committee, its terms of reference and mode of operation, and adopted the final report of its deliberations including a number of draft resolutions. The report was submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee at its nineteenth meeting in Arusha in October 1978 for adoption by the Fifth Conference of Ministers held in Rabat, Morocco in March 1979.

44. A member of the secretariat undertook a mission to United Nations Headquarters in New York, Paris and the United Republic of Cameroon, to engage consultants in connexion with the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements.

45. The project personnel responsible for the building materials and construction industries development programme accompanied by a consultant visited Burundi, Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Togo in connexion with the preparatory assistance programme as a follow-up to the earlier mission to Togo and Ghana, and the meeting of the African Experts on Building Materials referred to above.

46. In response to an invitation to the secretariat from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), a member of the secretariat participated in a meeting on land use policies held in Stockholm, Sweden from 12 to 17 June 1978.

47. The secretariat obtained assistance from the United Nations Centre for Housing, Building and Planning, United Nations Headquarters, New York and the Panafrican Institute for Development, in the form of consultants who prepared documents for the first session of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements.

48. The secretariat was also represented at the Regional Meeting for Africa on Human Settlements Finance and Management held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 13 October 1978 organized by United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) in collaboration with the UNEP, UNDP, USAID and the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), and at the meeting in New York convened by the Executive Director of Habitat, the Centre for Human Settlements, to review draft programme budget proposals relating to human settlements for the biennium 1980-1981.

Industrial development

49. In preparation for the Regional Symposium on Industrial Policies and Strategies for Internally Self-sustaining Development and Diversification and Collective Self-reliance, 1978-2000, during the period under review, an Ad hoc Working Group of Experts was convened in Addis Ababa from 3 to 6 July 1978 to examine the terms of reference for the Symposium and to delineate the major issues as seen from different levels of industrialization, taking into account the need to reflect the different requirements of land-locked, least developed and island countries as well as other countries in the African region.

50. Following the above meeting, a task force consisting of four African experts was selected on the recommendations of the Ad hoc Working Group of Experts. The task force was charged with the responsibility of preparing the basic document for the Symposium. During the period from late August to early October 1978, the Task Force visited a sample of African countries and the headquarters of ECA, OAU and UNIDO to discuss policy issues on industrial development with Governments and sponsoring organizations and to collect materials for the basic document. The secretariat also briefed the MULPOC directors in July 1978 with a view to utilizing MULPOC's services in assisting Governments in organizing their national workshops preparatory to the Symposium.

51. The result of the exercise undertaken by the Task Force was the production of the basic document presenting critical issues to stimulate discussions on African industrial policies and strategies as requested by the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

52. The sponsoring organizations rendered technical assistance to some member States on request while preparing for their national workshops. A number of African countries have responded favourably and have submitted country papers or reports on national workshops.

53. The fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry had accepted as a policy objective the attainment of complete self-sufficiency in the output of food and agro-industries and building materials and construction industries, as well as the rapid expansion of the engineering, the basic metals and chemicals industries.

54. The Commission's capacity to implement the chemical industry development programme was increased during the period under review, thanks to the recruitment of experts in pharmaceuticals, pesticides and fertilizers for a period of six months. The experts undertook the first in-depth field activities in a cross-section of African countries, with a view to combining immediate and medium-term needs. The field activities identified, inter alia, national and multinational projects on which feasibility and promotion activities will be undertaken during the period 1978 to 1980.

55. Concerning the basic metals and engineering industries, during 1978-1979, the secretariat has concentrated on the identification of the characteristics of the existing structures in these industries on the continent. Another objective has been to identify gaps and nodes of high potential for further development with

a view to formulating comprehensive and integrated strategies at the national, subregional and multinational levels. For this purpose, a first joint field mission visited a number of African countries during November/December 1978. The results of the mission's activities will be examined in 1979 by a series of ad hoc expert meetings in order to widen the scope of the information on the sector, projects and needs.

56. In the field of food and agro-industries development programme, efforts were devoted to preparatory activities consisting in restructuring the Advisory Group within the Commission and carrying out only those activities required to determine the future institutional framework, government commitment and interest and to formulate a medium-term work programme. Field activities were then undertaken in various African countries with a view to identifying government policies, programmes and priorities with regard to the development of food and agro-industries. A broad programme of work was drawn up for inclusion into a project document submitted to UNDP for assistance covering the period 1979-1981.

57. With regard to forest industries development during 1978 questionnaires were sent to all African countries to determine priorities in this sector with a view to formulating a new programme for 1979-1981. The questionnaires were supplemented by field visits to a cross-section of African countries. The project document of the Forest Industries Advisory Group for 1979-1981 was formulated and submitted for approval by FAO and UNDP.

58. In connexion with institutional building for industrial intercountry projects, preparatory activities have been undertaken for the establishment of the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing. These activities included fielding a mission of a team of experts to selected number of African countries and conveying an ad hoc intergovernmental experts meeting from 30 October to 2 November 1978 to consider and make specific recommendations on the field mission's report. The report of the meeting was presented to the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa (at its meeting from 8 to 10 November 1978) highlighting salient features covered by the report. With some amendments the mission's report was adopted by the Follow-up Committee. The Committee agreed that a meeting of plenipotentiaries on establishment of the Centre should take place some time during the first half of 1979.

59. In compliance with resolution 2(IV) of the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry on an African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF), work continued on the implementation of this project in collaboration with OAU, ADB and UNIDO. A field consultation mission was mounted during October/November 1978 to a few African countries to discuss problems and experiences in financing pre-feasibility and feasibility studies with particular reference to multinational, regional and subregional projects.

60. In the promotion of industrial co-operation, greater efforts were directed to the identification of the widest possible range of innovative modalities for co-operation and to the facilitation of extensive consultations among Governments. The secretariat is reviewing its stand on global consultations system related to industry, trade etc, with a view to consolidating an African basis for concrete negotiations with the outside world. It is hoped that the regional symposium on industrial policies and strategies will indicate a common African position as guideline for the third General Conference of UNIDO in 1980.

61. As a focal point for industrial consultations in the African region, the Follow-up Committee on Industrialization in Africa held its fifth meeting in Addis Ababa from 8 to 10 November 1978 to review the progress made in the implementation of recommendations made by the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry in respect of the industrial branch priorities, institutional development in the field of industrial projects geared toward promoting industrialization in Africa, and the preparation for the third General Conference of UNIDO as well as the fifth Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

62. At the interagency level, ECA/UNIDO co-operation covers a wide range of industrial activities and is continuing. OAU is co-operating more and more with ECA as an equal partner and is already involved in such regional industrial projects as the Centre for Engineering Design, the Symposium and the African Industrial Development Fund. ECA, OAU and UNIDO are cosponsors of these regional projects as well as the meetings related to them. The African Development Bank (ADB) is also co-operating in the work for the establishment of the African Industrial Development Fund mentioned above.

63. In general, UNDP has collaborated with the secretariat on all the major regional projects, especially by giving preparatory funding for them.

International trade and finance

64. The secretariat's activities concerning intra-African trade were aimed at assisting member States in expanding trade, financial and monetary relations among themselves. These activities were conducted essentially within the framework of the MULPOCs and were generally aimed at helping either to set up new economic and trade groupings or to strengthen existing ones.

65. In the case of the Eastern and Southern African countries which are covered by the Lusaka-based MULPOC, work on the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area (PTA) among them has proceeded satisfactorily. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Team on the Treaty for the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area in Eastern and Southern Africa set up by the Council of Ministers of Trade, Finance and Development Planning of the Lusaka-based MULPOC met for the first time in Addis Ababa in June 1978 and adopted the Principles on which the Treaty is expected to be based. Since then, it has met twice in Mbabane (Swaziland) and Addis Ababa respectively to consider and adopt a number of Protocols, including those on rules of origin for products to be traded within the PTA and on transport and communications

66. In so far as the Yaoundé and Gisenyi-based MULPOC countries are concerned, a fact-finding multidisciplinary mission has just been dispatched to determine what kind of institutional framework would be most likely to assist in substantially promote trade among the interested countries, having due regard to the role which could be played by existing groupings such as UDEAC and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL).

67. As for the North African subregion, the draft terms of reference and detailed outline of field studies on intra-subregional trade expansion to be undertaken in countries of the subregion were presented to the sectoral meeting of the experts held in September 1978.

68. In the West African subregion, at the request of the ECOWAS secretariat, ECA was formally designated as Co-ordinator of the ECOWAS trade, customs and monetary affairs project. As such, the secretariat not only has been responsible for supervising studies carried out by other agencies and ensuring the over-all coherence thereof, but has also been directly entrusted with a number of studies including those on both recorded and unrecorded trade flows which called for extensive desk research as well as field missions.

69. Lastly, in co-operation with the Centre Ivoirien du Commerce Extérieur, the secretariat organized a seminar on concrete ways and means of promoting intra-subregional trade in West Africa in Abidjan from 18 to 23 September 1978.

70. With regard to the promotion of intra-African trade, the General Assembly of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) met and elected both the Bureau and the Secretary-General of the Association. Since then, close co-operation has been maintained with the secretariat of the Association through meetings aimed at co-ordination of work programmes and participation in each other's training activities.

71. Further, the secretariat, through its quarterly "African Trade", has been trying to remedy the lack of information which has long been identified as one of the main obstacles to intra-African trade. In addition, for the first time ever, an African Trade Directory is being prepared, which will make it possible for readers to have readily available information on present and potential importers and exporters of African goods. The first issue of the Directory is expected to be published in 1979.

72. Moreover, initial steps have been taken to launch a Regional Trade Intelligence Unit aimed, in close co-operation with existing national trade intelligence units, at making systematic information available on best sources of supply, including African ones, for African imports.

73. A series of studies aimed at identifying products which could be traded among African countries were completed. Several concrete possibilities relating inter alia, to wood products, meat and meat products, coffee, textiles, wines and vegetables, etc., were investigated.

74. Lastly, work has started on feasibility studies concerning the establishment of African commodity exchanges. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1979.

75. In so far as intra-African finance is concerned, the secretariat's action was aimed both at assisting relevant existing institutions to improve or widen their operations and at helping to create new ones, having in mind all the time the crucial role which such institutions could and should play in the effective promotion of intra-African trade.

76. Thus, in co-operation with UNCTAD, a study tour was organized for members of the Exchange and Clearing Committee and senior officials of the West African Clearing House (WACH) to a number of clearing institutions in Asia and Latin America with a view to familiarizing them with the experience of these older institutions and enabling them to assess the relevance thereof for WACH. With

the same end in view, another study tour to some Eastern European countries was organized recently as part of a UNDP-financed preparatory assistance project to WACH for which ECA was designated as Executing Agency.

77. The secretariat has just completed a study on the role of commercial banks in intra-African trade promotion for a seminar organized by the Association of African Central Banks on the same topic.

78. With regard to the Integrated Programme for Commodities, pursuant to Conference of Ministers resolution 292(XIII), the secretariat assisted member States both in their preparation for meetings and during the actual meetings, with a view to enabling them to derive maximum advantage from the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

79. The secretariat was involved in the preparation and the servicing of two seminars on tropical timber and of a seminar on cotton organized by UNCTAD to discuss and work out appropriate measures and techniques to achieve the objectives of the Integrated Programme, determine the financial implications of the proposed measures, recommend the required follow-up action through the negotiation of agreements regarding these commodities and prepare draft proposals of such agreements for the consideration of Governments and for use in commodity negotiating conferences. Papers discussing the particular situation and problems of African countries in respect of the two above-mentioned commodities were submitted to African delegations.

80. Staff members also attended the two sessions of the United Nations Negotiating Conferences on the Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities and serviced the African Group meetings which were held in conjunction with the two sessions.

81. As many African countries are not attending the multilateral trade negotiations at Geneva, the secretariat has issued newsletters to inform them of developments and help to harmonize stands. Equally, under the interregional multinational trade negotiations project, the secretariat has carried out two studies, one on the Tokyo round and African countries and the other on tariff barriers to African exports not covered by the current negotiations.

82. In preparation for the fifth session of UNCTAD, the secretariat collaborated with other organizations in a series of preparatory meetings and prepared relevant documentation on the respective positions of the countries members of the Group of 77 and Group B and on the status of the resolutions adopted at the four earlier sessions of UNCTAD.

83. The secretariat also gave technical assistance to the ACP secretariat in the preparation of documents concerning the negotiations for a successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention.

84. In furtherance of the Mexico City Programme of Action on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, studies were carried out on expansion of trade between developing African countries and other developing countries in both the Latin American and Asian and Pacific regions within the framework of economic co-operation among developing countries. The secretariat has also drawn up a trade project in

the context of Afro-Arab co-operation at the request of BADEA. When this project is finalized, it will be implemented with the full participation of the Commission and ECWA.

85. The secretariat has furthermore provided substantive professional inputs to work undertaken by UNCTAD in the field of co-operation among State Trading Organizations. A preliminary study on ways and means of forging closer payment arrangements among developing regions has also been provided to the Technical Secretariat of the Co-ordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Co-operation among Developing Countries which is headquartered in UNCTAD. The secretariat has held several consultations with the secretariats of other regional commissions and UNCTAD for purposes of co-ordination and collaboration of work in this field. At the request of the United Nations Action Programme for Economic Co-operation, a study entitled "A synopsis of the operational structure of certain African State Trading Organizations" for use in the former's envisaged seminar was provided.

86. The Commission's work programme relating to transnational corporations is implemented by the Joint ECA/CTNC Unit on Transnational Corporations which was established within the International Trade and Finance Division of the ECA secretariat in November 1977, but was not fully staffed until November 1978.

87. The Joint Unit has initiated a number of studies on the role and impact of transnational corporations in various key sectors. A paper entitled "African Economic Development and Transnational Corporations in the 1980s" has been prepared which examines transnationals in world and African perspectives and major issues relating to the activities of such corporations in Africa.

88. Draft methodologies and outlines have also been prepared for three studies: the role and impact of transnational corporations on balance-of-payments, the role of transnationals in African regional co-operation and on the code of conduct and its implementation.

89. With regard to the collection and dissemination of information, draft profiles have been prepared on two major transnational corporations operating in the region. The Joint Unit is also collecting legislations and agreements between African Governments and transnationals.

90. An agreement was reached between the Executive Secretaries of ECA, ECLA and ESCAP to carry out jointly a research project (interregional project) on the activities of transnationals in the field of primary commodity exports, the project received top priority. The purpose of the project is to study (a) the factors determining the relative bargaining positions of host Governments and transnationals and (b) the resulting structure of distribution of gains between the host countries and transnationals.

91. Part of the responsibility of the Joint Unit is to support the work of the Centre on Transnational Corporations. Accordingly, the Joint Unit has assisted and is actively participating in a banking study and a tourism study in Africa.

92. The Joint Unit also undertook 11 missions to African countries and to areas outside the region to discuss matters of common interest relating to transnational corporations in the African region.

93. An evaluation of the United Nations programme on transnational corporations in the African region was prepared and submitted to Headquarters.

Manpower

94. The secretariat's activities in the fields of public administration and management followed largely the same pattern as those of the previous years, consisting of training, advisory and consultancy services to member States. Seminars on training and manpower development were held in Rwanda whilst further assistance was given to the Senegalese Government on its administrative reform programmes. Training and evaluation missions were also undertaken in the Ivory Coast, the Upper Volta, the Niger, Togo, Benin, the United Republic of Cameroon and Seychelles.

95. A major activity of the secretariat in these fields was the organization of a regional seminar on the technical and managerial problems of African public enterprises which was held in the United Republic of Cameroon in August. The seminar discussed urgent technical and managerial problems inhibiting the effective performance of African public enterprises and proposed a number of remedial measures to enhance their performance. The seminar also drew up plans for closer co-operation among African public enterprises as a prelude to the formation of African multinational enterprises.

96. Assistance to strengthen African training institutions and to enhance their capability continued during the period under review. The secretariat participated in an evaluation mission on the East African Management Institute as well as on the design and programme of activities of the proposed ECOWAS Institute for Public Administration. Close contacts were maintained with other institutions and international agencies in co-sponsoring seminars and workshops as well as in the execution of joint projects. Prominent among these institutions and agencies were CAFRAD, AAPAM, the German Foundation for Developing Countries, the International Development Research Centre, the Foundation for International Training and the Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft. Some of these agencies provided consultants as well as funds to enable the secretariat to execute a number of vital projects for which funds were not provided for in its budget.

Natural resources

97. During the period under review the fourth meeting of the Technical Committee (consisting of representatives of the Government of the Upper Volta, USAID, the Canadian Government, the French Government and ECA) for the Ouagadougou Remote Sensing Centre took place at Ouagadougou from 12 to 15 July 1978. The meeting in Ouagadougou noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made during the year since the Paris meeting. Staff from the Centre had carried out sensitization visits to a number of West African countries. The first batch of students had arrived for training and plans for expansion were in an advanced stage.

98. From 26 to 29 September 1978, the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on Establishment of an African Remote Sensing Programme was held at Ouagadougou. The meeting discussed and adopted the constitution of the African Remote Sensing Council. The agreed constitution was signed by seven African member States.

99. As regards the Nairobi Training and User-assistance Centre, the agreement which had been reached with USAID was being implemented during the period under review. The Director of the facility as well as three other staff members were at post in the host centre, the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping. The facility assisted the Government of Burundi in drawing up a project for consideration by USAID and visits were paid to some countries in the East African subregion.

100. The Regional Adviser on Remote Sensing visited some seven countries at their request.

(a) Mineral resources

101. It will be recalled that during 1975 the countries of the East African subregion agreed to establish the East African Mineral Resources Development Centre at Dodoma in the United Republic of Tanzania.

102. The Director-General of the Centre was appointed during June 1978 and the Chief Technical Adviser funded by UNDP took up his assignment in the first quarter of 1979.

103. As the executing agency of the project, the secretariat has, in co-operation with the host country, continued to promote the support of the countries of the subregion in the project and to mobilize funds from both the participating countries and from donors. However, in spite of Conference of Ministers resolution 297(XIII), support of the project by 12 out of the 16 member countries of the subregion has not been obtained. In order to strengthen the project and make it an effective tool for the development of the minerals sectors of member States, the secretariat appeals to all the countries of the subregion to give full political and material support to the institution.

104. As of the time of writing, the Centre had received funds amounting to \$US 451,680 from the participating Governments, UNDP, the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and Belgium. During 1979 additional resources for the Centre are expected to come from the same sources mentioned above, donors who have expressed interest in supporting the project but are in the process of evaluating the form of assistance that they will provide, and new member States to the Centre from the subregion.

105. The Centre's budget for the next four years calls for contributions of resources from countries and donors amounting to \$US 10 million.

106. Concerning the possibility of establishing a similar centre for Central Africa, fact-finding missions by the secretariat to the countries of the Central African subregion to collect relevant data were completed and the findings were compiled in a report which was sent to Governments for their consideration.

107. The secretariat is in the process of organizing a meeting of government representatives of the subregion to be held some time in mid-1979 to enable the countries to discuss the report and take decisions regarding the establishment of the Centre.

108. The preparatory work for the first Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources commenced in earnest during the period under review. Field missions to 19 countries of Africa were undertaken to brief country representatives on the objectives of the Conference and to collect data and information for the preparation of basic documents. A consultant in Mining Legislation was appointed and prepared a review of mining and mineral legislation in African countries.

109. A staff member attended the special session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs for the co-ordination of the work programmes of various United Nations agencies; the secretariat was also represented at the World Conference on Small-Scale Mining held in Mexico.

110. The lack of additional posts either regular or extra-budgetary has affected the capability of the secretariat in coping with all the responsibilities in the field of mineral resources development as well as in promoting new activities such as resources of the sea.

(b) Energy

111. During the period under review, activities were concentrated on three sub-programme elements: (a) Development of conventional energy resources of Africa; (b) Development of electrical energy in Africa including rural electrification; and (c) Development of non-conventional sources of energy in Africa.

112. Special emphasis was given to development of non-conventional sources of energy which accounted for over 50 per cent of activities.

113. Assistance was given to member States in the formulation of integrated energy policies, in the evaluation, development, exploitation and use of energy resources and in multinational co-operation. This was particularly the case with the countries members of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes and the integrated development of Liptako-Gourma area for which the third phase of the project was proposed.

114. An inventory of energy resources was initiated by collecting key-data for the purpose. Preparation of an Atlas of Energy Resources in Africa was started and five sheets out of 16 were prepared. One of these sheets was up-dated in the field, and is ready for printing. This is a four-year project and will continue in 1979.

115. The existing Electric Energy Map of Africa was up-dated.

116. As far as the establishment of subregional energy committees with a view to eventual creation of a Regional Energy Committee is concerned, a project was prepared for the Central African subregion. The establishment of the subregional committees and of the regional committee was suggested to be financed from the OPEC Special Fund for developing regions with support from the UNDP.

117. Preparation of a study on the establishment of an African Petroleum Institute started with a write-up of a "Survey of existing facilities and future needs in Africa for education, training and research in the field of fuel science and technology with special reference to petroleum and its derivatives".

118. With regard to the development of electrical energy and rural electrification and development of energy equipment for rural use, advisory services on the development and utilization of solar, wind and biogas energies were given, on request, to four African countries, namely: Ethiopia, Somalia, Mauritius and Lesotho. A solar energy library was established. Country files were prepared and technical and commercial data on solar energy were assembled. A five-year project on the promotion of solar energy in Africa was prepared. The project provides a wide range of activities covering the strengthening of existing R & D Centres, training, establishment of measurement centres, demonstration of solar infrastructure and equipment and convening of seminars. The first of the seminars took place in the Niger between 8 and 13 January 1979. A list of training institutions in solar energy was prepared and five fellowships for training in solar energy were secured. A project for training nine Africans in solar energy with USAID assistance was prepared and is under implementation.

(c) Water resources

119. The secretariat provided advisory services in respect of the planning and development of ground water resources, in the methods for prospection, developing, exploitation and conservation techniques, in choice of equipment, and in establishing national hydrogeological services for the development of underground water resources by conducting missions to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Gambia, Somalia, the Congo, Zambia, Malawi and Uganda.

120. A project document on development of underground water resources in the sub-Saharan area was submitted for bilateral technical assistance. The objectives of the project are to assist member States in planning and developing their underground water resources, to provide advisory services with respect to the methods for prospection, developing exploitation and conservation techniques and to assist Governments in formulating projects for prefeasibility studies to be submitted to UNDP for implementation.

121. To identify the needs for improvements in existing facilities and the establishment of a multinational water resources development institute in West Africa for research, planning and training purposes, a questionnaire was prepared and circulated to Governments in the West African subregion.

122. A project document on the studies on underground water resources in arid countries of Africa and preparation of hydrogeological maps was submitted for bilateral technical assistance by the Algerian Government and USAID. The objectives of the project are to conduct surveys which will lead to a more precise knowledge of the groundwater resources in Africa and produce maps which will be of use to the planner and the decision maker.

123. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2215(LXIII), which called upon the regional commissions to convene regional meetings to obtain the views of States Members of the United Nations on the follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference at the regional level, the African Regional Meeting was successfully convened at Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 October 1978. Action recommendations were agreed upon for subsequent submission to the third special session of the Committee on Natural Resources on integrated development and management of water resources. The action recommendations covered a wide spectrum of activities in the field of water resources development and management and identified project proposals to be implemented in the African region.

124. A project document on land and water resources survey for irrigation in Africa was submitted for assistance by the Netherlands Government. The objectives of the project are to make an assessment of available data and information on existing and potential irrigation schemes, to assist the countries in Africa in the identification, planning, improvement and rationalization of irrigation projects, to assist in strengthening the national irrigation services and to promote exchange of information and experiences and to encourage co-operation among States sharing common water resources.

125. Upon the joint request of the Governments of Kenya and Ethiopia, terms of reference for consultants to undertake preliminary investigations and studies of development projects in the Dawa River subbasin, were prepared and sent to the Governments. The objectives of the project are planning the Dawa River Basin for irrigation, power development, drinking water supply and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater with a view to expanding the resources development of the region and establishing settled agriculture in order to alleviate the problems of food shortage and to raise the standard of living of the people.

126. A project document on planning the water resources development of the Lake Tanganyika basin was submitted for financing under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development. The objectives of the project are to undertake studies of international rivers and lakes in Africa, to identify and report on the possible scope for development and to encourage exchanges between countries sharing common river basins, to share experiences in planning, development, regulation, management and conservation of water resources. This project is initially envisaged to cover studies on 17 major international rivers in Africa with a projection plan to cover all the international rivers and lakes of the region in the future.

127. The secretariat also participated in the first consultative meeting held in Geneva in November 1978, on the international drinking water supply and sanitation decade; in a Seminar on Selected Water Problems in Islands and Coastal Areas with Special Regard to Desalination and Groundwater in Malta in June 1978; and in the International Symposium on Isotope Hydrology which was held in Munich-Neuherberg, Federal Republic of Germany, from 19 to 24 June 1978.

128. Close collaboration was maintained with United Nations Centre for Natural Resources Energy and Transport in the area of securing publications and reports and with WMO, WHO, UNDP and FAO.

(d) Cartography

129. During the period under review, the secretariat concentrated on the following activities: (a) Provision of domestic services such as the preparation of maps and charts which were attached to the various reports prepared by the secretariat, (b) Assisting countries of the region in developing efficient cartographic services and (c) Preparations for the fourth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa and the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission with regard to the exhibition to be mounted by the secretariat.

130. The secretariat continued to play its part in consolidating and extending the Regional Centre, for training in Aerial Surveys at Ile-Ife in Nigeria. Courses in photogrammetry at technician's level and photogrammetric operator's courses were run in 1978/79 sessions and attended by students from within and outside the sub-region where the Centre is located.

131. Although at the end of the second Council Meeting of the African Association of Cartography at Algiers in November 1977 the Council called for closer co-operation between it and the secretariat, only one contact was made with the ECA secretariat on matters of mutual interests. This was in June 1978 when the Association approached the secretariat for assistance in establishing a cartographic centre in the Congo for training photogrammetric operators, photogrammetrists at technician's level and cartographers.

132. Only two out of the five contracting countries at the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping, Nairobi (Kenya) were active financial participants, which has adversely affected the growth of the Centre, particularly its physical and curriculum developments. Two members of the Governing Council visited Ethiopia in December 1978 to solicit political and material support. Many more such visits were planned to other countries within the East African subregion in the near future. The secretariat was represented at the sixth and seventh Governing Council Meetings of the Centre, held in Nairobi (Kenya) in September 1978 and January 1979.

133. The Congo approached the secretariat for assistance in strengthening its cartographic organization. As a first step the secretariat sent a mission to assess requirements and a report was prepared. This is being studied for whatever technical assistance the secretariat would negotiate on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Congo.

134. At the joint invitation of the International Association of Geodesy and the Commission for Geodesy in Africa, the secretariat participated in the International Gravity Workshop 1978, held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 20 November to 2 December 1978. The Workshop adopted 14 resolutions two of which required action by the secretariat. The secretariat was requested to (a) approach the Italian Government for necessary financial assistance that would enable the Istituto de Metrologia "G. Colonnetti of Torino" to establish absolute gravity stations in Africa, and (b) take necessary action to ensure the continuous up-dating of the cartographic inventory for Africa.

135. In collaboration with OAU, the secretariat participated actively in the meeting of experts concerning the preparation of the International Hydrogeological Map of Africa, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 9 November 1978. The suggestion of the secretariat that the collaboration and co-operation of international agencies as well as other national and international organizations be requested in the launching of the map was unanimously accepted. This was seen to be in consonance with the spirit of technical co-operation among national and international agencies in the implementation of projects of mutual benefit.

136. Work on the compilation of the cartographic inventory for Africa project for which a grant of \$Can. 449,705 was provided by the Canadian Government continued.

137. The Cartography Unit was actively involved with the preparation of materials (maps, charts and diagrams) which were exhibited during the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission. It assisted in mounting the secretariat's exhibition in Rabat (Morocco) in March 1979.

138. As from May 1978 the secretariat commenced preparations for the convening of the fourth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa to be held in Abidjan (the Ivory Coast) from 5 to 16 November 1979.

139. During the period under review, the drawing office prepared 178 drawings for maps and charts and distributed 500 map sheets of maps published by the secretariat to organizations both inside and outside Africa.

140. The Map Documentation and Reference Centre received 320 maps and other cartographic publications and published three quarterly accessions list which were sent to its correspondents. A catalogue of its holdings would be ready for publication in May 1979.

(e) Environment

141. In a circular dated 6 November 1978 the Executive Secretary announced the establishment of the Environmental Co-ordination Office to be in the Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary with effect from 17 October 1978; in the same circular the Executive Secretary indicated that the Environment Unit in the 'Natural Resources Division was abolished. However, during the period before that time, the staff member in the Environment Unit was fully engaged in the preparations of documents for the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an African Remote Sensing Programme which was later held in Ouagadougou in September 1978. The staff member also followed up that meeting by preparing its report and letters of transmittal to the member States.

Population

142. During the period May 1978 to March 1979, assistance to the Nigerian Government in conducting demographic surveys in connexion with the planning of the country's new capital city project was continued. Assistance was also given to Governments of Mauritius and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the analysis of census data.

143. In the field of training, courses in demography and related topics were given at the East African Statistical Training Centre (Dar es Salaam) and to the Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia (Addis Ababa). An in-service training on the analysis of census data was also organized at the Census and Statistics Department in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

144. The secretariat continued to backstop the activities of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (Accra) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographique (Yaoundé), by participating in their Governing Council meetings, and also by delivering lectures in statistics at the Accra Institute.

145. The African Directory of Demographers and two editions of the African Population Newsletter were published. Two studies on Kenya and the Ivory Coast are being published under the macro-micro case studies project of the secretariat. The re-organization and updating of the Information and Clearing House Unit was undertaken with the assistance of consultants.

146. The secretariat organized the third session of Conference of African Demographers at Dakar from 19 to 24 February 1979, at which 38 member States and other bodies were represented. Great importance was given to the role of population issues in socio-economic planning by the Conference. A resolution on the merging of the Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians and Conference of African Demographers was adopted together with two other resolutions on priorities in the population work programme of ECA and on regional training in population studies in Africa.

147. Work continued on the analysis of African Governments' replies to the Secretary-General's Third Inquiry on Population and Development. Studies were also completed on mortality in the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Work was started on a study on the relationship between marriage and fertility and population projections for the countries of the region. A major three-round survey on fertility/mortality was started in Zambia.

148. The secretariat collaborated closely with UNFPA and specialized agencies including other organizations. The Ford Foundation provided funds for the Zambia survey. UNESCO and OAU collaborated in the Meeting of Experts on population communication media. The secretariat also took part in the ACC Sub-Committee and Inter-agency working group meetings on population.

Fiscal, monetary and financial policies and institutions

149. The major emphasis in the implementation of the sub-programme relating to the development and management of budgetary and taxation systems was on enhancing the financial management capability and strengthening the budgetary and taxation systems of member States. During the period under review, activities focused on assisting African countries in the training of various categories of personnel in their public services for managing their public financial infrastructures. This was done through the holding of problem-oriented national training workshops on taxation policy, legislation and administration and budgetary management and studies to be used as background documents for the training workshops.

150. In the field of fiscal advisory services, a preliminary survey mission to Seychelles was carried out aimed at assisting the Government in working out short- and long-term training programmes for its public finance personnel.

151. National training workshops on tax policy and administration and budgetary control procedures were conducted at Juba, the Sudan and in Mogadiscio, Somalia, respectively for tax and budget officers. A study on improvements in budgetary systems and management in selected African countries was finalized for publication and used as one of the background documents for conducting the national training workshops.

152. The studies on the development of techniques and procedures for effective co-ordination of the budget and the plan, and case studies of African countries' experiences in using presumptive tax assessment techniques in taxing small traders will soon be finalized.

Science and technology

153. The first session of the Council and the first meeting of the Executive Board of the African Centre for Technology were held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 8 to 11 May 1978. The Executive Board considered questions such as the organization of the secretariat of the Centre including staff matters, a draft programme of work and budget for 1978 and 1979 including the formula for contributions by States members of the Centre and the host country. The recommendations of the Executive Board were then submitted to the resumed session of Council which was to consider them and select a host country for the Centre. Since no decision was taken by Council on the question of selection of a host country for the Centre, the interim secretariat prepared the second session of the Council and the second meeting of the Executive Board of the Centre in November 1978.

154. At its special session held from 3 to 7 November 1978 the Council selected Senegal to host the Centre. On the question of the appointment of the Executive Director and Directors of Divisions it was decided to extend the closing date for receipt of additional applications in view of the poor response to the initial advertisements. The Council further established an Interview Panel consisting of experts from Burundi, Guinea, Kenya, the Sudan, OAU and the secretariat to review the applications received by 15 December 1978, interview the **short-listed** candidates and make recommendations for appointment to a special meeting of the Executive Board of the Centre.

155. The Interview Panel held its first meeting on 5 and 6 January 1979 and **short-listed** the candidates for the posts of Executive Director and Directors of Divisions who were interviewed by the Panel at its meeting held in March 1979.

156. Financing for the preparatory activities has been provided principally by UNDP and UNESCO. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies also have contributed: UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, ILO and WIPO. Financing for the operations of the Centre consists of a regular budget obtained from contributions by member States and a subvention from OAU, supported by a UNDP assistance project covering the period 1978-1981 as well as assistance from agencies within the United Nations system.

157. Since its operations embrace the transfer, development and adaptation of technology in the whole region, the Centre will be directly involved in action programmes arising out of the African regional meeting and the global United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The Centre will also have strong links with other technological organizations within and outside the region, such as the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), the Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing, the Arab Centre for Technology and similar centres in Asia and Latin America.

158. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) is being convened pursuant to various measures taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 1897 (XVLL) and General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII) and 31/184.

159. The secretariat participated in the preparatory activities for UNCSTD in 1978, the first and second sessions of the preparatory Committee in New York and Geneva, the fourth session of the Committee for Science and Technology for Development, the ACC Sub-committee on Science and Technology, the regional commissions meeting in New York, the informal meeting on the Network for Exchange of Information and Transfer of Technology, the Cairo Meeting on host country negotiations etc., and conducted dialogues with African focal points in the Gambia, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, the United Republic of Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Gabon, Swaziland, Madagascar, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, the United Republic of Cameroon, Senegal and Guinea regarding preparations for UNCSTD through correspondence and by visits.

160. As a further input into the preparations for UNCSTD, the secretariat, with support from the UNCSTD secretariat in New York and the African Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, organized a meeting of selected African experts in Yaoundé, United Republic of Cameroon, from 17 to 21 July 1978. This meeting of experts in science and technology discussed the draft African Regional Paper for UNCSTD which the secretariat had prepared, and made useful comments for the improvement of the paper.

161. The African Regional Meeting of UNCSTD was held in Cairo from 24 to 29 August 1978. The meeting took decisions regarding the review and final preparations of the African Regional Paper including Programme of Action for submission to the World Conference. Following the African Regional Meeting, the secretariat revised the Regional Paper and mounted follow-up activities. A member of the secretariat participated in the third session of the Preparatory Committee held in New York in January 1979.

162. The secretariat assisted with the organization and servicing of the thirteenth meeting of the African Regional Group of ACAST, which was held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 17 May 1978. The session considered the progress of preparatory activities in Africa for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and made proposals to effect more productive results from activities planned at the national and subregional levels. The session further reviewed and commented on the draft Regional Paper for submission to the African Regional Meeting on UNCSTD.

163. The session also reviewed the secretariat's programme of work in science and technology for 1980-1983 and urged the Executive Secretary and the Conference of Ministers to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Science and Technology Unit was strengthened in 1979.

164. ECA collaborated with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the establishment of the Industrial Property Organization of English-speaking African countries, the headquarters of which is located in Nairobi, Kenya. The objectives of the organization include the promotion and harmonization of industrial property, laws and practices that would enhance the economic development of the States members of the organization, establish related common services and promote the training of personnel in the field of industrial property laws and practice. The Commission and WIPO jointly provide the interim secretariat of the organization, and as such has prepared model on trade marks, patents and industrial designs suitable for the needs of the States members of the organization for consideration and adaptation by them.

165. The first session of the Council of the organization was held in Nairobi 2 to 5 May 1978. At this session the Council decided that a Patent Documentation and Information Centre should be established within the framework of the organization, and that the Commission and WIPO, acting as interim secretariat, should continue their efforts to mobilize resources from external sources for the implementation of this Centre. The first budget of the organization should be for the year beginning from 1 January 1980 and that contributions from member States should be proportionate to the formula applied for their contributions to the budget of the United Nations. The Director of the organization should be appointed at its next session, to take office as from January 1980 to coincide with the first budgetary year. Until the Director was appointed, the Commission and WIPO should continue to provide interim secretariat office.

166. The two Patent Documentation and Information Centres, one for English-speaking countries (Nairobi) and the other for French-speaking countries (Yaoundé) are expected to have close links with the African Regional Centre for Technology, to ensure that the important role of patents in technological development is adequately achieved.

167. A Seminar on Industrial Property, organized jointly by the Commission and WIPO, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7 to 9 December 1978. It discussed access to technological information contained in patent documents, the importance of a modern patent system in a developing country, training, and policy and practical aspects of introducing modern harmonized patent legislation as well as the proposed Patent Documentation and Information Centre.

168. The Second Session of the Council discussed and endorsed the recommendations of the Seminar. The Council also discussed and adopted the Model Law on Trade Marks prepared by its Committee on Trade Marks and Industrial Design Matters.

169. The Council decided that the Industrial Property Organization and OAPI (the sister organization for French-speaking Africa) should jointly provide to the African Regional Centre for Technology support services as specialized agencies responsible for patent documentation and information. The Council also decided that further missions to member as well as potential member countries should be organized to draw attention to the usefulness of technological information from patent documents to Governments, R & D institutions, universities and industry, and to explore how to establish working relations between the Organization and such users at the national level.

170. The third meeting of the ARSO Council, organized by the secretariat which is the interim secretariat, was held from 9 to 11 January 1979 in Addis Ababa and considered a number of issues connected with the organization of the secretariat of ARSO and its eventual location in the host country, Ghana. The Council also appointed a Secretary-General, who is expected to assume office in April 1979.

171. With regard to the development of manpower for science and technology, a project has been developed within the programme of assistance in restructuring existing curricula in technology in universities in Africa. The project has the objective of exposing the engineering student to more factory-level practical

experience while still at University so as to make him more useful to industry immediately upon graduation. This is to be achieved by the establishment and operation of production workshop units in faculties of engineering at the universities. Finance is being obtained from relevant funding agencies for this project.

172. The secretariat, jointly with UNESCO, has prepared a project on the development of marine science and technology in Africa. The project has three principal objectives, namely, to enable the maritime states in East and West Africa better to explore and exploit their marine resources, to develop indigenous manpower in these countries in marine science and technology research and to promote co-operation among the countries concerned in the development and utilization of their marine resources. Finance for this project is being sought from relevant funding sources.

173. The second meeting of experts on the creation of an African Network of Institutions Engaged in Scientific and Technological Research and Higher Education organized by UNESCO was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 11 to 15 December 1978.

174. Decisions were taken regarding the machinery for establishing the network, its modes of operation and linkages with other institutions in the region and outside. The meeting also reviewed a project document on the network. It was decided that the network be called the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions. The operation of the network is to be co-ordinated by a Regional Co-ordinator to be based in Nairobi. UNESCO is initiating steps to recruit the Regional Co-ordinator.

175. Other promotional activities of the secretariat in regional co-operation in science and technology are attained through the operations of the intergovernmental organizations such as the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and the African Regional Centre for Technology in the establishment of which the secretariat played a leading role and for which the secretariat acts as an interim secretariat.

Social development

176. Concerning the proposed African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development to be located in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, host country agreement was signed on 15 May 1978 between the Executive Secretary and the Ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Ethiopia.

177. A project document containing all the data and financial implications of the Centre was circulated to member States, UNDP and other prospective contributors to the financing and operation of the Centre. By January 1979 13 member States had acceded to the agreement establishing the Centre: Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Cameroon, Zaire.

178. The Assistant Administrator of the UNDP Arab Bureau visited ECA in January 1979 and expressed interest in supporting the establishment and operation of the Centre. The nature and extent of the UNDP Arab Bureau support to the Centre will be determined in due course.

179. In February and March 1979, a joint ECA/OAU Mission visited Lomé, Togo, where it conferred with Government officials on the third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs to be held in Lomé in November 1979.

180. A survey of social trends and major social development problems was undertaken during 1978 with the help of a consultant. The study is expected to serve as the main working document for the third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. This report will also be used for preparation of the Africa Chapter of the United Nations Report on the World Social Situation and the secretariat's Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa.

181. Activities in the field of youth during 1978 and 1979 have been limited to (a) a survey of youth policies, programmes and training requirements in Africa, which was completed in draft form, but needs field work to up-date the data and authenticate the information, and (b) activities in connexion with the designation of 1979 as the International Year of the Child (see also in this connexion document E/CN.14/722).

182. The secretariat participated in an Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on Youth, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 May 1978. Among the main objectives of the meeting was the formulation of a project for a joint United Nations Training Workshop for Youth Leaders and Youth Workers in Southern Africa. Other considerations included channels of communication between the United Nations and youth organizations, and how these could be made more effective.

183. A study of family welfare and development in Africa was completed and a monography entitled Family Welfare and Development in Africa (E/CN.14/SWSA/11) was issued in May 1978.

184. The secretariat, in co-operation with UNICEF and other organs of the United Nations system, drew up a detailed programme for the observance of the International Year of the Child. A manual on child development, family life and nutrition, specifically prepared for trainers in the rural areas, was published as one of ECA's contributions for the Year.

185. In the field of social welfare training, the secretariat continued extending technical advice and support to and participating in the programme activities of the Association for Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA). It participated in an Expert Group Meeting on the Development of a Training Curriculum in Family Welfare in May 1978.

186. In the field of integrated rural development, during the period under review, the Inter-Divisional Working Group identified and established the secretariat's Special Programme in Integrated Rural Development. A total of seven interdivisional and interdisciplinary projects were also designed and implemented under its auspices.

187. A comparative study of the organization, administration and financing of rural development in Africa was completed in mid-1978. This study was used as the basic background document at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Policy, Planning, Organization and Management of Integrated Rural Development, which took place in Arusha (Tanzania), from 26 October to 3 November 1978.

188. After the amalgamation of the two publications, "Rural Development Newsletter" and "African Women", a new quarterly bulletin, "Rural Progress" is being edited and published by the secretariat.

189. Major efforts of the African Training and Research Centre for Women during this period were directed towards the development of institutions to enhance the integration of women in development at the national, subregional and regional levels. Inaugural meetings of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development were held for Eastern and Southern Africa from 19 to 21 June 1978, Central Africa from 10 to 13 July 1978, West Africa from 30 November to 2 December 1978 and the Great Lakes Community countries on 11 and 12 January 1979. The subregional committees are composed of representatives of national machineries who come together to review the work programme of ECA for the subregion relating to women. At the regional level, the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee was inaugurated in Rabat from 14 to 17 March 1979. This committee is composed of three countries from each subregion, the Bureau of the Regional Conference, Pan African Women's Organization and the Organization of African Unity. Its main functions is to co-ordinate the activities of the subregional committees (see also in this connexion document E/CN.14/716).

190. During the period, the Centre organized workshops on preparation, implementation and evaluation of project proposals for women heads of national machineries in the countries served by three of the MULPOCs, i.e., Eastern and Southern Africa, Central Africa and West Africa.

191. It was during this period also that the first ECA/PAID/FAO/UNICEF In-service Training Course for Intermediate Level Trainers in Rural Areas from French-speaking African countries at the Panafrican Institute for Development in Douala, United Republic of Cameroon, was organized in October-December 1978. Thirty trainees from Benin, Burundi, Mauritania, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, the United Republic of Cameroon and the Upper Volta participated. The training course was one in a series designed to improve the theoretical and practical knowledge of trainers in food and nutrition, management of family resources, environmental hygiene, extension methods, organization of training programmes, communication, survey techniques, evaluation, follow-up and reporting. The second course is planned for end of 1979, and WHO has indicated interest in sponsoring a few trainees as well as providing instructions on health aspects.

192. In November 1978 a Seminar on Handicrafts and Small-Scale Industries was organized in Addis Ababa for French-speaking countries following the model of a similar seminar organized for English-speaking countries in Kitwe, Zambia in 1975. Recommendations requesting Governments and international organizations to develop this important income-generating activity for women were adopted.

193. A Workshop on the Development of Day-Care Centres in Africa was held in collaboration with UNICEF from 12 to 17 February 1979 in Tunisia for participants from Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Congo, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Rwanda, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon, the Upper Volta and Zaire. The main objectives were to publicize the role of day-care centres in improving the access of women to economic opportunities and their integration in development and to discuss in what ways ECA and other interested agencies could assist individual countries to set up and improve day-care programmes.

194. During the period under review studies were completed on the following: indicators of women's integration in development in Liberia; methods for and extent to which women have been integrated in national development planning in the United Republic of Cameroon, the Niger and the Upper Volta the involvement of women in the Mass Media in Sierra Leone and the Niger. These two studies which cover radio, television and the press, investigate attitudes towards women in the mass media; survey of handicrafts and small-scale industries in Tunisia, Mali and Benin focusing on national policies regarding the development of these activities.

Statistics

195. Over all, the range and quality of statistics collected in the region have improved. However, in a few countries progress has been hampered by the brain drain from statistical offices. To help in stemming this tide, in addition to stepping up the training of statisticians the secretariat has proposed the setting up, in many countries, of user/producer committees which will discuss the data gaps in the statistical field and how these should be filled. A number of such producer/user committees have already been set up in a few African countries. It is too early yet to gauge what impact such committees would have on the development of statistics in the region. The second approach has been to encourage applied research within statistical offices. The need to improve the service conditions of statisticians in the region has also been generally recognized.

196. The regional component of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa was approved in May 1978. This regional component made provision for the appointment of one training officer and one specialist in the teaching of statistics. Emphasis has now shifted to the preparation of project documents for each of the centres under the programme. So far, draft project documents have been, or are being prepared, in respect of the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, the Kigali Centre, the Yaoundé Centre and the Department of Statistics of the University of Ghana, Legon. It may be recalled that, based on available information, the output of successfully trained statistical personnel of all levels during the period 1961 to 1978 was 2,385 at the middle level and 1,548 at the professional level. It is expected that as a result of STPA these figures would be more than doubled during the next ten years.

197. The secretariat has continued to produce estimates of national accounts. However, in view of continuing criticisms that these estimates differ from estimates produced by other agencies, the secretariat has examined at great length the reasons for these discrepancies and has reached the conclusion that they are due to the fact that comparisons are being made of data which are strictly not comparable. One possible solution is a meeting of all the important producers and users of national accounts within the United Nations

system to be convened as soon as possible to discuss the problem and suggest a suitable solution.

198. Advisory services in the field of national accounts continue to be given. Missions were undertaken to Benin, Chad, Mauritania, the United Republic of Cameroon, and Sao Tome and Principe.

199. Work continues on public sector statistics. There is also new emphasis on price statistics not only because of interest expressed by the Conference of African Statisticians, but also because of the statistical requirements of the New International Economic Order and International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. A working group on price statistics is scheduled to meet in May 1979. Most of the papers for this meeting would be prepared by national statistical offices themselves rather than by the secretariat.

200. The first issue of Series 'C' of Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, which presents data for the years 1966-1976 and comprises a set of 17 reference tables covering values of imports and exports by section of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), quantities and values of principal exports, direction of trade, matrices of intra-African trade and indices of quantum, unit value and terms of trade, was published during the year under review. This Series also contains a detailed analytical review of the external trade situation in Africa over the same period.

201. Industrial and energy statistics continue to be compiled with the assistance of the United Nations Statistical Office. Preparations are being made to review the state of industrial statistics in African countries as a preliminary step to assessing their needs for their participation in the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics.

202. A regional data base, comprising national accounts, public finance, prices, external commodity trade, total external trade, terms of trade, annual commodity production, monthly commodity production, general industrial statistics, industrial production index numbers, agriculture, forestry and fishing, transport and communications and demographic and social statistics, is being compiled.

203. It may be recalled that the African Census Programme officially came to an end in December 1977, but the services rendered under the programme are being offered by a regional advisory service in demographic statistics with expanded terms of reference. The new regional advisory service caters not only for population censuses but also for demographic surveys, civil registration and other kinds of assistance in the demographic statistics field. There currently are four regional advisers in this service: two in demographic statistics, one in sampling and the fourth in data processing. A fifth adviser in civil registration is expected to join the secretariat shortly. During the period under review, missions were undertaken to Angola, Benin, Burundi, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

204. The regional component of the African Household Survey Capability Programme was approved in May 1978 but the recruitment of two survey specialists was delayed, owing to factors beyond the control of the secretariat. Meanwhile, a number of African countries have drawn up integrated household survey programmes for which both technical and financial assistance is required. Technical assistance at the regional level is being provided by the secretariat. Missions during the year were undertaken to the United Republic of Cameroon, Kenya, Mali, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Sudan to advise on on-going or planned surveys.

Demographic and social statistics

205. A study on civil registration systems in Africa was undertaken in which geographical as well as subject coverage, together with methodological problems, were discussed. Suggestions on improving the systems to make them capable of yielding plausible vital rates were also considered. A study was also undertaken on social indicator of relevance to Africa.

206. The meeting convened during the period under review included a Working Group on the recommendations of the 1980 round of population and housing censuses; a Training Workshop on the organization of population and housing censuses; and a seminar on Distributive Trade Statistics.

Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

207. Close collaboration has existed between the secretariat and the United Nations Statistical Office, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNESCO, WHO, the World Bank and IMF.

Transport, communications and tourism

208. During the period under review, the activities of the secretariat were dominated by the preparation of the programme for the first phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. Immediately following the meeting of the co-ordinating committee for the Decade at which the global strategy was approved, consultants were recruited and field missions undertaken. The final report containing the programme of activities for the first phase was then prepared for submission to a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee and the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Transport, Communications and Planning.

209. The secretariat also executed the ECOWAS project on the harmonization and co-ordination of transport and communications in West Africa. In that regard, studies were prepared on transport management, facilitation and insurance, shipping, postal services, railways, inland waterways, road transport, air transport and multimodal transport. The final report on the ECOWAS project was submitted to ECOWAS in March 1979.

210. Another aspect of the work of the secretariat was the preparation of the protocol on transport and communications for consideration by the Inter-governmental negotiating Team on the Treaty for the Establishment of a Preferential Trade Area in Eastern and Southern Africa.

211. Concerning the Trans-African Highways Programme, the seventh session of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Mombasa-Lagos Highway was held at Yaoundé from 13 to 18 November 1978. Most of the recommendations contained in the study on legal and administrative barriers to the movement of goods and persons were adopted and the meeting also recommended the introduction of a "green card" along the lines of the one used in Europe and elsewhere. The meeting also updated the document on the status of the Trans-African Highway and its feeder links.
212. Subsequently the ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee adopted the report on legal and administrative barriers and the paper on the current status of the Highway and its feeder links. It also amended and signed the constitution of the Lagos-Mombasa Trans-African Highway Authority and agreed to its headquarters being located at Bangui (Central African Empire).
213. In the field of communication, documents were prepared for a project relating to the use of broadcasting, accelerating development especially in rural Africa, a seminar to be held in the Soviet Union on satellite communications, and activities and projects for the World Communications Year.
214. The secretariat was also actively involved in the preparations for the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission and assisted in the preparation of a 30-minute documentary, short duration radio programmes and publications.
215. A seminar on communications policy in the region and the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference was also organized in Nairobi from 20 to 24 November 1979.
216. A meeting of the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee was held on 19 and 20 December 1978 at Geneva to review progress and to assist in seeking resources for the completion of the first stage of the Network comprising 24,000 km of route (about 6,000 km of these are yet to attract financing) and for the carrying out of feasibility studies on the second stage which comprises about 16,000 km of route requested mainly by newly independent members of the Commission.
217. The Co-ordinating Committee, in co-operation with national telecommunication organizations of the region, also organized two subregional technical committee meetings, in Maseru in September 1978 and in Ouagadougou in January 1979.
218. The secretariat participated in two ad hoc interagency meetings on the World Communications Year, in Geneva in September 1978 and in New York in January 1979. The result of the two meetings was a report to the Secretary-General on projects and activities for the World Communications Year.

219. The secretariat also had consultations with UPU on the harmonization of the work programmes of the two organizations in postal services development in the Region.

Tourism

220. Regarding tourism, in the field of technical assistance, the Niger presented a request in the field of tourism statistics, the United Republic of Tanzania presented one for a feasibility study for the expansion of its pleasure boat industry along the coast of the Indian Ocean and the shores of Lake Victoria, while the UDEAC secretariat requested financial assistance of 15,000 dollars to fill the gap between the resources it allocated and the total cost of the tourism development study it was going to undertake in its member States. The UDEAC request could not be met however for it is not in ECA tradition to grant financial assistance to its member countries.

221. In the case of the Niger, a mission was carried out in May 1978 at the request of the Minister of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry with the collaboration of the Niamey MULPOC to assist the National Officer of Tourism and Hotel Management in establishing a permanent system of tourism statistics.

222. The Unit also made a feasibility study for a Hotel Training Centre in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at the request of the Libyan Government.

223. The secretariat drafted the terms of reference of the tourism study which was incorporated in the integrated rural development project between Ethiopia and Kenya. It also prepared the terms of reference of ECOWAS tourism industry survey at the request of the ECOWAS secretariat. These terms of reference were accepted by the ECOWAS Co-ordination Committee Meeting held in July 1978 in Ibadan.

224. The annual bulletin of tourism in Africa was published with considerable delays in view of the lack of early replies by member States and major tour operators to the questionnaires sent to them.

225. The first regional Conference on Tourism and Economic Development was organized in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The Conference was convened in order to analyse the basic factors affecting tourism development in Africa with a view to securing broader participation of African countries in the world tourism market and of improving tourism development and planning in the countries of the region.

c. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES FOR 1980-1981

226. The basic assumptions of the work programme are the need for an increasing measure of economic self-reliance and for the installation, within the countries of the region individually and collectively, of the components of an autonomous and self-sustaining engine of growth and diversification, capable of being directed to meet one or more of several objectives of socio-economic policy. These would include accelerated and diversified growth to meet the needs of the mass of the people, the widespread development of capabilities for generating and retaining real income, the reduction of unemployment and the moderation of the present pattern of urban growth and poverty.

227. It is necessary to draw attention to a number of the programme's design characteristics. One of these is that there is a close relationship between projects in the four categories of classification, such that the same subject appears under "assistance to countries and territories", under "studies", and under "Conferences, meetings, seminars and expert working groups". Occasionally, it also appears under "collection and dissemination of information". The effect of this is to reinforce the thrust of a programme or subprogramme.

228. A second design characteristic is that of subject area presentation. Projects appearing in different programmes are assembled together for easy comprehension under a single heading and suitably located, e.g. "least developed countries" under "socio-economic research and planning", "integrated rural development" under "social development", and "economic co-operation among developing regions" under "promotion of economic co-operation and integration". The principle is extended in a modified way in respect of "multinational basic strategic industries" which appear under separate headings in industry, manpower and natural resources.

229. A third design characteristic is the broad classification of each programme wherever applicable into (a) General programme, (b) Regional programme; (c) Subregional programme, and (d) Interregional programme, an exercise necessitated by the derivation of ECA's programme of work from that of the MULPOCs.

230. A fourth characteristic extending beyond mere design is the transference of concepts and policy proposals from one theatre to another. This is most clearly displayed in the programme on international trade and finance where a wider approach is now adapted towards barriers to intra-African trade. These provide the basis for close examination of the modalities for multilateral trade negotiations within the region. Important components of international trade mechanisms required within the region but hitherto overlooked, such as commodity exchange markets, are now included.

231. A fifth design characteristic is the recognition of policy and planning aspects, manpower aspects and institution building aspects in several programmes. Of many important institutions proposed, two deserve special notice: the African Centre for Advanced Public Policy Analysis and Strategic Studies and the African Regional Data Bank.

232. It should be added that because of terminological inadequacies in the four-fold classification mentioned earlier even activities designed to create concrete objects inevitably appear as "studies" thus concealing a major shift from the preparation of reports and documents to the realization of substantial projects.

233. The underlying strategy of the programme is based on the propositions of the New International Economic Order spelled out in terms of the socio-economic characteristics and problems of the region. The programme reflects the need for rapid, simultaneous and inter-linked advance 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. This level is in part due to the fact that of the 49 independent States in the region

26 are estimated to have a population of 5 million or less and only two a population of over 30 million. Twenty of the 29 least developed countries in the developing world are located in the region. The dominance of subsistence production is well known and so is the predominance of only one or two commodities in national exports. As regards industry, the share of the region in world output of metals and engineering products remained unchanged in the 15 years between 1955 and 1970 at 0.2 per cent. Indeed, the share of metals and engineering products in total industrial output in the region appears to have declined. Even more striking is the fact that, of all developing regions, Africa had the lowest rate of engineering production to engineering imports. These points are significant since the engineering industries are distinguished by the fact that they supply the means of production not only to other sectors of the economy but also to themselves and also provide for the quantitative and qualitative changes in the range of producer goods resulting from the expansion and technological improvement of production. It is thus clear that the metal and engineering industries which serve as the most important carrier of technological innovation and its diffusion are striking by their insufficiency and slow growth in large parts of the region.

234. More concretely, the strategy on which the programme is based places emphasis on the development of industry, the transformation of agriculture and the promotion of the accelerated development of the rural sector in such a way as to engineer positive growth promoting and diversifying interactions among these sectors. The subsectors of the industrial sector are concerned as structurally and dynamically related to each other, not as a casual and miscellaneous aggregation of industrial enterprises, activities and products. The development of industry is seen as a chain running from multinational basic and strategic industries to national industries and rural industries, tied together, where necessary, by complementation agreements and subcontracting arrangements. The instrumentation for industry includes African multinational corporations supported by multinational mining and industrial development banks, long-term agreements for the supply of raw materials, intermediate and finished products, the development of surface transport and the adoption on a regional basis of common technical design standards for key products. African multinational corporations would include among their functions technological development, innovation and diffusion, the promotion of improved management techniques and general support to industries in their particular sector. They would negotiate joint enterprises and technology contracts as well as promote extra-African exports of manufactures.

235. For the industrial multiplier to work it will require increased competence in industrial surveys, in industrial project design, analysis and planning, in the design and use of protective measures and regulatory devices and will depend on the quality, orientation and quantity of entrepreneurial resources defined to include the development of managerial capabilities and of management consultancy services as well as the supply and quality of technical manpower. It will also depend on the organization and operating methods of institutions for mobilizing and deploying domestic savings, on the adequacy of support institutions and services and on access to information on available technologies.

236. The raw materials for these and other industries will be given particular attention by the Division of Natural Resources, whilst the manpower demand and supply problems will be studied by the Public Administration, Management and Manpower Division. It will also be necessary to give some consideration to the

technology components of these industries in terms of mechanisms, conditions, and costs of availability. A considerable amount of institution building or improvement will be required, including those recommended by the third ECA/OAU/UNIDO Conference of Ministers of Industry in Nairobi in December 1975.

237. The transformation of agriculture will be pushed partly through improved policy, planning and institutions, partly through improved supply of inputs and partly through the reorganization of farming. Other projects contributing to the improvement of farming are referred to under integrated rural development. Special attention will be given to food production and marketing, price policies, storage, processing, markets and marketing. The links with industry: agricultural equipment (including parts, accessories and components), implements and tools, agricultural chemicals, packaging and transportation, water and power supply, consumer durables, hardly need to be described.

238. The attack on problems of rural transformation is presented in a special area programme. It covers the spatial organization of economic activity (regional planning, growth pole concepts and effects, urbanization policy) as well as rural infrastructure - electrification, non-conventional sources of energy, water supplies and telecommunications.

239. In a region with a pattern of population as described above the scale of requirements for self-sustaining economic growth and diversification are important. These requirements are dealt with in the extension and development of the national market associated not only with regional planning and integrated rural development but also with several other projects - transfer of purchasing power to rural areas, price policies for food, projects on employment expansion, and government machinery for domestic trade. National markets are next physically linked together by intermodal surface transport and the possibilities of air cargo development are not overlooked. The institutional devices include commodity exchange markets, national procurement and supplies machinery, long-term agreements for the supply and purchase of raw materials, semi-finished and finished products, export credit insurance and financing schemes, the determination of modalities for intra-African trade negotiations, regional payments system, the effective control of foreign trade by national structures, and standardization.

240. The scale of requirements may also be considered as part of the attempt to remove the present geographical and commodity constraints in extra-African trade through the development of trade with other developing regions and with Socialist countries. These developments are partly dependent on progress in restructuring maritime and air transport.

241. One of the major objectives of socio-economic policy is the reduction of unemployment. This will be partly a function of the rate of development of industry, agriculture and the rural non-farm sector and partly of the technologies adopted for these developments. In particular the development of rural infrastructure and the associated building and construction industries are expected to have a considerable impact on the problem. The same is expected of the mining industry and of small-scale and rural industries. Formal and non-formal education and rural medical and health services are normally highly labour-intensive.

242. Two critical factors affecting the rate of employment expansion will require special attention: the rate at which skills can be acquired to meet changing needs or levels of sophistication and to adapt to sectoral shifts in production patterns, and the supply and quality of entrepreneurial resources - a long neglected factor. The region needs a revolution in its approaches to skill development and to nurturing entrepreneurial resources. The very low level of engineering production (including the manufacture of parts, accessories and components) the large scope for appropriate technology products suggest that significant employment opportunities will emerge through industrial expansion. The age structure of the African population makes programmes for the young important.

243. A second objective of socio-economic policy is the reduction of mass poverty. In the region this would, to a large extent, mean a wide distribution of capabilities to generate and retain income in the rural areas. The expansion of employment, and the use of price policies and fiscal measures to effect income transfers constitute three powerful instruments for achieving the purpose. The restructuring of domestic markets, of which the reduction of the costs of distribution and marketing are essential components, constitutes a fourth instrument.

244. Resource requirements may be considered in various ways. Those of local origin requiring exploration, evaluation and improvement; those which must be obtained through imports. The latter can also be divided into two: those obtainable through improved trade positions, and those secured through increasing internalization of ownership and deployment of factor inputs. Other classifications refer to degrees of essentiality and to relevance to plan targets and objectives. Improving trade position is covered by joint pooling of key imports (including multinational procurement arrangements); the establishment of multinational import and export enterprises; and institution building and improvement. Increasing ownership of factor inputs affects maritime shipping. Two large and increasing channels of resource drain deserve special notice. The first is skilled manpower, including consultancy services - covered by numerous projects in education, training, labour and management and the programme for the integration of women in development and the second is payments for imported technology. The availability of resources is associated with their mobilization and redeployment.

245. As regards technology, the timely shift of attention from costs of technology imports to the strengthening of national and multinational capabilities in organizing the transfer, adaptation and development of technology is fully reflected. The region faces the challenge of engineering a technological revolution.

246. Economic co-operation, considered vital and inevitable, is reflected in practically all programmes. Otherwise the emphasis is on concepts, machinery and personnel. Full recognition is given to the need for concrete action in promoting co-operation among developing regions.

247. The planning of such complex and interlocking activities clearly requires a fresh approach. First is the unified approach which stresses the need for practical handling of the many-sidedness of planning, population dynamics, population movements and their effects.

248. No planning is feasible without an adequate data base and attention is drawn here to the project on an African data bank as well as to the close correlation of the work programme in statistics to other work programmes.

249. The implementation of policies and programmes will require new governmental structures and organization as well as the extension and improved performance of public enterprises. It is not unrealistic to assume that joint enterprises will play a major role in the implementation of the strategy and programme of activities proposed to Governments.

250. For the full work programme of the Commission, see document E/CN.14/707/Rev.1-E/CN.14/TECO/41/Rev.1.

D. RELATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

251. During the period under review the secretariat has taken steps to institutionalize its relations with several United Nations agencies as well as with intergovernmental organizations in the region. In some cases, existing formal arrangements have been revised to provide a more effective framework to deal with the new challenges to the African region.

252. Pursuant to the Mexico Programmes of Action on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries and ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 360 (XIII), ECA and ESCAP have maintained close working relations particularly in the field of trade and financial matters. A series of studies on existing and potential trade between African and Asian countries has been completed in co-operation with ESCAP.

253. With ECLA, and in collaboration with ESCAP, the three secretariats have been involved in the implementation of a joint study project relating to the activities of transnational corporations in the field of commodities.

254. Collaboration with FAO continued to focus on the development of agro- and allied industries, namely food and forest industry development programmes which have been funded by UNDP and are expected to continue for the period 1979-1981.

255. With OAU, the two secretariats jointly sponsored and serviced a number of meetings. These include the Symposium on the future development projects of Africa towards the year 2000 held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 12 to 16 February 1979, the workshop for senior officials on major trade developments and the African ministers of trade meeting preparatory to the fifth session of UNCTAD.

256. At the interagency level, ECA/UNIDO co-operation covers a wide range of industrial activities. During the period under review, the two secretariats were involved in such regional industrial projects as the Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing and the African Industrial Development Fund - ECA, OAU, UNIDO and the African Development Bank are co-sponsors of these projects as well as the meetings related to them.

257. At the intergovernmental level ECA's assistance was greatly solicited by such organizations as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the West African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) etc. During the period under review, ECOWAS chose the secretariat as its principal executing agency which it supported financially for the implementation of major projects. The secretariat undertook, on behalf of ECOWAS among others, a study in the co-ordination of transport and communications within the 16 States members of ECOWAS. The secretariat was also commissioned by ECOWAS to undertake studies on the tourist industry in the subregion and on the agricultural sector including fisheries and forest industries as part of the economic survey of the Community - with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the secretariat has been requested to evaluate on-going projects in the field of agriculture, transport, livestock and natural resources development.

PART II

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION
FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND
COMMEMORATION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE COMMISSION

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The fourteenth session of the Commission (fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers) commemorating the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission was held in Rabat, Morocco, from 20 to 28 March 1979. The session was opened at 5.15 p.m. on 20 March 1979 by Citizen Mulumba Lukodji, Commissioner for Land Reform of the Republic of Zaire, in the absence of the Chairman and first Vice-Chairman of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers (Mr. Bafossan W'amb'ea Nkoso and Mr. Peter Matoka). A statement was made by Mr. **Abdelkamal Reghaye**, leader of the delegation of Morocco on behalf of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the twenty-first anniversary of ECA was read out by Mr. K.K.S. Dadzie, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. A statement was made by Mr. Edem Kodjo, Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity. Mr. Charles A. Clarke, leader of the delegation of Liberia, expressed, on behalf of all delegations, appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, his Government and the people of Morocco.
2. Statements were made by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Commission, and Mr. G.F. Davidson, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.
3. The session was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Empire, the Comoros, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Upper Volta, Zaire and Zambia.
4. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was represented in its capacity as associate member of the Commission.
5. The African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe (ZAPU and ZANU) were also represented.
6. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers in accordance with article 9 of the Commission's terms of reference: Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The Holy See, a State not a member of the United Nations, was also represented by an observer.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the United Nations Department of International Economic Co-operation and Development, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Centre on Transnational Corporations, the World Food Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The World Food Programme (WFP) was also represented. In accordance with article II of the Commission's terms of reference, the following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) were also represented.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented in accordance with article 13 of the terms of reference: African Development Bank (ADB), the African and Mauritian Common Organization (OCAM), the Arab Economic Unity Council (AEUC), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), the Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), the Comité de la liaison transsaharienne (CLT), the Commission of the European Communities, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the International Union of Railways, the League of Arab States, the Mano River Union, the Permanent Consultative Committee of the Maghreb (CPCM), the Organization of African Unity and the Union Africaine de Postes et Télécommunications.

9. In accordance with article 13 of the terms of reference, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the League of Red Cross Societies, the Lutheran World Federation, the Panafrican Institute for Development, the Panafrican Women's Organization, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the World Peace Council were represented by observers.

10. At its 197th meeting, the Conference unanimously elected Mr. **Abdelkamal Reghaye**, Minister for Commerce and Industry of Morocco, as Chairman, Mr. R. Ouko, Minister of Economic Planning and Community Affairs of Kenya

as first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ambroise Mulundangabo, Minister of Economic Planning of Rwanda as second Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Charles A. Clarke, Minister of State without Portfolio in Charge of Economic Matters, Office of the President of Liberia, as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

11. At its 197th meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda:
 1. Opening of the meeting (on behalf of His Majesty the King of Morocco and the Secretary-General of the United Nations)
 2. Election of officers
 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 4. Biennial report of the Executive Secretary of ECA
 5. Report and recommendations of the Executive Committee
 6. Survey of socio-economic conditions in Africa, 1977/1978
 7. (a) The development process and Africa's problems and perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade
(b) Development issues of the least developed African countries
 8. The African region and international negotiations
 9. Negotiation of a new co-operation agreement between the ACP countries and the European Economic Community
 10. Review and assessment of the progress in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the fourth session of UNCTAD and preparation for the fifth session of UNCTAD at the African level
 11. Africa and transnational corporations in the 1980s
 12. Food and agriculture in Africa with particular reference to the African Regional Food Plan
 13. Report and recommendations of the Technical Committee of Experts with special reference to:
 - (i) The medium-term plan, 1980-1983
 - (ii) The biennial programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
 - (iii) The biennial budget, 1980-1981
 - (iv) ECA operational projects, 1979-1980-1981

14. United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, 1978-1988
15. Science and technology for development:
 - (a) Report of the Regional Conference
 - (b) Report on the African Regional Centre for Technology
 - (c) Report of the Seminar on Solar Energy
16. Mid-term review of the Decade for the Integration of Women in the Development Process:
 - (a) Report of the Nouakchott meeting
 - (b) Evaluation of the African Training and Research Centre for Women
 - (c) Report of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development
17. Report and recommendations of the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners
18. Report and recommendations of the third session of the Conference of African Demographers
19. Regional co-operation and integration: Report on on-going activities and new proposals
20. Technical co-operation among developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries
21. United Nations Trust Fund for African Development
22. International Year of the Child
23. Other matters
24. Date and place of the next meeting
25. Consideration of draft resolutions and adoption of the report of the Conference.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening statements

12. Opening addresses were delivered by Mr. **Abdelkamal Reghaye**, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Morocco on behalf of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Mr. K. Daddie, Director General for **Development and International Economic Co-operation, on behalf of the Secretary-General**, Mr. Edem Kodjo, Administrative Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the Commission, and Mr. George Davidson, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.
13. On behalf of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Mr. **Abdelkamal Reghaye** welcomed participants in the name of the Moroccan people. He stated that the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission provided an opportunity to review and assess objectively and realistically the work accomplished during previous years and to work out a plan for the future. That review showed the necessity of adopting a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach towards development, because individual attempts at the national level had only led at best to partial success. He pointed out that the comprehensive approach to development which implied regional and interregional co-operation between African countries and which fitted well within the traditions and historical background of Africa was the only way to achieve the new economic order.
14. He emphasized that the world was witnessing great changes in which Africa suffered most from world crisis and the deterioration of terms of international trade which were reflected in insufficient food production, widespread unemployment, malnutrition and, in short, economic backwardness. The only way out therefore lay in a multisectoral approach to development and the pooling of resources. The lessons to be learnt from the review of the economic conditions of Africa was the importance of establishing a new economic order which was more just and equitable and which should be achieved within the framework of African regional co-operation.
15. He stressed that, although it might not be possible to solve all Africa's economic and social problems, the basis for far-reaching action which could bear fruit at a later stage should be established. In their development efforts African countries should utilise rationally their natural resources and manpower and introduce appropriate technology. Finally, he urged that the Conference of Ministers should not confine itself to mere declarations of principles or the adoption of resolutions but should lay down the basis for co-operation in the true African spirit.
16. Mr. Kenneth Daddie, Director General for **Development and International Economic Co-operation**, read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and presented the Secretary-General's apologies for being unable to attend in person.
17. The Secretary-General had said in his message that in the past two decades ECA had greatly enlarged its membership and the extent of its activities. It had served as an essential link in the network of mutually supportive efforts at the global, regional, subregional and national levels to promote African development. The present commemorative session, which had as its theme economic interdependence and collective self-reliance, provided a valuable opportunity to assess the progress made by the African region in socio-economic development

and integration. It would also serve to reinforce the continuing efforts of member Governments to build a better future for the region and to enhance the role of the Commission in that endeavour.

18. The session was being held at the time when the United Nations had begun work on the preparation of a new international development strategy for the Third Development Decade. The General Assembly had recognized the importance of regional contributions in that process and had laid special emphasis on the need for the regional commissions to bring their experiences to bear upon the formulation of the new international development strategy. In that connexion, ECA had already done valuable preparatory work within the framework of the new international economic order.

19. The Secretary-General had been encouraged by the efforts that were being made to intensify co-operation among the countries of the region, taking into account the relatively small size of many of the economies and the need for concerted action to promote development. It was also heartening to note that special attention continued to be given to the problems of the least developed countries, the majority of which were located within the African region. All those initiatives of ECA required the fullest assistance of the international community as a whole.

20. In reviewing its activities and drawing up the blueprint for its future work, ECA would need to take into account the increased responsibilities which had recently been entrusted to the regional commissions by the General Assembly and which represented an important element in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The regional commissions, as the main general economic and social development centres within the United Nations system for their respective regions, would have greater responsibility in ensuring co-ordination of development activities at the regional level and in contributing to global policy making and implementation. If the commissions were to discharge those new responsibilities effectively, it was evident that urgent attention must be given to strengthening their capabilities.

21. The Secretary-General expressed his confidence that the present deliberations would make a major contribution towards accelerating the economic and social development of the region and, more generally, towards the establishment of a more equitable and just world economic order.

22. The Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity spoke first of all of the pessimistic conclusions reached concerning the economic and social situation of Africa: the Monrovia Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000. He remarked that, although any socio-economic forecast was uncertain, it was possible, on the basis of present trends, to predict the outlook for Africa between today and the year 2000 and said that those predictions were alarming. The population would more than double in 25 years, but only half of the active population would be able to find paid employment. GDP was expected to increase by only 1.3 per cent a year during the remainder of the century.

23. The forecast for agriculture was that it was headed for disaster since Africa would be able to meet only 60 per cent (68 per cent at the most) of its food needs unless African States set resolutely about implementing the Regional

Food Plan adopted at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in September 1978. Moreover, Africa's share in world industrial production would probably not attain the 2 per cent goal set in the Lima Programme.

24. That having been said, the twenty-first anniversary of ECA could provide an opportunity for replacing the principle of growth in the number of things and possessions by one which attached greater importance to men and the quality of life, as reflected in the practice of individual and collective self-reliance. However, it might be asked whether development plans were founded on those universally accepted notions and whether it was clear that countries were guided by them in looking to the future.

25. Speaking of the stumbling block which political differences represented for the regional commissions, he pointed out that one of Africa's key objectives at present was economic unity. At its most recent session, the OAU Council of Ministers had proposed the creation of an African economic community and had requested competent bodies, and ECA in particular, to embark on the necessary preparations. The idea of an African common market should provide impetus to the efforts to raise the standard of living of the people of Africa. Intra-African trade was still limited and could expand only if it was provided with the economic climate needed for its growth. It should also be borne in mind that the promotion of trade went hand in hand with the putting together of communal resources for the benefit of the underprivileged. It was impossible to envisage the future of Africa without pooling the tools of development and viewing that future from the perspective of the entire continent. Since it would take about 20 years to bring such a community to fruition, there was no longer any time to hesitate. Moreover, it was up to Africa to identify the components of its own development strategy.

26. In as much as facts spoke for themselves, ECA had distinguished itself primarily in the many studies it had carried out, sometimes in co-operation with OAU, which had made it possible to implement important development projects in various fields. OAU hoped that its future relations with ECA would be characterized by strengthened complementarity of action, with OAU providing the political will and ECA the technical structure.

27. The present Conference provided an opportunity to concentrate on the economic integration of all African States in the interest of African Unity and to urge States to fight for the establishment of a new international economic order with a view to ensuring more equitable conditions in the world and in a determined effort to build a continent which could be proud of itself and able to enlighten a world which was groping in the dark, thereby contributing to international peace.

28. In his address to the Ministers in commemoration of the twenty-first anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Executive Secretary cited the words of the late Dag Hammarskjöld at the opening of the first session of the Commission: "One day we may look back to the establishment of the Commission as marking the moment when Africa began to assume its full role in the world community." The Executive Secretary said that the fact that Africa now numbered 49 independent States showed how far Africa had advanced in assuming that role.

29. The battle for the establishment of ECA had been fought and won before 40 of these 49 States had achieved political sovereignty. Thus, the majority of African States had arrived on the international scene without adequate knowledge of how the Commission had come into being. He pointed out that ECA had been Africa's first continent-wide organization and that the drama of its creation had involved the entire international community. In recounting the background to the establishment of ECA, he referred to the creation by the Economic and Social Council of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in the 1940s. However, where their establishment had presented relatively few difficulties, the creation of ECA had involved a long struggle and a considerable amount of reluctance on the part of some members of the Economic and Social Council. In the end, the developing countries had come to the aid of Africa by circumventing the Council and introducing the question directly in the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which had in 1957 directed the Council to establish an African regional economic commission at its next session. Accordingly, the Council had, by its resolution 671A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, established the Economic Commission for Africa and laid down its terms of reference. In that connexion, he paid tribute to the five sons of Africa serving on the Council at that time, who, in negotiating the definition of the terms of reference, had insisted on the need for the social aspects of economic development to be brought within the purview of the Commission. They had represented a significant departure from the terms of reference of the other regional commissions and one which the colonial Powers had viewed with foreboding because, as a result, the early sessions of the Commission had reflected the priority given by African leaders to such issues as colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid as well as to major economic issues such as the relationship between the African countries and the countries of EEC, co-operation between Europe and Africa and the structures of pan-African co-operation.

30. The consideration of such issues had been no mean achievement for a Commission whose composition had been quite different from what it was today. Indeed, non-African States with territorial responsibility in Africa had been full members, a matter of concern to the African members, which had insisted that the full membership status of the colonial Powers should be altered or terminated and that there should be African participation on behalf of non-self-governing Territories. Those demands had gradually been met, and the terms of reference had been amended accordingly in 1963. By 1965 ECA had become totally African in its composition with the same member States as OAU.

31. Speaking of the expectations and performance of the Commission, the Executive Secretary referred to the guidelines laid down by Dag Hammar-skjöld in 1959, in which he had suggested that ECA should serve as a centre for consultations, provide a forum in which the economic needs of the African people could be expressed, make technical services available for the study of common problems, provide a clearing-house for the exchange of information and experience and establish a close relationship with the various programmes of the United Nations. The Commission had also been given co-ordinating, information and operational roles. Nevertheless, there had been a gap between its performance and the expectations of its member States.

32. In its formative years, ECA had seen its role as being one of gathering, analysing, evaluating and disseminating information, organizing meetings and

seminars, providing technical assistance and advisory services to member States and helping to train African nationals in many fields. It had also, right from the start, paid attention to institution building and development concentrated on the promotion of regional co-operation. However, the expectations of its member States had run far ahead of its capabilities and resources. Ten years ago, the then out-going Chairman of the Commission had traced the development of ECA through a formative phase, a phase of accumulating economic and social information and organizing seminars, working parties and conferences and a phase of economic co-operation. That categorization had given rise to a number of questions on the role of ECA and the proper interpretation of its functions, and many of those questions remained to be answered.

33. After two decades of political independence, the African economy was still basically underdeveloped, and Africa's worsening economic situation had made ECA vulnerable in that the member States had not been able to see why the institution they had fought so hard to establish could not help them to a degree which met their expectations. But ECA had been under certain constraints, including that of the ambiguous relationship between the economic commissions with the rest of the United Nations system, which was organized on a functional rather than on a regional or geographic basis. The reports and resolutions of the past 13 sessions of the Commission reflected the disappointment of the member States at the limitations on the Commission's powers of initiation and execution. Member States had also been concerned about the effectiveness of ECA's role in co-ordinating activities in the various sectors of national economies, the activities of the different multinational and bilateral organizations operating in Africa and the provision of technical assistance, especially from organizations in the United Nations family. In that regard he mentioned Conference of Ministers resolution 249 (XII) of February 1973, in which the secretariat had been requested to examine, with the United Nations and other agencies, workable arrangements for co-ordinated action.

34. Co-ordinating responsibility meant that ECA must take a multisectoral impact approach, emphasize the inter-linkages of sectoral programmes and projects and seek the collaboration and active participation of agencies operating in specialized sectors with increasing use of joint programmes and task force arrangements in the identification, formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes. Fortunately, General Assembly resolution 33/197 provided the regional commissions with far-reaching mandates in respect of those issues of decentralization, operational activities and regional co-ordination. Fully implemented, those mandates would go a long way towards meeting some of the demands of the States members of ECA. Moreover, as a result of a meeting of the Executive Secretaries of all the regional commissions, held in Rabat from 18 to 20 March, the Secretary-General would present to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly proposals on appropriate measures for the strengthening of the commissions.

35. Member States had argued for decentralization to the subregions just as strongly as they had pressed for decentralization from United Nations Headquarters to the regional commissions. Unfortunately, the subregional offices which had been set up in an attempt to meet those demands had not been as effective as had been expected, and subsequent experiments with United Nations Development Advisory Teams had fared no better; but the decision to do away with the subregional offices and the UNDATs and to establish five Multinational

Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) had already begun to yield positive results, thanks largely to the co-operation and support of the Administrator of UNDP and to the Regional Director of the Africa Bureau.

36. He ended his statement by speaking of the task before ECA in the last 21 years of the twentieth century. He said that in the years since independence the old assumptions as to what economies and societies, Governments and communities wished to build in Africa had been steadily disintegrating. It had become open to question whether the models implied in policies and strategies could be widely and safely replicated. Since 1975 the ECA secretariat had been putting together an answer to that question and had come up first with a broad statement of intent, which was the initiation of self-sustaining and self-reliant processes of development, economic growth and welfare. The secretariat saw the challenges for Africa in the 1980s and 1990s as being first the need to establish its own identity, second, the recovery of self-confidence, third, the assessment and mobilization of its resources and fourth, the design of approaches to the application of those resources. He suggested that the first priority for the region as a whole was the development of agriculture and increased production of food and raw materials for industry, which implied, among other things, the availability of indigenous entrepreneurial resources - a need to which only very superficial attention had so far been paid. Other priorities included the removal of narrow market constraints on production and distribution, the promotion of economic co-operation among African countries and among African and other third world countries and a vigorous effort to bring about the physical integration of the continent. Finally, he mentioned the need to give some substantial operational meaning to the concept of sovereignty over natural resources and to lay the foundations of a scientific and technological revolution in Africa.

37. The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management stated that it had been his privilege to have been the President of the Economic and Social Council when ECA was born, and he was proud of the part he had played in that great event. He referred to the fascinating history of the evolution and development of the Commission over the past 20 years. During that period, the Commission had shed its colonial bonds and the next 21 years should see the economic emancipation of the continent.

Biennial report of the Executive Secretary of ECA

Report and recommendations of the Executive Committee

Survey of socio-economic conditions in Africa, 1977/1978

- (a) The development process and Africa's problems and perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade
- (b) Development issues of the least developed African countries

The African region and international negotiations

Negotiation of a new co-operation agreement between the ACP countries and the European Economic Community

Review and assessment of the progress in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the fourth session of UNCTAD and preparation for the fifth session of UNCTAD at the Africa level

Africa and transnational corporations in the 1980s

Food and agriculture in Africa with particular reference to the African Regional Food Plan

(agenda items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12)

38. The representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa made statements in the general debate on these nine items: Angola, Central African Empire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and the United Republic of Cameroon.

39. In his report, the Chairman of the Executive Committee said he had grouped the Committee's decisions and recommendations under two headings, depending on whether they called for a decision on the part of the Conference of Ministers or were recommendations addressed to ECA, States, or the United Nations Secretary-General, which the Conference of Ministers might wish to reflect in resolutions. Thus, in one category he had put the recommendations concerning the institutional machinery of the Commission, including the enlargement of the membership of Executive Committee, which was shown in paragraph 5 of the report contained in document E/CN.14/696, and the question of the possible dissolution of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development. Other decisions and recommendations, although less important than those in the first category, still required a decision by the Conference of Ministers. They concerned the approval of the revised statute of IDEP and the application of the Mar del Plata Plan of Action. Some of the recommendations in the second category were of particular importance. They concerned broadening the capacity of the secretariat to undertake studies and provide support services to African negotiators at important debates, especially those on the draft ACP/EEC convention and the preparations for the fifth session of UNCTAD, and at the ninth special session of the Trade and Development Board. In that connexion, the Conference of Ministers might also wish to endorse the recommendation that the ECA secretariat should strengthen its structures for providing support to the least developed African countries. Where recommendations to States were concerned, the Executive Committee urged the Conference of Ministers to remind States of the disappointing results in connexion with co-operation related to natural resources. Finally, among the recommendations addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General and to other United Nations bodies, the Chairman of the Executive Committee drew particular attention to the appeals made by the Committee for an increase in the financial resources allocated to Africa in general and those allocated for the organization of the Transport and Communications Decade, activities related to the twenty-first anniversary of ECA and the adoption of Arabic as a working language of ECA.

40. The number of issues submitted for consideration should not make the Conference lose sight of the need to change the pace of ECA's work with a view to ensuring the achievement of economic interdependence and collective self-reliance in Africa. In that context he said that ECA should carry out concrete action in the field to reflect a growth and development strategy which was truly designed in the interest of the African people, devise a strategy for negotiating with other third world countries and all the developed

countries and, finally, work within the framework of the negotiations on the stand-by agreements between African countries and IMF in formulating more appropriate plans for economic revival.

41. The representative of Angola expressed the concern of his delegation with regard to the economic and social situation of Africa as presented in paragraph 1, chapter 1, of the Biennial Report and in the Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa. He therefore suggested that the resolution to be adopted on the subject of economic and social conditions in Africa include a paragraph to the effect that the States members of ECA should urgently undertake a revision of their respective domestic policies in order to effect an equitable distribution of income and in that way eliminate the disparities between the small privileged groups and the broad disinherited masses.

42. The representative of the Central African Empire, referring to a matter of general interest for the group consisting of the least developed countries of Africa, said that he was very pleased to note that ECA had not only made the problems of the least developed countries one of its main concerns but had also included in its programme for the Third Development Decade in Africa special measures for devising development strategies for those countries. He had been glad to hear from the UNDP representative that UNDP would do everything in its power to aid the development of land-locked countries.

43. However, the situation of the developing countries was improving very slowly indeed. His delegation would like to see ECA intensify its efforts, in co-operation with the other competent bodies of the United Nations, to aid Africa's least developed countries, particularly the Sudano-Sahelian and the land-locked countries, in their struggle against natural disasters. All the so-called least developed countries were, however, not necessarily the poorest countries, for many of them had extensive mineral resources in their sub-soil; unfortunately, their proper exploitation was hampered by obstacles arising from the lack of appropriate structural facilities (transport, communications, equipment, etc.). Despite their efforts and in some cases heavy sacrifices, the least developed countries were more than ever before in need of outside help to rescue them from their impossible position and thereby give them the same chance in their development process as the other emerging countries.

44. The representative of Egypt congratulated ECA on its twenty-first anniversary, which was a fitting time to take stock of the past and to chart the course for a better future for Africa. He expressed appreciation for the work done by ECA as reflected in its Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa. If Africa was to develop, African countries should co-operate with each other and be self-sufficient. In that respect, the MULPOCs constituted stepping stones in the right direction.

45. As regarded the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade, he said that the documents of the Monrovia Symposium and the Addis Ababa Seminar should be referred to when Africa's contribution to the Strategy was being formulated. He felt that specific questions and problems to be highlighted in the Third Development Decade included self-reliance, technology, sovereignty over natural resources, the implementation of joint

projects, the brain drain, energy, the need for a comprehensive approach to development at the national and subregional levels, co-operation with ECWA, joint transport projects, natural disasters and the struggle for independence still going on in Africa. Finally, he said his country had accumulated considerable experience in the fields of plan and project formulation and implementation which could be made available to member States at their request.

46. Following his congratulatory statement to ECA on its twenty-first anniversary, the representative of Ethiopia observed that selected indicators of economic and social development showed that: (a) out of 31 countries identified as least developed, 20 were found in Africa; (b) the problem of indebtedness of African countries had worsened steadily; (c) 90 per cent of UNDP assistance to Africa was in the form of personnel; (d) over a period of ten years, the self-reliance of the region in food commodities had declined from 90 to 85 per cent; (e) the African region as a whole recorded an annual GDP growth rate below 5 per cent; and (f) intra-African trade accounted only 4 per cent of Africa's total trade.

47. He observed that what little growth Africa had achieved made it increasingly more dependent upon the developed world. None the less, those indicators should not discourage African Governments first because they had recognized all their past mistakes and misconceptions about development, and secondly because the struggle against inequitable distribution of wealth in the existing international relationship and against exploitation by neocolonization and imperialism was intensifying. He urged that in the 1980s Africa should strive to build strong self-sustaining economies both at the national and the regional levels.

48. As regarded the need for restructuring the legislative organs of ECA for the effectiveness of the Commission, he said he supported the proposal made by the Executive Committee with some amendments, i.e. (a) the Conference of Ministers should meet every year preceded by the meeting of the Conference of Planners; (b) the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts should be abolished; (c) the Conference of Statisticians and Demographers should be merged; and (d) the programme of work should be derived from the decisions of the Commission, sectoral conferences and MULPOCs.

49. He noted that assessment of past performance suggested that ECA should, in addition to concerning itself with expert evaluation of projects, agreements and treaties, have the capability of providing consultancy services in project studies, preparation, evaluation and implementation and advisory services in negotiations at both the national and the regional levels.

50. The representative of Gabon said that Africa's strategy for development in the 1980s should proceed from the basic principle of giving priority to the control and dissemination of technology, as a precondition for increasing the productivity of labour.

51. Africa must count first and foremost on itself, but it could and should also demand that the economies of the developed countries be opened up, since access to their markets was of prime importance for the development of African industries. To achieve collective self-reliance the individual economies of Africa would have to be as open as possible to each other for each was

individually too small for viable industrialization at the national level. Physical integration of the African continent would make sense only if monetary, customs and administrative barriers were gradually eliminated.

52. With regard to manpower, it would be inadvisable to give priority blindly and prematurely to job creation, since African labour costs were at present relatively high in relation to capital because of low productivity.

53. Although food and agriculture deserved priority to ensure that the continent was self-sufficient in food, it should be remembered that special conditions in a country might require a different distribution of efforts. Such was the case in Gabon, where the scanty population and the nature of its wealth were reasons for giving priority to the mining and secondary sectors at present.

54. With regard to international negotiations, Gabon attached special importance to the Lomé Convention which, since Accra, where the fifteenth session of the Council of Ministers of the ACP countries had been held in February 1975, could be regarded as a first step towards the establishment of a new world economic order. Every endeavour should be made to make the EEC countries open their markets to African countries and not compete against African exports with synthetic products.

55. The STABEX system was gradually covering all the export products on which African economies depended, although special attention should be paid to agriculture and the least developed land-locked and island countries. Gabon was glad that STABEX had been enlarged to cover other raw materials and commodities. Unfortunately, the share of raw materials and commodities in export earnings of producer countries often fell short of the 7.5 per cent minimum necessary to count as a commodity and qualify for compensation.

56. The representative of Ghana stated that the twenty-first anniversary of ECA was an appropriate time to take stock of past success and failures and to chart a new course for development in the region. He was sure that ECA had a bright future; it had imbued African States with the determination to embark on economic co-operation and self-reliance. The MULPOCs, IDEP, ADB and ECOWAS were living monuments of ECA's practical endeavours in the economic development of Africa through multinational action. ECA also assisted African countries at international negotiations through its assistance to the Group of 77 and ACP. However if ECA had not altogether acted as member States would have wished, it was also due to the fact that it was a human institution and had not at all times received the support it deserved from member States.

57. He was happy about the co-operation that existed between ECA and OAU and hoped it would grow stronger year after year. Now, those organizations were undergoing structural changes and he supported the proposal that there should be annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers as it would be necessary for it to meet frequently to give necessary directions in view of the expanding and complicated activities of ECA. In his view, therefore, it should not be necessary to continue to maintain the Executive Committee: it should be replaced by a committee of experts that would meet before the Conference of Ministers to prepare for the meeting of the latter. He also felt that OAU

should be called upon to co-operate with ECA in the convening of meeting of the Conference of Ministers which should be held before the meetings of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government so that recommendations from the Conference of Ministers could be conveniently submitted to the OAU Assembly of State and Government. He further proposed that ECA and OAU should co-operate in the staffing and running of the OAU Office at Geneva so as to make that Office a more effective instrument for the economic development of the region. Furthermore, ECA and OAU should co-operate in the staffing and running of the Office which OAU intended to establish at Brussels to provide assistance to African countries in their dealings with EEC. He would submit a resolution on the last two proposals for consideration by the Conference of Ministers.

58. The representative of Guinea said that the stages of ECA's development should be studied critically so that the next stage could be approached more realistically. In the 21 years of its existence, ECA had acquired a vast amount of experience which would determine its future and help to ensure the welfare of the peoples of Africa.

59. The present Conference provided a chance to assess ECA's work since 1958 in development and socio-economic integration and would reveal the positive factors which should be exploited rationally and the negative elements which had to be controlled.

60. The problems of African development had to be studied in an international context. The rehabilitation of Africans and the preservation of their dignity had been the outcome of tremendous efforts.

61. Despite those tangible advances, particularly so far as political and cultural emancipation was concerned, much remained to be done, for the problems inherited from the colonial era were still affecting African life, as the creation of weak and vulnerable micro-States showed.

62. That had also resulted in an unequal distribution of resources and population. Some very poor countries could not be developed without the aid of the international community, whereas some other countries were enormously wealthy and could readily tackle their own development unaided.

63. Africa's wealth was mainly agricultural and mineral; consequently trade with developed countries was very hazardous and the trade imbalances meant that it was impossible to achieve satisfactory earnings.

64. Since production units were outward-looking, attempts at industrialization had little multiplier effect.

65. Transnational corporations tried to reduce cost prices and increase profit margins and some branches of the economy were "islands" or outgrowths of the economies of the investing countries. The result in both cases was a steady outflow of resources from the African continent.

66. The low level of technological training, plus the brain drain, had led president Sékou Touré to appeal to skilled African workers tempted by the salaries being paid on the international market to show an interest in the economic take-off of their own countries.

67. There were international obstacles in the way of Africa's task, particularly the obstinacy of most developed countries in refusing to give up their unlawful privileges and accept the realities of decolonization and the revolution in Africa. In the light of those considerations, ECA should help Africa to undertake more vigorous action in support of development, in which it would be necessary to promote agriculture and diversify crops through mechanization and the use of fertilizers. Any such strategy presupposed control over water resources. Industrialization should be based on the use of locally produced raw materials and their processing, which would ensure higher earnings. Moreover, it was possible to effect economies of scale and to improve the terms of trade. Intra-African co-operation should be favoured, advantage should be taken of existing complementarity among African countries, and the negotiating powers of States should be increased. In addition, institutions capable of promoting the acquisition of technology should be encouraged. Such steps were likely to contribute to the socio-economic development of Africa in a context of economic interdependence and collective self-reliance. His Government felt that the establishment of a new economic order really amounted to laying an old order with its ill-gotten privileges open to question. What was needed was to organize nations and continents on the basis of economic interdependence in a spirit of fairness so that the establishment of a new order could proceed harmoniously.

68. The representative of Kenya congratulated ECA on its coming of age. Past efforts at development in Africa had been inconsistent. There had also been recently a lack of political will towards economic integration in East Africa which had led to the break up of the East African Community. He noted with satisfaction the attempts which were being made in Eastern and Southern Africa, with the assistance of ECA, to establish a preferential trade area for that subregion.

69. With regard to the international economic scene, Africa suffered from the effects of imported inflation and market fluctuations for its products, and planning at both the macro and micro levels in Africa was badly affected.

70. The strategy for Africa's development should therefore address itself to all the problems raised by the foregoing. The Second United Nations Development Decade had been very disappointing and the expectations of developing countries had largely been unfulfilled. The time had now come when African countries must co-ordinate their efforts in pursuit of accelerated economic development of the region.

71. He expressed his satisfaction with the MULPOCs and pledged his country's support for them. He hoped that the MULPOCs would enhance the capability of ECA as an operational institution.

72. In the field of food, his country attached great importance to the problem of storage facilities for food and the transformation of the subsistence economies into modern sectors of production; with regard to development planning, projections and policies, he noted the important work being done by ECA in that field and its efforts to develop an effective indigenization strategy in Africa. He also praised ECA's proposal for an industrial development strategy and gave his full support to the proposals contained in annex III of the report of the Technical Committee of Experts to proclaim 1980-1989 the African Industrial Development Decade.

73. He then referred to the importance of increased trade between neighbouring African countries as a prerequisite to the development of the full potential of Africa in international trade; the shortage of high- and middle-level manpower and the illiteracy problem facing Africa and ECA's efforts at finding solutions to the problems of manpower development; the problem of the brain-drain and the need to pursue action to control the outflow of labour and the withdrawal of those already in South Africa by putting them to productive use in their respective countries.

74. He paid tribute to ECA in the efforts it was making in the field of mineral resources development, the establishment of joint Ethiopia/Kenya basic development projects and the pollution of the Mediterranean sea. He would, however, like to see the exploration and exploitation of the sea bed an ECA project. He paid tribute to ECA for the work being done by ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women and urged that more posts financed from the United Nations regular budget should be obtained for the Centre. He also supported the establishment of the Subregional Committees for the Integration of Women within the MULPOCs. His Government took the development of women seriously and the integration of women had become part and parcel of his Government's planning programme.

75. His Government supported the United Nations Transport and Telecommunications Decade for Africa and believed that what was now required was a timetable and targets required for the speedy implementation of programmes and projects and the mobilization of required resources.

76. Finally, he stated that the Executive Committee had done magnificent work particularly in providing the ECA secretariat with policy guidelines when the Conference was not in session.

77. The representative of Liberia said that the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of ECA was also the time when African countries should take a hard and critical look at their past and try to translate the lessons of their experiences to meet the serious socio-economic challenges of the continent over the next 21 years. It was in that context that he would like to emphasize the results of the Symposium held in Monrovia from 12 to 16 February 1979 which identified the development problems facing the region and proposed corrective strategies. To assist in their effective implementation, he proposed the strengthening of co-operation and complementarity between OAU and ECA that would promote the effective economic development of the region.

78. He suggested the institutionalization of the meetings of the ministers responsible for economic development and planning, i.e. those ministers who constituted the ECA Conference of Ministers, within OAU. He felt that such a move would ensure that there was a strong and positive link between OAU and ECA as well as ensure that the necessary political backing of decisions within OAU did not only originate with those charged with carrying them out but also that their execution continued to have the political backing and authority of OAU. That would also transform ECA into an implementation-oriented and a technical backstepping organization. Ministers of planning and perhaps other economic ministers would meet before the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers to agree on specific programmes of action and other implementation measures setting out targets which would be submitted to the OAU

Council of Ministers for incorporation into the agenda of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. Although such programmes of action and targets would be finalized within OAU, they should be formulated and analysed within the framework of ECA by its secretariat and adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers. Once they had been accepted by the OAU Summit, the responsible ministry and other government agencies of member States would be expected to carry them out. The ECA secretariat would have a double role to play: the organization and the supervision of feasibility studies and the monitoring of the implementation of the agreed targets and the plan of action through annual evaluation and recommendations for the solution of problems. In that role, ECA would have power to indicate by name countries that had failed to implement the targets and the programme of action and to assist such countries. The recent meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers had also endorsed the establishment of closer links between ECA and OAU. The Council of Ministers had called upon the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU to prepare a report in all sectors in which declarations, resolutions and action programmes had been adopted and to prepare, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA, concrete proposals for a programme of action on the implementation of the decisions of the OAU Council of Ministers.

79. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya congratulated ECA on its twenty-first anniversary; ECA was a symbol of hope for the peoples of Africa as it was the first organization that was working in the economic interest of the continent. Political freedom was meaningless if it was not consolidated in the economic field. Africa was not economically free, it suffered imbalances arising out of the existing international division of labour and adverse terms of trade for its commodities, and possessed out-dated basic structures. If African countries were to become economically independent then they should ensure that they had sovereignty over their natural resources. In his country that had been achieved through the nationalization of enterprises involved in the exploitation of its natural resources; those resources were now being used for the benefit of the people. Whilst African countries should continue their efforts at negotiations with the developed countries for the achievement of a new and equitable international economic order, they should use their natural resources to consolidate their economic positions and should take firm decisions in international negotiations. He identified, inter alia, the following fields as priority areas for African development: the development of food, the establishment of links among African countries and between African countries and Arab countries, links between ECA and ECWA, and OAU and the Arab League for the purpose of encouraging the implementation of common projects.

80. The representative of Mali requested the Commission to double its efforts for the economic, cultural and social integration of Africa. Integration was necessary because the first two development decades had been disappointing.

81. The development of export crops and substitution industries had aggravated Africa's dependent position and impoverished the masses of its population still further.

82. Illiteracy, malnutrition and the numerous diseases associated therewith would continue to be a scourge until African countries demonstrated their political will for integration.

83. It was the special duty of ECA to establish effective facilities for technical and commercial co-operation.

84. Thanks to the MULPOCs, the West African countries, which had of their own accord attempted to devise viable systems, were now in a position to co-ordinate the activities of the intergovernmental bodies they had set up.

85. ECA should orient all its activities towards the economic unification of Africa. A new development policy based on integration was required as a means of liberating the peasant populations, whose work was never rewarded fairly nor supported by appropriate agricultural appliances. Cheap labour, which enriched overseas countries and enterprises which had been transferred to Africa, was tolerated. The various African and international organizations should work out an industrialization strategy based on the complementarity of African countries.

86. Consistent, clearly defined objectives were the only way of safeguarding Africa's interests. To that end, ECA and all the intergovernmental organizations should devise an economic charter for Africa to define economic objectives and national export policies.

87. Africa had to be modernized without disowning its historical values. Other forms of development were therefore called for, because nowadays development was thought of in terms of the exploitation of others.

88. In the Third Development Decade emphasis should be given to the food programme and in particular to the development of water resources. Co-operation in food production should be promoted through the channels of the MULPOCs and of FAO and subregional food technology centres shall be set up. To increase food production it was necessary to modernize the means and methods of production by, for example, the development of agricultural mechanization. Self-reliance in food called not only for increased production and productivity but also for the creation of facilities for the storage of food in between harvests and for the construction of transport links from the producer to the consumer.

89. Mali was concerned with the question of the development of the least advanced African countries, particularly the land-locked countries, where lack of facilities made it impossible to prospect, assess and develop natural resources. The ECA subregional centres would help in such development, while intraregional trade would boost the development of their potential.

90. The opening up of countries was a priority matter, as was the inter-connection of transport networks and communications.

91. Africa needed to develop science and technology if living standards were to rise. Countries should therefore participate in attempts to develop science and technology and adapt them to African conditions. Action should be taken to stop the brain-drain and provide higher education in the least advanced countries.

92. The representative of Mauritius said that the steady flow of pious resolutions and world plans of actions to which the African countries had been treated during the Second Development Decade seemed to have been of no use in

coming to grips with the basic problems of development. If any one factor could be identified as being responsible for the lack of progress towards a new international economic order, it was the lack of political will on the part of the developed world. In a world verging on economic catastrophe, neither the developed nor the developing countries could ignore the nexus of economic interdependence. Among the issues to be discussed under the present agenda which called for a clear commitment on the part of all concerned were the question of international negotiations, in particular the negotiation of a successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention; the definition of Africa's position and strategy for the fifth session of UNCTAD; the role of science and technology for development; the integration of women in the development process and the role and potential of TCDC. In connexion with TCDC he appealed to African States to dedicate themselves to the course of horizontal co-operation and to express their firm commitment to it.

93. A matter of grave concern to his Government was that the economic domination of Africa had not been eradicated and that material welfare had not improved as it should have done. It was also disturbed at the continuing malaise in the international economic system and at the fact that African Governments seemed to be losing their faith in the international negotiating process. In closing, he called on African countries to join together in a determined effort to end the economic domination of the erstwhile colonial Powers and the industrialized countries.

94. The representative of Morocco recalled Africa's contribution to world civilization and its resistance to the colonial yoke, from which it finally emerged independent, and emphasized the need to safeguard African unity.

95. The aim of the present meeting was to identify a kind of development which would draw on material and spiritual African values for its inspiration. An over-all approach was needed which would take account of the problems of the less privileged countries. As the Executive Secretary had said, the strategy adopted should be a challenging one. An order of priorities would then have to be decided on; the first should be food and the second infrastructure. It was also necessary to master technology and harmonize ideas, such as product standardization with a view to developing trade. Development and integration were the only means by which the countries of Africa could become self-reliant.

96. The only possible basis for international co-operation was a dialogue between civilizations, and Africa had to determine its strategy options until the end of the century. The ECA budget submitted to the Conference showed the increase in Africa's potential and in its finance requirements.

97. He was glad to see that the MULPOCs had been established, for they would help to promote the integration of national economies and therefore boost African unity, something which was not a duty but a historic inevitability. That was why His Majesty Hassan II had continuously appealed for peace, unity and the well-being of Africans and stated that the year 2000 would have no mercy on idiosyncratic behaviour.

98. His Government would continue to expand its co-operation with its brother countries and pointed out that it had repeatedly proposed the setting up of an

African common market. Similarly, Morocco's universities welcomed students from brother countries.

99. The representative of Nigeria thanked the Executive Secretary of ECA for his comprehensive and thought provoking Biennial Report for the period March 1977 - March 1979, which left no doubt that ECA was now, more than ever, determined to play a more dynamic role in the economic and social development of the African region and indicated that a firm foundation was being laid for the establishment and consolidation of co-operation arrangements through the MULPOCs.

100. He said his delegation supported the proposals that the ECA Conference of Ministers should meet every year and therefore urged the Conference to abolish the Executive Committee and establish a committee of officials from all States members of the Commission, whose task would be to prepare the ground for the annual meetings of the Conference. His delegation was also in full agreement with the recommendations concerning the curtailment and abolition of ECA meetings contained in paragraph 5 (a) to (f) of the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee (E/CN.14/696).

101. The Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa for 1977/1978, made interesting reading in the sense that, in line with past Surveys, it portrayed Africa as lagging behind the rest of the world with very marginal achievements here and there. The Nigerian delegation was therefore of the view that Africa should propose a realistic strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and welcomed the attempts of the Technical Committee to produce what might be called the first draft of such a strategy.

102. Where the development issues of the least developed African countries were concerned, his delegation endorsed the decision and recommendations of the Executive Committee as reflected in paragraphs 39-42 of document E/CN.14/696. With regard to the problem of international negotiations, it agreed with the views of the Executive Committee reported in paragraph 25 (a) to (d) of that document and was prepared to examine the draft resolution referred to in paragraph 25 (e). Moreover, where the new co-operation agreement between ACP and EEC countries was concerned, he suggested that the Conference should adopt a resolution calling on the EEC countries to be more forthcoming in their reaction to the requests of the ACP countries.

103. Finally, his delegation thanked the ECA and FAO secretariats for the comprehensive report on the Regional Food Plan for Africa contained in document E/CN.14/704/Add.1 since it firmly believed that concerted action at subregional and regional levels was needed to harness the rich agricultural potential of the region.

104. The representative of Senegal noted that from 1960 to 1975 the economic growth rate of the African region had averaged about 4 per cent per year, or less than 2 per cent per capita when account was taken of population growth which represented a performance inferior to that called for in the various African development plans, not to mention the targets of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade for Africa.

105. Nevertheless, definite progress had been made in the economic growth rate since independence as a result of parallel increases in exports. International specialization was in fact forcing Africa to increase agricultural and mineral exports, which today represented more than 70 per cent of all exports from the continent, and of which close to 83 per cent went to developed market economy countries. It was, however, disappointing to observe that intra-African trade was falling off. According to the World Bank, the yearly average of African exports to Africa dropped from 5 per cent in 1966-1971 to 4.2 per cent in 1972-1977.

106. It was therefore obvious that Africa had in no way caught up with the developed countries. On the contrary, the gap was still growing wider and showed that Africa had so far lived not in a so-called sectoral duality or plurality but in a state of unequal sectoral productivity, completely dependent upon the world market of which it was an integral part. It was precisely that state of dependence which was at the same time the cause and result of the failure of African development plans to bring about self-reliant and self-sustained development in line with the internal requirements of the continent.

107. In that respect, African collective self-reliance was the fundamental objective, around which the whole process of negotiations to be carried out by the African countries at the present time should be articulated. That goal had been set forth in the revised framework of principles for the establishment of the new international economic order in Africa, 1976-1981-1986, and should be incorporated in the international strategy for the Third Development Decade. That was why structural transformations must be envisaged at the national level.

108. Senegal, in its fifth development plan (1977-1981), was attempting to diversify its sources of financing while at the same time mobilizing its own natural resources, to diversify its agriculture, at the same time as integrating its industry, to reduce its dependence for food, to diversify the direction of its foreign trade and increase intra-African trade, and finally, to find concrete and adequate solutions to a number of crucial problems such as equitable income distribution, regional disparities, reduction of the gap in standards of living between urban and rural areas, etc.

109. At the West African subregional level, machinery for economic integration among States was now operational and expanding. The Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic Community were aimed at increasing interdependence and above all equitable complementarity among African economies.

110. Another topical question was that of placing the new ACP/EEC Convention within the perspective of the international division of labour within the framework of the new international economic order. For the present state of complementarity between the African economies and those of the northern hemisphere should not be prolonged since it would result in a perpetuation of the competitive structures which Africa was seeking to remodel through integration.

111. Self reliance, however, could be achieved only by putting science and technology at the service of the African continent. He therefore welcomed the resolutions of the Cairo Conference of August 1978 concerning inter alia the extension of the role of science and technology in the areas of rural development, industrial development, the development of non-conventional energy sources adapted to Africa, and the training of scientific and technical manpower for development of the African region.

112. Therefore, Senegal was pleased to have been chosen as the host country for the African Regional Centre for Technology, and with the unanimous support which African States had given to IDEP, the only bilingual institute operated in Africa by and for senior African officials.

113. Concerning matters of procedure, Senegal believed that an annual meeting of the Conference of Ministers was not appropriate at present mainly because of the financial difficulties which Africa was encountering. On the other hand, Senegal whole-heartedly supported the proposal to abolish the Technical Committee of Experts, since the Executive Committee was well able to carry out such functions.

114. The representative of Sierra Leone associated his delegation with the sentiments already expressed and said that 21 years of continuous existence of any organization was indeed an achievement. Just as 21 was the age at which an individual was considered capable of determining his own life style, so ECA had, on coming of age, decided to place its emphasis on self-reliance, positive and dynamic growth at the national and multinational levels. Throughout its 21 years ECA had performed invaluable services to its member States. In that connexion he referred in particular to the establishment of the MULPOCs, which his Government strongly supported as a means of achieving the socio-economic transformation of the region and subregions, and to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the African Development Bank (ADB). He also noted with satisfaction the level of co-operation between ECA and other intergovernmental organizations in Africa, particularly OAU, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union.

115. The question of Africa's strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was a pertinent one in that Africa was still caught in a vicious circle of poverty, unemployment and low incomes and productivity. Areas of development in which his Government felt that action by ECA would be particularly helpful were the attainment of regional self-reliance in food and the establishment of agro-based and capital goods industries at the national and regional levels. He also felt that ECA should help to generate the finance, equipment and resources needed to develop the transport and communications sector in Africa and mentioned the need for a functional educational system. In closing he pledged Sierra Leone's support to the United Nations system and particularly ECA.

116. The representative of the Sudan said that, like other African countries, the Sudan was celebrating the twenty-first anniversary of ECA with a sense of deep appreciation for the Commission's role in helping African States to overcome their development problems. He conveyed to the Commission best wishes for its success from his President, the current Chairman of OAU, who had been unable to attend the Conference because of compelling affairs of

State. His delegation concurred with the pessimistic analysis of the African situation made by the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU in his opening statement. It felt that the only way out was for Africans objectively to assess their potential, pool their resources and face the challenge of development squarely. It believed that the development effort should start with the mobilization of resources at the national and regional levels in preference to seeking assistance from the outside world. Regional planning was the most effective means of creating an African pattern of development and life style. The Sudan had embarked on that effort by devising a programme of economic integration with its northern neighbour, Egypt. That programme included projects in transport and other aimed at the achievement of self-reliance in food production.

117. His country attached great importance to the role of the MULPOCs, including the North African MULPOC, as effective tools in the implementation of projects and in striving for development goals at the regional and sub-regional levels. It also believed in the need for interregional co-operation and, in that respect, strongly supported the idea of an agreement between ECA and ECLA and urged the Executive Secretary of ECA to enter into a similar agreement with ECWA, in view of the strong bonds between Africa and Western Asia as expressed in Afro-Arab co-operation and in co-operation between OAU and the Arab League.

118. Finally, he said that his delegation felt that the Conference of Ministers should meet annually and that the Executive Committee should be abolished. It also favoured leaving the Conference of African Planners as it was and merging the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers.

119. The representative of Togo recalled the difficulties encountered by African countries in the international negotiations of the future ACP/EEC convention, the generalized system of preferences, the Integrated Programme for Commodities or the debts of developing countries which should make those countries understand that they had to rely on themselves rather than on others. The economic development of Africa depended on agricultural development, which would help to ensure healthy workers for other sectors of the economy. The food gap in Africa would widen if a solution to the problem was not found. Agricultural under-development in Africa was a question of methods of cultivation rather than of soil conditions. That was why FAO and related bodies had been constantly requested to intensify their assistance in Africa by disseminating modern methods of cultivation to increase arable acreage and productivity. The efforts of single States might well be ineffectual without collective determination and the help of specialized agencies. For example the World Food Plan's intention to achieve that must be translated into facts. Since all African countries did not have the same capacities, he welcomed the importance attached to regional and subregional co-operation, and in particular to the idea of setting up an African common market. African countries could emerge from their present state only by establishing mutual bonds of economic co-operation which would enable them to benefit from economies of scale through the creation of viable units. To that end Togo had spared no efforts in the creation of what had become the Economic Community of West African States. For its part ECA had also endorsed the idea of subregional groupings by setting up the MULPOCs which should facilitate the creation of the African common market.

120. But the effort to produce and co-operate would be in vain if some African populations died of hunger and thirst, while others had more than enough to eat, and hence the importance of transport and communications. In 1990, at the end of the Decade, it should not be necessary for a telephone call from one African country to another to pass via Europe. ECA's programme of work must therefore be fully implemented.

121. The African continent was rich in mineral resources, but energy had to be consumed for their development. The oil crisis had made States realize the extent of the energy problem. What could Africa become, if it were to master solar and hydro-electric energy? The current discussion should increase interest in that question in Africa.

122. The Tunisian representative noted that the celebration of the twenty-first anniversary of ECA coincided with the preparation of the new international development strategy, which should take into consideration the special problems of Africa, be guided by the resolutions of the United Nations which sought to institute an economic and social system founded on justice and equality. The new strategy should also be designed for the application of concrete measures and techniques to promote African economic development and co-operation between North and South; it should be guided by the principles and recommendations elaborated by the Group of 77 at Arusha. In its statement, the Group of 77 had formally requested the industrialized countries to show greater flexibility and more understanding about the problems of the developing countries.

123. Among the restraints which constantly interfered with African development were first of all the tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade with industrialized countries. In that regard, the current negotiations between the ACP and the EEC States should deal with concrete measures designed to strengthen co-operation between these two groups because it was necessary to avoid an extension of the EEC generalized system of preferences, quotas and other protectionist measures from eroding the preferential position of the African countries. The new agreements between EEC and African countries should take into account the goals and priorities of the latter within the framework of the new international economic order. On the other hand, in order to restructure relations with developed countries it was necessary to be aware of the importance of strengthening economic and technical co-operation at all levels among African countries.

124. The most important mission of ECA was to assist African countries in defining policies and programmes of action for development and co-operation and to put them into effect. He then insisted upon the necessity of reinforcing the industrial complementarity of African countries. At any rate, the many studies on complementarity should lead to real industrial pilot projects. Real possibilities of complementarity existed in basic industries, especially in the metallurgical and mechanical industries. That approach should be a matter of priority. In addition, in order to promote the economic integration and collective self-reliance of Africa it would not seem desirable to encourage the proliferation of institutions, but rather to strengthen existing ones and to co-ordinate the activities of ECA and OAU. It would also be necessary for the secretariat to encourage the implementation at the national and subregional levels of the decisions which had been unanimously

approved by all countries. In the area of transport, he welcomed the efforts being made to create several trans-African highways which at the present time were more than 100,000 km long. Tunisia had been among the first countries to support the action of ECA in the field of transport and would propose that the latter take the following action and measures: (a) continue its efforts to obtain the actual construction of the trans-African highways by approaching financing organizations; (b) encourage neighbouring countries to connect their national road networks to the major trans-African highways; and (c) draw up a programme for the creation of direct sea links within and among subregions.

125. In concluding, he stressed the role of tourism in the African development strategy and plans. The studies required for the development of that sector had to be carried out and a plan for intra-African co-operation in tourism should be drawn up and implemented. That was why Tunisia had in recent years concluded agreements calling for co-operation in the area of tourism among certain African countries. Tourism not only brought economic benefits, but was also a factor which brought peoples and individuals closer together.

126. The representative of the United Republic of Cameroon congratulated ECA on its twenty-first anniversary and stated that its anniversary represented its transformation into maturity and its transformation into a new type of organ that was better equipped to face the future. Now also was the time to reflect on the past and to examine what should be done in the future to meet the aspirations of African countries. He explained that Africa was facing many challenges and that the situation was getting worse all the time. But Africa had the determination to develop by its own efforts and ECA should make its contribution in that respect. He would like to know what progress had been made in the implementation of the projects which had been established for ECA by the last Conference of Ministers so that ways could be explored to find necessary solutions.

127. He was happy at the Africanization policy being pursued at ECA and would like ECA to co-operate with OAU so that the problems inherent in the United Nations system of national quotas could be solved. He welcomed the establishment of the MULPOCs which he felt would play a key role in economic development at a subregional level. He warned, however, against the proliferation of organizations and conferences. ECA should ensure that Governments knew that the MULPOCs were bodies that they could go to for assistance in their development. In that regard, ECA should concentrate on the areas where it could be most effective leaving other areas to be dealt with by other United Nations bodies.

128. With regard to the Executive Committee, he felt that it should be retained as a committee of the whole of the Conference of Ministers and prepare documentation for its meetings, and meet once a year. Its composition should be that of high officials and experts.

129. There already existed many decisions on the strategy to be adopted by African countries for the achievement of rapid economic development and the Monrovia Symposium should provide a new impetus. With regard to subregional economic integration, the establishment of subregional common markets, as a prelude to a regional common market, had to be achieved by stages because of the various existing barriers. Finally, he welcomed the close links that existed between ECA and OAU.

130. The observer for Czechoslovakia stated that his country considered the strengthening of the positive trends in international relations, which had begun to develop in the 1970s as the basic condition for the development of all national economies and external economic relations, and particularly for the consolidation of peace, the struggle for international detente and the campaign against the arms race and gradual transition to disarmament. The growth of external economic relations would be promoted by a systematic application of the principles of the final act of the Helsinki Conference on European Security and Co-operation.

131. In its relations with the **third world**, Czechoslovakia worked on the principle that the national liberation movements in developing countries were a natural ally of Socialist countries in the struggle against the policy of aggression and exploitation of imperialism and represented one of the principal revolutionary forces of modern times. That was why Czechoslovakia supported the legitimate and progressive claims of the developing countries for the establishment and strengthening of their political and economic independence, and the restructuring of international economic relations on the principle of the equal rights of all countries, whatever their socio-economic regime and their level of economic development. It was in that spirit that it also supported the implementation of all the progressive objectives laid down in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

132. Czechoslovakia felt that the restructuring of international relations was impossible without complete normalization of East-West relations, the abolition of artificial restrictions in economic relations among States with different social systems and of discrimination in world trade for political or ideological reasons,

133. Czechoslovakia was ready at any time to contribute, as far as its means permitted, to a positive solution of the problem of paramount importance today of the growing gap between the economic levels of developing and developed countries. It would continue to honour its commitments vis-à-vis developing countries on the basis of the well-known principles of mutual co-operation.

134. Czechoslovakia was ready to conclude long-term trade and payments agreements and economic and technical co-operation agreements, including some covering two or three five-year planning cycles, and to pursue its efforts to increase productive capacity, in the first place of those industries which were basic for the modernization of the economy of developing countries, with particular emphasis on the public sector, to reinforce the multilateral nature of trade and economic relations, to promote the activities of the special fund for economic and technical assistance credit to developing countries through the intermediary of the International Investment Bank of CMEA so as to foster the conclusion of agreements for multilateral co-operation between CMEA and the developing countries and to establish relations with the regional economic organizations of those countries,

135. The observer for Romania said that Africa had inherited a number of still unsolved problems from the colonial era, including interference in the internal affairs of countries, the division of the world into rich and poor countries and underdevelopment. The elimination of underdevelopment and the

establishment of a new world economic order, which were still far from being achieved, required co-operation between the developing countries and the economically advanced countries. Romania considered that co-operation should proceed under the auspices of specialized international bodies and the United Nations and should lead to equitable international settlements.

136. The Romanian Government had always acted in concert with the other developing countries in the Group of 77 with a view to enabling all countries to participate in reviewing and settling international economic problems. The developing countries needed to intensify their efforts to accelerate negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order in view of the conferences to be held in 1979 and 1980, namely the fifth session of UNCTAD, the third General Conference of UNIDO, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on development issues. Economic co-operation among developing countries needed to be expanded and diversified in order to set up a sophisticated system of mutual solidarity.

137. Romania, itself a developing country, had increased its trade with other developing countries and it would account for 25 per cent of Romania's foreign trade by 1980. African countries accounted for 5.6 per cent of Romania's foreign trade and Romania was participating in 20 joint ventures with African countries. It was also providing technical aid for African countries and more than 5,300 Africans were at present receiving specialist training in Romania.

138. The observer for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics drew the particular attention of the participants to the necessity of linking closely the aims of economic development with the achievement of profound, progressive changes of a socio-economic nature, including agrarian reform, the abolition of unemployment, the nationalization of foreign holdings, the development of national industry and the improvement of the standards of living and culture of the masses of the people.

139. He also **emphasized** that the solution of those problems depended strictly on success in consolidating world peace and international security, on the international detente which would result from a halt to the arms race and the passage to genuine disarmament, releasing additional material resources for development in general.

140. He also commented on the state of Soviet-African economic co-operation and its role in the future of the national economies of certain countries.

141. The observer for the United States of America said his Government had long had a cordial and fruitful relationship with ECA and intended to continue its support.

142. Trade with Africa now accounted for over 25 per cent of his country's trade with all developing countries. Although its exports to Africa had climbed by 15 per cent in 1977 and another 7 per cent in 1978, its imports from Africa had reached \$4.6 billion in 1978, an increase of 25 per cent over 1976. Although direct investment in Africa, relative to the other developing regions, was small, it had been estimated at almost \$2.8 billion in 1977. Economic assistance from the United States to Africa had risen from \$275 million in

1970 to \$583 million in 1978. The United States had bilateral programmes in 18 of the least developed countries, with a major portion of its development assistance going to the eight countries benefiting from the Sahel Development Programme and its assistance effort in southern Africa benefited three least developed countries.

143. United States assistance was aimed at improving the economic conditions of the majority of the people in a country, particularly the rural poor. One of its areas of concentration was food production, whose pattern in Africa had been disturbing over the past decade, and assistance in that area was designed to help African countries to deal with that problem in both the short and the longer term. Short-term assistance was provided under "Food for Peace" programmes while long-term assistance was mainly in the purview of USAID.

144. A second area of concentration was health, in which assistance was focused on the development of community-based health services for rural people. His Government had supported the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and had been giving careful consideration to ways in which it could contribute to its objectives. In fact, through its bilateral aid programmes, it was already contributing significantly to the improvement of transport systems in cases where the results would clearly be beneficial to rural people.

145. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs delivered a statement prepared by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in which the latter congratulated ECA on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary and for having served as an effective instrument within the United Nations system for the economic and social development of the African region. He pointed out that in spite of the mineral and energy resources of the continent and its potentially rich human resources, Africa continued to be confronted with serious problems of development and had experienced the lowest annual rate of growth in GDP.

146. Among the major development challenges confronting African countries were the slow rate of growth of agriculture, low levels of food production and productivity, unsatisfactory performance in international trade, the deteriorating situation of the least developed countries and inadequate economic and social infrastructure.

147. In spite of the fact that the majority of the population in the region depended on agriculture, its low productivity meant that many countries were increasingly dependent on food imports at rising prices which had led to the diversion of needed foreign exchange from investment to the maintenance of consumption levels. The poor performance in agriculture, in turn, continued to slow down the pace of industrial growth and therefore there was urgent need for international action to increase food production and productivity.

148. The proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, was significant as it would help to overcome major obstacles and strengthen mutual exchanges among countries. Because African countries continued to be vulnerable to imperfections in primary commodity markets, their concern for a speedy conclusion of the negotiations on the Common Fund was justified and it was essential that efforts should be exerted to develop and improve the

production and exporting capacity as well as to reverse the protectionist policies of the developed countries. There was need for the developed countries to accelerate the transfer of resources to the developing countries. Referring to the least developed countries, the majority of which were located in Africa, it was hoped the forthcoming fifth session of UNCTAD would take concrete action on their problems.

149. The Third United Nations Development Strategy should specify goals, objectives and policy measures addressed to both developed and developing countries and its success, whatever its contents, would require close co-operation between the developed and developing countries, based on mutual interest.

150. Finally, it was explained that the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had been established with responsibility for global research and analysis of development issues and programme planning and co-ordination. It was its intention to assist and co-operate with ECA.

151. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development said that the twenty-first anniversary of ECA provided an opportunity to look at the progress made and to spend some time thinking about the economic and social development problems along the course to be run by the African continent. It was therefore natural that the debate should centre around the main topic of economic interdependence and collective self-reliance in Africa. The causes of development problems were well known, and in many areas, countries had taken the necessary measures. They had also come to understand that independence and national sovereignty, through the transfer of the power of decision making, should be the means of transforming the colonial structures of production and distribution into tools for accelerating the indigenous development of the economies of new States. African economies were still prey to influences beyond their control. In a number of countries the system inherited from the former regime had been replaced by ill-adapted structures which were incapable of ensuring long-term development. To accelerate their economic and social development, African countries should be willing to make sacrifices, change their structures and look for a new approach to development which met their own particular needs. In other words they should seek the solution to their problems from within and on their own initiative.

152. The fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers should result in a strategy for the dynamic and integrated development of the African economies. Although it was true that Africa should count first and foremost on its own efforts, it could not and should not ignore the realities of the world economy and of international economic relations. African countries should therefore close ranks so that they could carry on a collective dialogue with the rest of the world, thereby safeguarding their vital interests. International organizations concerned with development, such as those in the United Nations, should help them in their collective effort to achieve development and intra-African co-operation. Thus, the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development stood ready to provide them with the assistance they needed to strengthen and develop the infrastructure they had to have if they were to undertake large-scale development projects. The institutions of the United Nations system could act as catalysts for African economic integration. It was desirable for international institutions to help in drawing up development

plans and strategies. With regard to both research and field work, United Nations bodies could supplement bilateral activities undertaken in Africa. In that respect, ECA would remain a vital instrument in the performance of the action taken by the United Nations in the interest of Africa.

153. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe expressed his delight at being present at the twenty-first anniversary meeting of ECA. The Commission had now come of age and was in a position to help African **countries** more effectively to achieve their aspirations. Shortly, ECE would be holding the annual meeting of its Conference of Ministers and one of the matters which it would discuss would be co-operation among ECE, ECA and ECWA regarding the multisectoral development of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal States. That project would make an important contribution towards the achievement of the New International Economic Order for the Mediterranean region.

154. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific conveyed to the Conference of Ministers the greetings of the States members of ESCAP on the twenty-first anniversary of ECA. After describing the composition of ESCAP, he gave an account of the development activities and strategies of his Commission. He stressed the need to develop co-operation between ESCAP and ECA; the member States of both organizations had similar developmental problems and could learn from each other's experience. In fact, since two years ago, ESCAP had decided to make ECDC and TCDC standing items not only on its own agenda but on that of its subsidiary organs. Although consultations were going on between the two organizations with regard to co-operation in the fields of transport and transnational corporations, there was scope for further co-operation and collaboration in such areas as rural development, small-scale industry, transfer of technology, telecommunications, shipping, port development, desertification, coastal marine environment and housing. ESCAP, he concluded, was prepared to share with ECA whatever experience it has accumulated in those areas.

155. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America also brought greetings from the States members of ECLA and ECLA itself on the twenty-first anniversary of ECA. ECA had now reached maturity which implied that it should be able to assist African countries to develop economically and socially according to their own wishes and in the manner that they preferred. Interdependence among African countries was essential to their development. The high point of Latin American economic development would have been reached when there was unity in that continent and only through unity would Latin America make great economic strides. Political will and self-reliance were also two important factors necessary for rapid economic development. ECA and ECLA were exploring ways of establishing a close working relationship between themselves and he hoped that the historical, ethnic and geographical ties that linked Africa and Latin America would be strengthened.

156. In congratulating the Economic Commission for Africa on its twenty-first anniversary, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia pointed out that ECA had been established at the beginning of an African revival and had thus become a forum for dialogue among the various African countries. Because Africa was evolving rapidly, the role and importance of the Commission were constantly increasing. The regional commissions were qualified to play a fundamental role in the development of economic and technical

co-operation among the various regions of the world. Projects in respect of which the two Commissions were co-ordinating their efforts included the compilation of statistics covering all the Arab States, the establishment of a regional documentation centre and the study of the brain drain problem. He stressed the special aspects of the co-operation between ECWA and ECA, which were due to the cultural links between the countries they served and the similarity of the problems and challenges facing the two regions. That co-operation could be widened and deepened in the priority areas common to Africa and Western Asia. He also mentioned the importance of co-operation between the two Commissions in matters relating to the Arab-African dialogue.

157. The Executive Director of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations stressed the three aims of the Centre: to finalize the standards and international agreements in its field of competence, to supply practical assistance to Governments, especially of developing countries, so as to increase their bargaining power with transnational corporations, and to make the nature of transnational corporations and their influence on development and international relations better understood. On the first objective, the Commission on Transnational Corporations had decided to give first priority to the preparation of a code of conduct which it had entrusted to an international working group whose agenda for its sixth session, held in 1978, included the procedures for applying the code. It was becoming more and more evident to the 48 States members of the working group that the effectiveness of the code depended ultimately on the commitment of Governments to ensure its observance and the existence of adequate machinery for enforcement including legislative machinery to ensure the observance at national level and facilitate the solution of eventual problems in co-operation with the international body concerned. The working group had also considered the need to set up international machinery for collecting data, compiling reports on the enforcement of the code, preparing studies and evaluations and periodic reviews - if necessary also revision of the code in the light of experience. The working group was to complete its task in 1980.

158. To attain its second objective, the Centre had undertaken a programme of technical co-operation to help Governments directly by supplying, within an average of two months, the advisory services requested and by organizing training and information workshops on all aspects of transnational corporations. Judging by the increasing number of requests, that activity filled a need which more and more Governments were feeling. The Centre had so far carried out 46 different assistance projects in 30 countries and organized 14 training workshops. Eighteen African countries had used the advisory and training services of the Centre. In collaboration with the corresponding service in ECA, a meeting of high officials with great experience of transnational corporations was to be convened in 1979 to pinpoint the sectors in which the Governments of the region could benefit from training workshops. The Centre hoped to be able in the future to set up, in collaboration with the corresponding ECA unit, a broader programme for African countries.

159. The Centre also helped Governments with their information services, three components of which Governments had felt to be particularly interesting: information on national policies, laws and regulations on transnational corporations, specific information on experiences with transnational corporations abroad, and lastly information on contracts and agreements.

160. In the framework of its third field of activity, the Centre had set up a research programme which was beginning to bear fruit. A study had just been completed on the role of transnational corporations in the pharmaceutical industry, and another on the activities of advertising agencies on a world-wide scale. Other studies would deal with the growth and activities of major banking and financial institutions and their effects on the economy of developing countries and the role of transnational corporations in the food industry and tourism.

161. Moreover, the Centre devoted a large part of its resources and efforts to studying the problem created by the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa in the mining, industrial and military sectors and their employment practices. The political climate for foreign investments in southern Africa had deteriorated in recent years. In the studies made by the Centre it appeared that the transnational corporations were willing to accept the change in climate concerning foreign investments in South Africa, but the uncertain economic and political situation in Namibia and Zimbabwe had discouraged new investments.

162. In South Africa, new investments were reflecting the official South African policy of encouraging economic self-sufficiency. In the military sector, foreign technology had played a major role in the development of sophisticated weapons. The adoption by the Security Council in 1977 of a compulsory arms embargo on South Africa had also raised questions about the activities of a certain number of transnational corporations in South Africa.

163. The products of some industrial sectors had civil as well as military uses. The South African Government had adopted measures requiring subsidiaries of transnational corporations, in emergencies, to produce arms, even against their will. The Centre was following the implementation of resolutions adopted by OAU on the question of the participation of foreign economic interests in southern Africa and the measures taken by some African Governments against companies which were continuing to collaborate with minority racist regimes. The studies undertaken on the matter supplied useful information, likely to induce Governments to adopt appropriate policies and minority racist Governments to change their attitudes.

164. After congratulating ECA on its efforts to promote regional co-operation throughout Africa during the past two decades, the Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Regional Director for Africa said that over-all co-operation between UNDP and ECA during the period under review had been characterized by practical achievements and positive action and had included improved and sustained dialogue and exchanges. He and the Executive Secretary had held a review meeting in October 1978 in which they had decided on specific ways of strengthening their co-operation. UNDP had continued to adopt measures and procedures allowing ECA the flexibility and latitude to embark upon imaginative programmes. He reminded participants that at Kinshasa he had announced an allocation of \$10 million to finance projects identified by ECA and executed by ECA either alone or in co-operation with other United Nations organizations. Of the 17 projects submitted by ECA, 14 were already under way. Steps had also been taken to avoid the delays often experienced between programming and implementation. As a result of ECA's having become a fully fledged executing agency for UNDP, the Commission had been more heavily

involved in UNDP activities and would become further involved as it assumed responsibility for carrying out projects now executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

165. UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa attached special importance to activities promoting subregional and regional integration through multinational co-operation. In that context it had been supporting the replacement of the UNDATs by the MULPOCs and had revised its over-all pledge to them upwards from 4 to 7 million dollars. He said, however, that member States had to support the MULPOCs unreservedly in terms of leadership and appropriate financing if they were to serve their purpose effectively. It was also of the utmost importance to ensure that their terms of reference were clearly articulated and their objectives attainable.

166. With regard to the women's programme, he said the point at issue was not whether or not African women should be involved in the development process, since they already were, but rather a matter of ensuring that their efforts were recognized and more equitably rewarded. That implied that men must resist the temptation to provide the leadership in women's activities, and let women themselves plan their business. He also urged that special attention be paid to the absorption of young girls into society since they were the women of tomorrow. In that spirit he had supported the request for additional assistance to the MULPOCs for women's activities.

167. He assured the Conference that UNDP would spare no effort to ensure the success of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. At its June 1978 session the UNDP Governing Council had requested the Administration to submit to it at its June 1979 session a report on ways and means through which UNDP might contribute to the attainment of the objectives of that Decade. Approved regional projects in transport and communications amounted to \$16.4 million for the period 1977-1981 while country projects totalled \$46 million, and those figures did not include activities under interregional projects or transport components of multisectoral projects. UNDP intended to finance a \$10 million programme for southern African countries, the major part of which would be devoted to the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive system of transport and communications.

168. With regard to follow-up on the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), at which UNDP had been requested to "give the necessary orientation" to its activities in support of TCDC, he noted that the very first interregional activity in TCDC organized by UNDP following the Conference had taken place in the Ivory Coast in the fields of educational television and that it was his intention to organize, in close co-operation with ECA and OAU, a TCDC meeting of African governmental experts during the first half of 1980 to consider ways and means of developing TCDC in the African region.

169. In referring to some of his concerns over the future development of Africa, he said that, although many impressive achievements had been made, a lot remained to be done. At present Africa was becoming less self-sufficient in food, its economic growth was too slow, its per capita GNP was unequitably distributed, its natural resources were being produced mainly for export, economic solidarity was only slowly materializing, much of the active

population of Africa was unemployed or underemployed and three quarters of its people were illiterate. To meet these challenges there was need to reconsider the development strategies now in effect. In his view the development objectives for the year 2000 should be to attain a high degree of self-reliance, to democratize national development, to increase African solidarity and to carry more weight in world affairs. At the national level these objectives implied a more vigorous policy of self-reliance, a better knowledge of Africa's development potential, basic reforms in education, more effective management of the economy and a better share of development efforts and resulting benefits among all the citizenry. At the regional level there was need to achieve greater economic solidarity among African countries and to mobilize national resources and international assistance with a view to solving problems of regional dimension. At the world level, African countries should recognize the possibilities offered by co-operation among developing countries, and struggle to bring about a new economic, political and cultural order. Now was the time to make the changes called for by the challenges ahead and begin to groom a new generation of Africans required to bring Africa out of the present difficulties.

170. The Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Regional Director of the Bureau for Arab States said it was a great honour for him to address the Conference on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of ECA and to participate in its work in his capacity as Director of UNDP's first Arab Bureau, which also covered the countries in the North African subregion. He joined with his colleague, the Regional Director for Africa, in congratulating ECA on its efforts to promote African regional co-operation during the past two decades.

171. In a brief account of the establishment of the Arab Bureau, which had been created in June 1977 pursuant to a decision taken by the UNDP Governing Council and had become operational early in 1978, he explained that formerly UNDP had had a Bureau for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, which had covered the European countries and both Arab and non-Arab countries in North Africa and Western Asia. The new Bureau was concerned exclusively with all the countries members of the Arab League, with the exception of Somalia and Mauritania, which were covered by the African Bureau. Thus, the Bureau faced complex problems in attempting to strike a balance in co-operating with ECA, ECWA, ECE and other organizations in the Mediterranean area.

172. The Bureau had opened contact with ECA soon after its establishment. The Executive Secretary had attended a meeting of UNDP resident representatives in Arab countries in 1978. Other meetings had been held at United Nations Headquarters and at the headquarters of ECA, where a framework for future co-operation had been forged. Specifically, it had been agreed that UNDP resident representatives would represent ECA in Arab countries and that the resident representative in Rabat would be responsible for co-operation between the Arab Bureau and ECA. It had also been agreed that regional projects involving Arab countries would be studied jointly before being considered for adoption and implementation.

173. He pointed out that action-oriented Afro-Arab co-operation had begun before the afore-mentioned agreements were made and that the Arab Bureau was already financing the Trans-Saharan Highway project and a number of project studies in the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade. Countries in North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa were co-operating on projects dealing with the exploitation of water resources; and Egypt, the Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of Yemen were working together in the exploration of Red Sea resources. In that connexion he also mentioned GAFRAD and the Centre for Training and Applied Research in Social Development in Tripoli.

174. He reminded the Conference that the Arab League had set up organizations parallel to the United Nations specialized agencies and that there was a network of regional and subregional economic organizations in Western Asia and North Africa, and said that for that reason the creation of new organs to co-ordinate economic programming and co-operation might give rise to duplication of effort. In that connexion he felt that the best approach to the creation of the North African MULPOC would be to identify the areas where expertise was needed and to think about establishing the MULPOC only when the time was ripe.

175. With regard to TCDC, he said that as part of the United Nations system, the Arab Bureau was endeavouring to implement the resolutions adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference. As Director of the Arab Bureau, he could see broad opportunities for TCDC without increasing the financial burden. For instance much expertise was available in the use of solar energy and the exploration of mineral resources in addition to the knowledge which had been accumulated in traditional fields, such as agriculture.

176. The Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme said that the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers provided an excellent opportunity to examine what international co-operation could do to overcome the state of "absolute poverty" in which many Africans continued to live. Food aid could provide an important resource for development, help to meet the food gap, ameliorate an adverse balance-of-payments situation, address the immediate problems of hunger and malnutrition and mobilize the African people themselves. Average annual shipments to the States members of ECA over the past four years had been 2.6 million tons. The resources of the Programme came from voluntary pledges, and the majority of ECA member countries had contributed to it. Priority was given to the least developed and most seriously affected countries and to special hardship areas, and first consideration was accorded to projects for increasing agricultural production and enhancing rural development and those for improving the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups. Over the past 16 years all the ECA countries had benefited from this arrangement.

177. A large part of WFP assistance had gone towards rural development, where it was used in food-for-work schemes, to tide new settlers over until they brought their land into production, to help small farmers over the period of adjustment to modern farming, to provide food for trainees in agricultural training programmes and to support the creation of food reserves and price stabilization schemes. In agricultural production, WFP supported soil conservation and protection measures as well as agricultural production schemes, such as the one for the reclamation, development and settlement of land served

by the Aswan high dam. WFP-supported projects for soil conservation and protection were under way in Tunisia, Somalia and Ethiopia, and eight African countries had been assisted in the establishment of food reserves and in price stabilization measures. Assistance to projects for improving nutrition at the primary school level had been provided in Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland, the Sudan, Morocco and Algeria however, attempts to improve the nutritional status of mothers and pre-school children had been less successful.

178. The Programme was also being used for the purchase and shipment of foodstuffs out of its own funds and funds placed at its disposal by various United Nations agencies and bilateral donors. In 1978 WFP had purchased food in 12 ECA countries at a total cost of \$7.7 million. Three additional areas of direct concern to the Programme were emergencies, refugees and liberation movements. In 1978 it had provided food in 28 emergency operations in 14 ECA member countries at a total cost of \$38.7 million. In the Sahel, where it had worked in close co-operation with CILSS, UNDRO, FAO and the international community, it had co-ordinated the supply of 439,000 tons of food. Moreover, assistance had been provided to 19 projects in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia benefiting 465,000 refugees and displaced persons from Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

179. In conclusion, he said that the receipt and use of food aid was helping to improve food management, especially in countries with inadequate transport and logistics arrangements. In determining the food aid needs of African countries, distinction should be made between the requirements for meeting emergencies, improving nutritional status, creating food reserves and maintaining stocks and reducing food deficits. To enhance its effectiveness, WFP was seeking partnership of action with organizations providing other forms of assistance - financial, technical and material. Finally, he mentioned the Regional Food Plan for Africa, which WFP intended to assist in close co-operation with ECA,

180. The Deputy Director-General of the International Fund for Agricultural Development pointed out that the agreement to establish IFAD had been operative in November 1977 and brought into being the first international financial body specially created to promote agricultural and rural development in member countries by concentrating on small farmers and the poorest rural populations. The aim of IFAD, which had 125 members, was to mobilize additional resources, making them available to developing member countries on the most favourable terms possible. That was why the bulk of its resources was earmarked for so-called "special" loans, which were interest-free but subject to a one per cent service charge, to be repaid in 50 years with a ten year grace period. There were also ordinary loans bearing eight per cent interest with 15 years for repayment and a three-year grace period, and lastly, medium-term loans at four per cent interest with 20 years for repayment and a five-year grace period.

181. IFAD had approved its first two loans in April 1978, one (\$12 million), for a rural development project in the United Republic of Tanzania and the other (\$12 million also) for an irrigation and rural settlement project in Sri Lanka. In all, ten projects had been approved at a total of \$118 million in 1978, and IFAD hoped to triple that amount in 1979. Although its operations mainly consisted in financing projects together with other institutions, IFAD

had sent missions to several countries at their requests to identify and prepare projects for exclusive financing by the Fund. Numerous African projects were in the pipeline.

182. The IFAD representative then mentioned a number of considerations which, in his view had to be taken into account in plans for agricultural and rural development, as follows:

- (a) The need to use the natural and human resources of Africa to the best advantage, for a substantial improvement in food self-sufficiency, taking precautions to safeguard the environment so as not to jeopardize the future;
- (b) The need to ensure a satisfactory nutritional level for as many people as possible, especially the least favoured rural masses, by a better distribution of food resources and coherent income and employment policies;
- (c) The need to ensure the active participation of the rural masses in the definition of their needs and of the means of fulfilling them.

183. IFAD was determined to encourage the policies and strengthen the institutions of those of its member countries which pursued these ends and shared the concerns mentioned above. The intervention of the Fund always took place within the framework of national priorities and strategies. Naturally the Fund paid particular attention to the needs of the Sahel, where it had identified a certain number of projects to be included in its financing programme. Moreover, it regarded the FAO Regional Food Plan for Africa, which had been endorsed by ECA, with great interest and was following the development of national components.

184. The funds of IFAD - just over 1 billion dollars - included \$567 million from developed member countries, \$435 million from OPEC member countries and \$20 million from other member countries, each of the three groups having 600 votes.

185. IFAD encouraged the exchange of experience, goods and services between developing countries and gave preference to experts, technicians and supplies from those countries. Finally, he said it was ready to furnish its contribution to the efforts which the African countries, helped by ECA, were at present making to revise their development goals. To that end special planning missions had been envisaged for the current year, the first of which had just returned from Mali.

186. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD congratulated ECA on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary. He observed that the ECA Conference of Ministers was meeting at Rabat against a background of unresolved problems of inflation, monetary and financial instability, unemployment and growing protectionism. He further observed that the Conference met against a background of unfulfilled hopes at the end of the Second United Nations Development Decade and as preparations were under way for the Third Decade. The past was littered with countless resolutions and the future held no less crowded calendars of meetings. He stated that they in UNCTAD faced the fifth session in

Manila in May 1979 with numerous question marks as was suggested by the provisional agenda for that session.

187. He stressed that it was not the nature or number of problems that mattered but the nature and vigour of the response to the challenges. Nothing would be given on a silver platter and words could never be a substitute for action. The essential task before the world consisted in the rapid transformation of the economies of the developing countries and the restructuring of international economic relations. The task of transforming their economies was primarily and clearly the responsibility of the developing countries themselves in which by their own self-reliant effort and through collective self-reliance they must endeavour to exercise effective sovereignty over the control and exploitation of their natural resources, create and enhance their technological capacities, expand their infrastructure and intensify co-operative efforts to their mutual benefit. He further observed that the terms of trade of developing countries had persistently run against African countries, the prices of the products of their sweat fluctuated while markets for their products not infrequently were closed, and in any case were erratic, and completely threw into disarray their development plans. The price of technology was prohibitive, antiquated shipping and insurance arrangements ran against the interests of developing countries, world monetary and financial institutions remained largely the preserve of the north while monetary instability was clearly harmful. Thus the total efforts of developing countries tended largely to subsidize the economies of developed countries. In those circumstances, he said, it was imperative to change the existing order.

188. Referring to the negotiations in UNCTAD regarding the Integrated Programme for Commodities, the Common Fund, the Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology, the debt burden of developing countries, restrictive business practices and multifarious other activities, he informed the meeting that despite setbacks, progress had been made on some of those issues and that recently the United Nations Negotiating Conference on the Common Fund had reached agreement on the fundamental elements of the Common Fund which would serve as a basis for further work on the drafting of the articles of agreement. He emphasized that the negotiation process was slow and the resistance of entrenched interest was deep but one had to persevere and learn to be fully prepared and to be steadfast as to objectives and flexible as to means. In that connexion he cited the words of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania at the recent Arusha ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, namely, that "So far we have been negotiating as noisy and importunate supplicants. We need to negotiate from a position of steadily increasing strength."

189. In his statement, the representative of UNIDO said that ECA's twenty-first anniversary presented an occasion for reviewing and analysing past achievements and for rededication to socio-economic development in Africa. He pointed out that African industrial development had been of central concern and that UNIDO had co-operated closely with ECA to co-ordinate such development. He noted that since 1973, UNIDO had co-sponsored biennial conferences of African Ministers of Industry. It had established in 1974 a Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division for the promotion of regional industrial policies, programmes and institutions.

190. UNIDO's technical assistance programme to African countries, had in 1978 amounted to \$US 16 million representing an increase of 34 per cent over 1977. That amount had been expanded notably on developing basic industries in such sectors as metals, engineering, petrochemicals and chemicals; on laying industrial institutional infrastructures, on strengthening industrial project design and management capabilities in the operation of enterprises; on promoting regional industries and on the training of industrial and technological personnel.

191. He reminded participants that the rate of growth of African manufacturing production had exceeded 7 per cent a year in the period 1960-1975; that Africa's share in world industrial production had been 0.8 per cent in 1975, as compared to 8.6 per cent for the developing countries as a whole and that the Lima Declaration had called for a rise in African share to 2 per cent by the year 2000, which had formidable implications for the mobilization of capital, skills and technology. The question now is whether the international community was making progress towards the achievement of that target.

192. He called attention to Conference of Ministers resolution 319 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 stressing the importance of the third General Conference of UNIDO which was to be held in January/February 1980 and to resolution 7 (IV) of the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry outlining guidelines for the elaboration of a common African position on the third General Conference of UNIDO. He also drew attention to the fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry scheduled to be held in September 1979 to review the implementation of the Lima Declaration and draw up measures for achieving the Lima targets. Its recommendations would constitute an important input to the preparatory conference for the third General Conference of UNIDO to be organized by the Group of 77. He hoped that the fifth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers would provide further guidelines for use at the fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in its preparations for the third session of UNIDO.

193. Finally, he drew attention to the post-Lima years of continuing inflation in the developed countries; the rise in import costs of industrial intermediate and capital goods; the mounting debt-servicing problems of developing countries, especially the least developed ones, and to the fact that 73 per cent of the growth rate in manufacturing was accounted for by only 10 countries and that in 1970-1976 the deficit of the developing countries in their trade in manufactures with developed market economy countries had risen from \$24 billion to \$92 billion while that of African countries had risen from \$5 billion to \$26 billion.

194. The Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research said he and his colleagues at UNITAR were glad to help to mark the twenty-first anniversary of ECA, which had evolved into a leader in the formulation of development policy and a major centre for project execution in the African region. Those at UNITAR who were responsible for formulating programmes in support of the creation of a new international economic order always bore in mind that the economic and social benefits of development could accrue to Africa only through growth that was both self-directed and self-sustaining. UNITAR offered courses in United Nations and governmental affairs in which some 1,200 Africans had taken part. Its Department of

Research was engaged in studies of problems ranging from the creation of a new international economic order to the situation of women in the United Nations. One of its research projects which should be of particular interest to African countries was a pioneering study on relations between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, including a special section on ECA/OAU relations. Another study dealt with economic and other forms of co-operation among countries in the West African subregion, in which particular attention had been given to ECOWAS. He also mentioned a study on disaster preparedness, a very comprehensive study of development planning in Africa and a study on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system under which the role of the regional commissions in implementing United Nations development programmes would be enhanced.

195. One of the first events in UNITAR's newest major programme, "The Project on the Future" had brought together African planners, economists and researchers at a Conference on Africa and the problems of the future held at IDEP, an organization which in itself was a successful manifestation of African co-operation. In continuation of the programme undertaken with IDEP, UNITAR was co-sponsoring studies aimed at defining some possible components of an African development strategy. He also mentioned research being conducted in technology, domestic distribution and North-South relations as being directly relevant to Africa's economic prospects. Where energy was concerned, UNITAR's emphasis had been on overcoming supply constraints by making known the variety of energy sources available. To that end, the Project on the Future had held several conferences highlighting lesser known and unconventional sources, in which many African countries and members of the ECA secretariat had participated.

196. The representative of ILO drew attention to the fact that his organization and ECA were co-operating in such fields as vocational training, social development, transfer of technology, manpower training and questions of employment. Although that co-operation had been fruitful, it had not been possible to find answers to all related problems, foremost among which were the problems of unemployment in Africa and the lack of trained managerial manpower. As regarded agriculture, he wanted to know what had happened with regard to the high-yielding seeds which FAO had suggested in 1978 should be planted in Africa. He also called on African countries to earmark more funds for applied research in agriculture. Turning to other matters, he stated that the MULPOCs constituted a useful tool for getting the ordinary people involved in development and planning; ECA should think about the question of investments; basic freedoms and human rights should be maintained since without them there would be no real economic development.

197. After congratulating ECA on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary the representative of FAO explained that FAO had entered into co-operative association with ECA soon after its establishment in 1958. The Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division had now emerged as an organ for the promotion of the Commission's work in food and agriculture development. A revised framework of understanding between FAO and ECA had provided for a much enlarged basis for collaboration for both organizations.

198. He said that since the establishment of the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division two decades ago many co-operative programmes had been implemented including the comprehensive study on intraregional co-operation in development

and trade; areas covered by the Forestry Advisory Group and Agro-based Industry Advisory Group; and in rural development and training. It was expected that future FAO's activities in natural resources and human environment through the interdepartmental working group would ensure interdepartmental co-ordination, the formulation of policies and the maintenance of technical co-operation between FAO and ECA.

199. The development of the rural sector in the over-all process of national development had been a major concern of both ECA and FAO and the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in July 1979 had drawn on the joint efforts of both organizations,

200. The Conference would provide an opportunity to member countries to assess their experiences and would equally assist FAO and ECA's new approaches to policy objectives in development,

201. Agricultural training, as a main component of FAO-assisted projects, had in the early 1960 been mostly related to assisting in increasing agricultural production of selected crops but since 1970 there had been greater need for technical training at the intermediate level,

202. Because of the drought disaster in the Sahelian countries, greater emphasis had been placed on food crop production, and since 1976 FAO's policy had given more weight to the need for training at the grass-roots level, FAO had also provided staff to the Training Centre for Women in Addis Ababa,

203. He referred to the tenth Regional Conference of Ministers of Agriculture which had afforded the initial occasion for the formal association of FAO and ECA in a regional conference to which both organizations had presented two papers prepared jointly, namely: Regional co-operation and integration in the field of agriculture; and the Regional Food Plan in which the resolution on the latter recommend that FAO and ECA should provide, within the limits of their resources, assistance to member Governments in the preparation and formulation of programmes for increased food production and that they should jointly examine the feasibility of establishing a food commodity price intelligence service to collect and disseminate information on prices and quantities of food commodities available in the region with a view to facilitating the growth of intraregional trade,

204. The observer for the World Health Organization (WHO) said that development implied a progressive improvement in individual and collective living conditions and health and that the report submitted by WHO and UNICEF to the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held at Alma Ata in 1978 correctly emphasized the close links between development and health. Action to improve health and action to improve the socio-economic situation must be regarded as complementing one another. Full and harmonious development called for on-going joint action by the main social, economic, political, cultural, scientific and health sectors. The pessimistic review of the health conditions of the peoples of Africa was a spur to seeking better strategies and to reconsidering approaches to Africa's health problems. The target - health for all by the year 2000 - had been agreed unanimously, but national strategies still had to be determined. The approach of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care demanded a political commitment, the preparation of a realistic national and regional plan of action and the institution of support structures and machinery for co-operation between developing countries. In

all areas of action (the development of water resources, the integration of women in development, transport and communications, etc.), consideration had to be given to many health factors for and against the agreed objectives.

205. Thus, public information and education could help to promote public awareness of the necessity to improve health by means of primary health care and the adoption of a rational drugs use policy, including those used by traditional medicine. Likewise, the industrial sector participated in creating pharmaceutical industries, manufacturing low-cost equipment adapted to needs and storing high-nutrition foods. On the other hand, poorly designed agricultural undertakings (e.g. irrigation works), and industrial undertakings, (e.g. uncontrolled industrial growth) could be injurious to health. Multi-national and multidisciplinary co-operation was therefore indispensable in any development programme, and co-ordination between ECA, OAU and all the national and international organizations concerned with development would really make sense.

206. To ensure the success of the African regional food programme, the Health Ministers and WHO, together with the other authorities concerned, should participate at all stages of project planning, implementation and evaluation. For each project or development sector, it would be necessary to undertake an exhaustive analysis of the health implications of the activities under consideration.

207. In conclusion, he stated the wish of WHO for increasingly close co-operation with ECA. For example, some food education and training projects promoted by WHO, and in particular by the FAO/OAU/WHO Commission for Food and Nutrition in Africa, would be more effective if ECA were to support them.

208. The Director General of UNESCO firstly recalled that co-operation between ECA and UNESCO dated back to 1961 and had constantly grown stronger over the years, for a formal agreement defining the modalities for co-operation between the two organizations was now being negotiated. Although since independence education had been accorded high priority all over Africa, it had not been turned into a real instrument for the affirmation of cultural identity and internally generated development. In many cases the structures had not changed since colonial times and schools often rejected the natural human environment, thus giving rise unwittingly to dislike of manual labour.

209. The modernization which had taken place after independence based on models from the industrialized societies had had various unfortunate effects. People were fleeing the countryside in favour of the towns and unemployment continued to rise. The small amount that the subsistence economy could provide was not even always sure and modern needs generated by the industrial country model were inaccessible to the majority of the population, who lacked the necessary purchasing power. Independence and modernization had amounted to imitating the former metropolitan countries, a matter which called for a reaction, a lucid analysis of the impasses to which that course had led, without of course rejecting the positive aspects, and a new definition of Africa's road to development by rediscovering its own values and rejecting foreign concepts. Development had to be anthropocentric.

210. That kind of development had to be internally generated, open, integrated and equitable. Such an undertaking was impossible to achieve at

the individual level but could be done through regional groupings where not only economic factors but also education, science and culture were fully integrated. Along the same lines, one of the topics for discussion at the present Conference was not autarchy but the greatest possible degree of self-reliance receptive to exchanges of experience and comparisons of approach,

211. It was against that background that in 1976 UNESCO had been invited by its General Conference to promote international co-operation in the field of science and technology in order to help developing countries to consolidate their research and development programmes in accordance with their needs and objectives. In so doing, UNESCO had been guided by the recommendations adopted at the CASTAFRICA Conference and the Conference of Ministers of Arab States responsible for the application of science and technology to development (CASTARAB) and it had drawn up programmes in all branches of science and technology. To see that they were implemented, it had established two regional offices for science and technology in Africa, one at Nairobi and the other at Cairo. These offices maintained fruitful co-operation with ECA, one recent example of which was the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

212. The Director General of UNESCO then turned to the question of women, who were often marginal to modern development, remaining in the subsistence economy areas where their economic role, although often quite important, did not allow them in any real way to influence the future of their societies. One of the main objectives of UNESCO's medium-term plan was precisely to upgrade the contribution of women to the life of the community, to improve their socio-economic status and to give them access to new responsibilities,

213. Lastly, UNESCO was particularly concerned about the question of communications, whose mechanisms had to be mastered if there was to be any internally generated development. That was why at its twentieth session the General Conference of UNESCO had adopted the Declaration of Fundamental Principles on the role of the information media in the strengthening of international peace and understanding, the promotion of human rights and the struggle against racism and apartheid and racism and incitation to war, etc. That Declaration affirmed the need for a freer and richer flow of information which would at last enable the third world to express its hopes in its own words. In conclusion the Director General of UNESCO stated the world today was full of challenges which could be taken up only if countries grouped together, the first stage in that regard being at the regional level. Africa's destiny depended on its ability to unite its disjointed will and co-ordinate its aspirations,

214. The Secretary-General of ITU stated that the role of telecommunications in technological development was all the more important because the period 1978-1988 had been proclaimed the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. In order to contribute to the building up of Africa, ITU planned to provide consultative services, carry out studies and an exchange of ideas and participate in practical applications,

215. For more than ten years, with the assistance of UNDP and the co-operation of ECA, a vast pan-African telecommunications network (PANAFTEL) had been put in place, whose function was to ensure the interconnexion of the various African networks. That network, under construction, consisted of 24,000 km. of overland circuits and contained 18 international centres that were partly

completed. In addition, 14,000 km. of new circuits were planned for the coming years.

216. He was pleased at the excellent functioning of the PANAFTEL Co-ordination Committee, whose creation had been decided upon by the African Heads of State. Established with UNDP financial aid, it consisted of senior officials of OAU, ECA, ADB, ITU and PATU. Since the central theme of the present Conference was economic interdependence of African countries, including intra-African technical co-operation, it was desirable for PANAFTEL to present one of the most striking examples.

217. In March 1977, under the aegis of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the first preparation had been made for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. Research and studies were under way to define the objectives and strategies as well as the means of implementation. To that effect, there would soon be three meetings in Addis Ababa: (a) a meeting of the Ad hoc Sub-Committee on Telecommunications, during which a summary report would be presented; (b) a meeting of the PANAFTEL Co-ordination Committee, which would examine the said report; and (c) an inter-institutional meeting, which would decide on the ensemble of questions related to transport and communications.

218. The Secretary-General of ITU thanked the Administrator of UNDP and his deputy for the unflagging assistance given by UNDP to ITU, permitting it thus to terminate successfully the creation of the PANAFTEL network.

219. Certain innovative activities had been undertaken by ITU, namely, the development of technical research, which made it possible to construct equipment adapted to the countries, to their conditions of exploitation and environment, also, the development of research on new sources of energy, the carrying out of preinvestment studies with a view to the creation of national and regional telecommunications industries, and the development of research on the organization and administration of telecommunications enterprises.

220. On the occasion of the celebration of the World Communications Year in 1983, a first evaluation of achievements would be undertaken, as well as reflexions on the planet's future, which depended upon scientific progress.

221. In respect of the preparations being made for the Decade, ITU's responsibilities were immense, especially as far as the least developed, land-locked and island countries were concerned, for whom telecommunications represented an opening to the world.

222. The representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization referred to the recent co-operation between ECA and WIPO. The analysis that had been made of the role of technology in development, and in particular, in industrialization, revealed the importance of protecting intellectual property in developing countries. Since WIPO was responsible for promoting intellectual creation in all its forms and for facilitating its transfer, as well as for the dissemination and exchange of knowledge, it should play a prominent role in development. A system of registering new techniques with a view to granting ownership titles to inventors was the only means of dissemination of information on existing techniques and therefore, of facilitating technological co-operation among all countries.

223. She was pleased to see that the Monrovia Symposium had come to the conclusion that the goal for the year 2000 was to get rid of the general current orientation, which tended to accept without question the concept and practice of "technology transfer", an expression which the Symposium proposed to drop from the international vocabulary and which, according to her, could be replaced by the expression "technological co-operation" or "technological exchange". She added that the measures which the Symposium had proposed in that respect were in keeping on all points with the WIPO programme of assistance to developing countries. However, she did not share certain points of view set forth in the documentation produced by ECA for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. It would have been advisable to include an inventory in it of existing institutions - patent offices, services for protection of intellectual property - in order to show that Africa was in a position to make a good start into the Third United Nations Development Decade. The error had been committed of taking as a point of departure the idea that intellectual property or the patent system was contrary to the interests of the developing countries. Instead of rejecting it as a whole it would have been preferable to adapt that system for the benefit of developing countries.

224. The WIPO representative also called participants' attention to another aspect of the activities of her institution - the promotion of literary and artistic creativity through author's rights - which could help the developing countries to project their national identity. Too easy access to foreign works could be a factor in cultural estrangement, alteration of national identity and, as a result, deform the very concept of development plans at the base.

225. Finally, she expressed the desire of her institution to co-operate as closely as possible with ECA and to make its contribution to the development of Africa. She then expressed the hope that the African Training and Research Centre for Women would make it possible to restore the role of women in traditional African society.

226. The rapporteur of the Monrovia Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 noted firstly that the Symposium had been composed of experts, invited to express their view points on the development of the African continent. Participants had realized the need to question approaches which tended to imitate industrialized countries, in order that Africa might develop on a manner compatible with its environment, needs and resources. In that context, they had made a number of observations. After considering the problem of the free movement of goods and persons, they had recommended the immediate abolition of visas between African countries and the setting up of African common markets. They had also dealt, on the one hand, with the mobilization of the scientific and technical capabilities of the African countries to find a way out of the technology transfer bottle-neck and on the other, with the economic liberation of the African continent. Participants had also thought that freedom was not a luxury and had proposed the creation, within OAU, of a human rights unit. They felt international co-operation must conform and well-defined options and co-operation among developing countries should be given priority, not only at the executive level, but above all at the level of workers, peasants, young people, etc. Moreover, the self-reliance should be encouraged within the framework of balanced international trade.

227. Finally, he recalled that in their deliberations, participants had drawn inspiration from the idea that "the future belonged to peoples who remained united, lived in peace and safeguarded their freedom".

228. The representative of CMEA congratulated ECA on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of its establishment and expressed the hope for the further strengthening of co-operation between his organization and the Economic Commission for Africa.

229. In describing the role of CMEA and the specialized areas to which it directed its development efforts, the representative stressed that among its activities the CMEA countries joined their efforts to build new industrial projects and to survey and explore natural resources in the territories of the less developed countries. CMEA member countries attached particular attention to extending trade and economic and scientific and technological co-operation to the developing countries. Trade between CMEA and developing countries had grown 46 times over during the period 1950-1977. The share of developing countries in their foreign trade turnover had also been growing and today exceeded 10 per cent.

230. He further stated that CMEA member countries co-operated with 34 developing countries in Africa. In a number of them, various projects embracing power and mechanical engineering, agriculture, food and light industries and infrastructural units, had been undertaken or were being undertaken. CMEA member countries transferred advanced technologies and methods of production, assisted in the training of personnel and granted preferential long-term credits.

231. The representative of France, speaking for the European Economic Community expressed his fervent thanks to His Majesty the King of Morocco and the Moroccan Government and people for the warm **hospitality** with which the representatives had been received and said he was grateful to the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, for having invited him, thus testifying to the friendship and collaboration which united the two groups of countries. The European Economic Community, in associating itself with the aims and priorities of ECA, was making efforts to promote, in the same fashion as the Commission, judicious regionalization overcoming national idiosyncrasies. Mindful of the strivings for regional co-operation in the world, the States members of EEC were especially appreciative of the achievement of ECA. The special and long-established ties between EEC and Africa had been strengthened by the setting up of the European Development Fund and the entry into operation of bilateral programmes.

232. The agreements for co-operation with Mediterranean countries and the Lomé Convention, which associated EEC and more than 50 States of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, marked a new stage. The originality of the Lomé Convention lay in the fact that it had been freely negotiated between two groups of States, and that it combined, in a coherent whole, provisions on commercial, industrial and technical co-operation and set up the STABEX system, which stabilized export earnings from basic commodities, which were so important for African countries. Supporting figures in that respect would be distributed to delegations.

233. Beginning in April 1981, a new version of the Convention would take effect. Ministers were now in the Bahamas trying to identify the necessary improvements.

234. The European Economic Community and its members felt that the need to set up a dialogue between the developing and the industrialized countries since the close interdependence of the different economies had become clear during the 1970s. Those questions would be studied in detail during the fifth session of UNCTAD which would be held in Manila in May.

235. The European Economic Community which had carefully examined the accomplishments of ECA during the past two years and the plans and programmes it had formulated, paid tribute to the work of the secretariat and hoped it would continue to pursue the same course.

236. The representative of GATT conveyed to the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa the sincere congratulations of the GATT secretariat on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary.

237. He reviewed, briefly, developments in the **Multilateral Trade Negotiations** since the last meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The negotiations which were now in their final phase would be judged both in terms of their success in eliminating or reducing tariff and non-tariff distortions of international trade flows and of the improvements which were likely to result in the framework for conducting world trade, in ensuring a fairer distribution of the gains from trade and in facilitating the adjustment of world production structures. In the tariff negotiations, as well as in those relating to non-tariff measures, including technical barriers to trade, customs valuation, import licensing, the use of export subsidies and countervailing duties, progress had been made towards the institution of special measures and differentiated treatment for developing countries and for the least developed among them. The results of negotiations on a wide range of tropical products which were of export interest to developing countries had already been implemented by several countries. Agreement was expected to be reached on issues relating to the framework for world trade which were of particular interest to developing countries. Among other things, an "enabling clause" would permit developing countries to receive and autonomously to use among themselves tariff and non-tariff preferences without formal prior endorsement on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate GATT body.

238. Among the main tasks facing GATT following the conclusion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations was the implementation of their results. It would be to the advantage of developing countries to participate in that continuing exercise from the very outset. GATT would intensify its endeavours for further trade liberalization and improved access for export products of developing countries. Efforts were also to be greatly strengthened towards the expansion of trade relations among developing countries by enlarging the Protocol of Trade Relations among Developing Countries an autonomous arrangement and the only fully operational interregional preferential trading arrangement in existence. Some 50 developing countries, including non-signatories to the Protocol and countries not members of GATT, were participating in technical studies by the GATT secretariat towards that end.

239. The representative of the World Peace Council wished ECA every success in its struggle for the economic liberation and independence Africa. The Council which was represented in 130 countries, was of the view that the concepts of peace and development were inseparable. The economic independence of Africa would help to establish peace, security and stability in the continent. It was therefore the duty of Governments, OAU, ECA, other organizations and popular forces to establish a new international economic order and mobilize resources for self-reliance.

240. Nevertheless, international co-operation was still important. Development was a political matter; consequently, only a political will would be able to solve the problems of Africa's development, to vanquish the forces of exploitation and neocolonialism and thwart the transnational corporations.

241. The aim of the new international economic order was to help developing countries towards economic independence and to play a part commensurate with their wealth and the size of their populations.

242. Through the agency of its national committees, WPC mobilized public opinion and published information on the problems of development and the establishment of a new international economic order.

243. The national committees consisted of representatives of political parties, social organizations, liberation movements and governmental organizations. WPC worked jointly with workers', women's youth, student and other organizations. It was pleased to co-operate with African inter-governmental organizations including OAU. In recent years it had been active in various African countries including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, where a conference on development and co-operation had been held. A seminar would be arranged in 1979 on the role and activities of transnational corporations in South Africa.

244. WPC was contemplating arranging conferences and seminars as part of the preparations for the fifth session of UNCTAD, the third General Conference of UNIDO, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and other conferences.

245. Cessation of the arms race and disarmament would create a climate favourable to the establishment of a new international economic order. The United Nations declaration on that point and the decision taken by the specialized agencies, the non-aligned movement, the Group of 77 and OAU would help to achieve the objectives of the International Development Strategy.

246. Even if accomplishments fell short of complete satisfaction, the objectives of the strategy would still be worthwhile. It would be preferable to ensure their implementation rather than to devise a new strategy.

247. Failure to achieve objectives was the result of the neocolonial forces refusing to make any concessions,

248. The socio-economic development of Africa was the concern of Africans. The authority of OAU should be strengthened accordingly as a means of promoting African co-operation and international economic and technical co-operation aimed at satisfying Africa's needs,

Report and recommendations of the Technical Committee of Experts with special reference to:

- (i) The medium-term plan, 1980-1983
- (ii) The biennial programme of work and priorities, 1980-1981
- (iii) The biennial budget, 1980-1981
- (iv) ECA operational projects, 1979-1980-1981
(agenda item 13)

249. The Chairman of the Technical Committee of Experts presented the report of the seventh meeting of the Committee (E/CN.14/705, E/CN.14/TECO/45). After considering it, the Conference approved the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/695),

250. The Conference then discussed the strategy for African region in the International Strategy for the Third Development Decade (E/CN.14/TECO/45 annex III),

251. Considerable discussion took place on the strategy document. Whilst there was a consensus that the document was an important one for Africa, some participants expressed the view that it should merely be noted by the Conference and then submitted with comments by the Executive Secretary of ECA to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its forthcoming meeting in Monrovia. That would allow individual member States enough time to study such an important document before committing themselves to it. The reasons given for providing more time for the study of the document were to enable Africa's strategy for development to be fitted in within the global strategy and take account of cases where countries were in the process of formulating their development plans. The majority of the participants on the other hand expressed the view that they should adopt the document which contained a succinct catalogue of the problems facing Africa and recommend it in a form of resolution to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government as a plan of action for the development of Africa. One participant pointed out that the notions of "growth" and "development" which were used in the document were unclear and that they should be clarified in the revised document. He also pointed out that the plan of action in the document in relation to agriculture should take account of export products, reafforestation, agronomical research and high yielding varieties. Another participant proposed an amendment to the plan of action set out in the document so as to take account of the environmental dimension of development (See below, resolution 332 (XIV)).

252. Commenting further on the utility of adopting a strategy, the Executive Secretary explained that the General Assembly had adopted a resolution on the Third United Nations Development Decade and that 49 African member States had participated forcefully in the drafting of that resolution. The General Assembly had also established a preparatory committee and a smaller group of 27 members on the Third International Development Strategy. The General Assembly had asked the preparatory committee to submit a draft outline of the Strategy. African representatives to the United Nations had been enquiring from ECA about the African input to the Strategy so as to enable them to reach a consensus by September 1979. The General Assembly would at its special session in 1980 adopt the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. There was therefore no time to lose. He would have to send to New York in the next few days a tentative African position with regard to the Strategy. He supported the position of the Rapporteur that, contrary to the fears expressed by some participants that sufficient time had not been provided to study the plan of action, the document as indicated in paragraph 112 of the report of the Technical Committee of Experts could not be finalized by the Conference but would have to be submitted to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their next meeting in Monrovia. That would enable the various African Governments to undertake the requisite scrutiny of the document. He suggested that a meeting of a Committee of the Whole of the Conference should be called to examine the document and whatever comes out of the work of the Committee should be transmitted in the form of a resolution to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government at Monrovia with positive recommendations; the resolution should also invite member States between now and the Monrovia meeting to examine the document thoroughly.

253. The Chairman summed up the discussions and received the endorsement of the Conference that the document be adopted as a working document which should be submitted as such by the Executive Secretary of ECA, together with the views of member States, to the Monrovia meeting.

254. The Conference approved the report of the Technical Committee of Experts and the other texts annexed to it.

Report and recommendations of the Executive Committee (agenda item 5)

255. In considering the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee contained in document E/CN.14/696, the Conference decided to concentrate first on the decisions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 2 to 5 on the enlargement of the Executive Committee and the review of the structure of the Commission in the light of the request contained in General Assembly resolution 32/197.

256. With a view to providing the Conference with some guidelines for its discussion, the Executive Secretary first of all made clear that the proposals contained in subparagraphs (a) to (f) of paragraph 5 had emanated from the

Executive Committee, which was composed of representatives of all member States, at its nineteenth meeting. Second, he appealed to the Conference to provide a simple structure that would enable the secretariat to perform its tasks as effectively as possible. He reminded the Conference that every time there was a conference or meeting at the ministerial level, it was necessary to mobilize all the resources of the secretariat to prepare for it and said he hoped the Conference would bear that fact in mind in its considerations. Moreover, he felt that if African ministers of economic planning genuinely desired to effect measures relating to economic development, they must rise to their responsibilities. He pointed out that the foreign ministers of African States met twice a year and that, unless they were advised by the ministers of economic planning, they could not contribute usefully to the economic affairs of the continent. Third, in the United Nations, the ECA organ recognized by the General Assembly was the Conference of Ministers, and decisions taken by the Executive Committee had to wait for the Conference of Ministers to meet before they could be submitted to the General Assembly. In other words, the Conference of Ministers was the Commission; the Executive Committee was only a subsidiary organ. If the Technical Preparatory Committee of Officials recommended by the Executive Committee were approved by the Conference, its meetings would precede those of the Conference, and its recommendations would come before the Conference for consideration and approval.

257. The representative of UNDP said that the question of restructuring of the Commission was important to UNDP because, now that ECA had status as an executing agency, UNDP was concerned that ECA did not spend most of its time organizing meetings at the ministerial level rather than fulfilling its new responsibilities. He agreed with the idea that the Conference of Ministers should meet every year provided that the intermediate meeting was a short one held at Addis Ababa and was adopted only as an experiment.

258. The general consensus which emerged from the debate was that it was important to simplify the structure of the Commission as much as possible in the best interest of efficiency and dynamism. However, there was a variety of views as to how to achieve that end. One representative said he favoured maintaining the biennial meetings of the Conference as they were, but of shorter duration, and having the Executive Committee meet as a plenary co-ordinating committee every year, one year to consider administrative and budgetary questions and the next to review the documents to be submitted to the Conference and to formulate broad plans of actions for adoption by the Ministers. Sometimes the Executive Committee would meet as a ministerial meeting and sometimes as a committee of experts, depending on the work. He also suggested that an executive sub-committee should be established composed of representatives of all member States with diplomatic representation at Addis Ababa and that a co-ordinating council of the MULPOCs should be formed consisting of the Executive Secretary, the Directors of the MULPOCs and the chairman of the Council of Ministers of each MULPOC. Finally, he suggested that the Conference of Statisticians, Planners and Demographers should meet once a year at the level of the MULPOCs.

259. Another representative said he was convinced of the need for a committee of ministers to meet **regularly** to discuss the business of ECA. He felt that the committee should be a small one of less than 26 members. It should be prepared to meet at very short notice and would be responsible for monitoring the operational activities of the Commission once or twice a year. Such a committee could comprise the officers of the five MULPOCs and would submit its conclusions to the Conference of Ministers, which would meet annually and would concentrate on regional and international issues. He supported the suggestion that the Conference of Planners, Statisticians and Demographers could perform its work at the subregional level and report to the Conference of Ministers.

260. Another representative said he feared that an annual meeting of the Conference of Ministers would not be attended by the necessary number of ministers to make up a quorum. He therefore suggested that the biennial meetings should be retained and should be interspersed with meetings of high officials and plenipotentiaries. If Ministers found that they were able to attend it, they would be free to do so. That suggestion received substantial support. However, the majority of the participants in the debate favoured the idea of holding annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers. Two of those who favoured annual meetings specified that they should be held prior to meetings of OAU.

261. The overwhelming majority of those who contributed to the debate favoured abolishing the Executive Committee.

262. A number of representatives specified that they favoured the idea of having the meetings of the Conference of Ministers preceded by some kind of committee of officials or experts. One suggested that the Conference should be preceded by the Conference of African Planners since planners were in the best position to look at the medium-term work programme and examine the priorities. One speaker said he thought the Conference should be preceded by both a committee of experts and the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

263. Several participants seemed to favour the idea of merging the Conferences of African Planners, African Statisticians and African Demographers. Some said they thought the merged Conference should be held at the MULPOC or subregional level, and one said that it should meet at the regional level as well. One participant said he did not support the merger of the three Conferences as they concerned different disciplines.

264. The Chairman of the Conference identified the following points on which decision was required: whether the Conference should meet annually or biennially; whether the Executive Committee should be abolished or not; whether the meetings of the Conference should be preceded by a meeting of a technical preparatory committee of officials; whether the Conferences of Statisticians, Planners and Demographers should be merged or not; and whether the work programme of ECA should be derived from the decisions of the Conference, of the various sectoral ministerial conferences and the MULPOCs Councils of Ministers and co-ordinated by the ECA secretariat for submission to the Conference for approval.

265. After a lengthy debate the Chairman of the Conference summed up the following points which were approved by the Conference:

(a) That there should be annual meetings of the Conference. The major meeting to be held biennially would consider a large variety of items including the Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary. That meeting, like the present Conference, would be held outside Addis Ababa. In the years between biennial meetings annual meetings would be held at ECA headquarters, which would have a limited agenda dealing only with urgent specific issues arising out of decisions of the organs of OAU, the United Nations General Assembly and other United Nations organs, or arising out of international developments. The holding of the annual meetings would be on an experimental basis for four years to be reviewed by the Conference;

(b) That a meeting of a Technical Preparatory Committee composed of appropriate officials and experts from member States should precede each meeting of the Conference to prepare the agenda for the meeting of the Conference and submit recommendations;

(c) That the Executive Committee should be abolished;

(d) That the Conferences of Planners, Statisticians and Demographers should be merged;

(e) That the work programme of the ECA secretariat should be derived from the decisions of the Conference, sectoral ministerial conferences and the Councils of Ministers of the MULPOCs.

266. The Conference then considered the remaining points of the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee (E/CN.14/696) and approved them, subject to the comments recorded below.

267. Some participants sought clarification on certain issues on the current negotiations for a new co-operation agreement between the ACP countries and the European Economic Community. The Executive Secretary emphasized that at the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, the current Chairman of the Committee of Ambassadors of the ACP countries at Brussels had informed the Executive Committee of progress concerning the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention. The Executive Committee had also reviewed the progress of the negotiations within the framework of UNCTAD regarding the establishment of the Common Fund. He was also informed that as a result of those negotiations, it had been agreed to establish a Common Fund with a capital of \$US 750 million and that that recommendation would be submitted to the forthcoming session of UNCTAD. The Executive Committee had recommended that the ECA secretariat should assist ACP

countries in their negotiations on the successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention and that ECA staff members travel to Brussels to assist the ACP secretariat in this respect. The ACP countries were at the moment holding talks with the European Economic Community in the Bahamas on future co-operation arrangements between the two sides. However, at the time of speaking, he had no information as to how the talks were going. The Executive Secretary also stated that the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee had recommended that African countries should initiate at the national level interministerial machinery to assist the ACP-European Economic Community negotiations so as to ensure that representatives of African countries spoke with the same voice in whatever international negotiating forum they were in.

268. The observer for France speaking on behalf of the Commission of the **European Economic Community gave an account of ACP/EEC co-operation.** In the field of co-operation in trade, ACP exports to EEC had increased by 44 per cent since the Convention had come into force, while exports to EEC from the developing countries as a whole had increased by only 36 per cent. In industrial co-operation, there had been no viable results although the European Investment Bank and the European Development Fund supported various industrial projects and programmes. The extent to which the export earnings stabilization scheme (STABEX) had been applied could be seen from the fact that \$US 216 million had been paid out to 28 beneficiary countries. Lastly, the representative of EEC also told the Conference about other areas of co-operation, including in particular financial and technical co-operation and regional co-operation.

269. In response to a question by a participant on the follow-up and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan as to whether the documents which the Executive Committee had decided should be forwarded to the Conference, had in fact been forwarded, a representative of the secretariat replied that they were contained in the report of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, which was one of the documents circulated for the Conference (E/CN.14/723).

270. With respect to development issues of the least developed African countries, the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Conference to paragraph 41 of the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee (E/CN.14/696) which called for special arrangements to be made for the least developed African countries in the Third United Nations Development Decade and in programmes under the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and also the need to co-ordinate assistance to the least developed African countries. The Executive Secretary also urged that the special requirements of the least developed African countries should be taken into account during the second ECA Pledging Conference.

271. On staff and administrative questions, one participant said that his delegation would submit a resolution on the staffing of ECA. He noted that ECA had achieved 70 per cent Africanization but there was room for improvement. He felt that the ECA secretariat should seek authority to recruit qualified Africans. Some African countries were over-represented at the ECA secretariat whilst others were under-represented. There should be a deliberate effort to recruit staff from under-represented countries. Only when those efforts had failed to attract candidates from such countries should steps be taken to recruit staff from over-represented African countries. The active recruitment of such personnel would enable the Africanization of ECA to be further implemented.

272. On the question of the introduction of Arabic as a working language of the Commission, participants approved the use of Arabic as the third working language of the Commission. The Executive Secretary explained that some of the documents before the Conference were in Arabic but because of lack of funds it had not been possible to produce all documents in Arabic. He had been advised to seek assistance from Arabic-speaking African countries and had held related consultations. It had, however, been decided that the matter of funds be raised in the Economic and Social Council and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly so that Arabic could be fully established as a working language of the Commission. He also expected that the Conference would adopt a resolution to that effect which would allow African delegations to the United Nations to press the matter at the United Nations in New York. He also appealed to member States which could do so to give material support to enable Arabic to become fully a working language of the Commission. It was pointed out that the financial implications should be discussed within the framework of ECA's global budget.

The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988
(agenda item 14)

273. The Executive Secretary introduced the document containing the global strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1978-1988), (E/CN.14/710/Add.1; E/CN.14/ECO/738/Rev.1; E/CN.14/TRANS/136/Rev.1). He explained that it was a progress report on what had been achieved since the adoption of **Conference of Ministers** resolution 291 (XIII) and which had been followed by the **proclamation of the** Transport and Communications Decade in Africa by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The General Assembly had decided that ECA should be the lead agency in that exercise and had called upon all United Nations agencies to assist ECA. OAU and other African intergovernmental organizations in the fields of transport and communications like AAFRA, the Union of African Railways and the Port Management Associations in Africa, were all giving assistance to ECA. The global strategy called for by the General Assembly had been prepared and on the basis of that, the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government had requested all African countries to proclaim a Transport and Communications Decade at the national level. He also drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the General Assembly in its resolution on the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, had called upon the

Secretary-General to convene a meeting of donors later in 1979 to see what help they could give towards the implementation of the Decade. A Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications would be held in May 1979 to propose projects for the first phase of the Decade. He hoped that all Ministers of Transport and Communications would attend the Conference since national components of the Decade would be considered, the implementation of which could be assisted by donor agencies and countries. Finally, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the resolution of the General Assembly was unique in that it was the only resolution it had so far adopted that related to one region alone.

274. The representative of Morocco stated that he had certain amendments to propose to the document under discussion but would submit his amendments to the Drafting Committee of the Conference.

275. The Conference adopted the document introduced by the Executive Secretary on this item subject to any amendments that might be made to it by the Drafting Committee of the Conference.

Science and technology for development

- (a) Report of the Regional Conference
- (b) Report on the African Regional Centre for Technology
- (c) Report of the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy in Africa
(agenda item 15)

276. Under this agenda item, the Conference had before it the report of the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.14/711/Add.1), the report on the African Regional Centre for Technology (E/CN.14/712) and the report of the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy in Africa (E/CN.14/713). A representative of the secretariat introduced the report of the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy held at Niamey from 8 to 13 January 1979. After describing the programme of action and priorities adopted and submitting the recommendations of the Seminar to the Conference of Ministers, he said there was an urgent need to devote as much effort as possible to R and D with a view to expanding the practical use of solar energy and its derivatives - wind energy, the energy derived from rivers, wood and plants and, to a lesser degree, tidal energy and energy resulting from the thermal gradient of the seas. He thought it important to encourage such R and D through a vigorous co-operation policy aimed at strengthening existing centres, providing incentives to researchers and establishing satisfactory institutions at the national, subregional and regional levels.

277. He hoped that development planning would pay greater attention to research work and that adequate facilities would be made available to researchers. He indicated that the criteria to be used in selecting priorities, programmes of action and strategies related to the use of renewable energy should be the improvement of the living conditions of rural people and the gradual reduction of imports of fossil fuels which weighed heavily on the economies of the non-oil-producing African countries.

278. He laid great stress on the need to launch immediately a sweeping information and extension effort in African countries on the possibilities offered by the rational use of renewable energy. It had been with that in mind that the secretariat had organized the solar exhibition at Rabat, embarked on a large project to promote the use of solar energy in Africa and undertaken a dynamic programme to train researchers, engineers and technicians working in solar technology. He informed the Conference of a decision taken by the Executive Secretary to mount a permanent exhibit of equipment using renewable energy at the headquarters of the secretariat of the Commission for the purpose of making all visitors of whatever level aware of the various applications of such energy so that the different ways in which it could be made to benefit economic and social development might be taken into consideration by African countries. Finally, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary, he thanked the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, France, the United States of America and all the enterprises involved for their contribution to the organization and success of the solar energy exhibition mounted at Rabat during the Conference.

279. One participant stated that in addition to solar energy, studies should also be carried out on equally cheap non-conventional sources of energy such as geothermal energy and energy derived from tidal waves. Those studies should include costs of implementing selected projects as well as alternative His delegation would introduce a draft resolution on that matter.

280. Referring to the report of the Regional Conference on Science and Technology, one participant stated that paragraph 43 of that report in French needed revision as to form and content. It was decided that he should take up the matter with the secretariat. Another participant who said that African countries should have a co-ordinated and concerted position at the forthcoming Conference on Science and Technology to be held in Vienna stated that he would submit his suggestions to the Drafting Committee of the Conference for consideration.

281. Subject to the foregoing comments, the Conference adopted the three documents presented to it under this agenda item,

Mid-term review of the Decade for the Integration of Women in the Development Process

- (a) Report of the Nouakchott meeting (E/CN.14/714)
- (b) Evaluation of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (E/CN.14/715)
- (c) Report of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (E/CN.14/716)

282. The Minister of Social Affairs of the United Republic of Cameroon, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development praised the actions taken by ECA to establish various forms of machinery for the integration of women in development and for 'demarginalizing' women. The setting up of

the Committee marked the end of a lengthy process which had started in the early 1960s. An important meeting had been held at Rabat from 14 to 17 March 1979 to establish the Committee and every subregional committee had reported to that meeting on its activities, its work programme and the obstacles facing it in the execution of its programmes. The Regional Committee had made recommendations to the Conference on the setting up of national machineries for the integration of women in development, future research on the role of African women in development, the mobilization of women in development and financial resources, ECA structures for the integration of women in development, the Africa Regional Conference on Women and its structure and terms of reference. She thanked the United Nations organs and the organizations which had shown interest in programmes for women and hoped that the moral support shown would be expressed in financial terms.

283. In her address to the Conference the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Social, **Development and Humanitarian Affairs**, **stated that the 21 years' history of ECA gave most convincing evidence of the achievement by the United Nations** in equal rights for all nations; similarly ECA had taken the lead in all the regions towards the achievement of equal rights for men and women as set forth in the United Nations Charter.

284. The role of women in the development of society had become increasingly understood during the 1970s on issues such as population, food, human settlements, employment, primary health care and technical co-operation among developing countries. International Women's Year and its World Conference in Mexico and the present United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) had heightened awareness about the situation of women in the world and its impact on development of society both for the present and the future. In that connexion, the present International Year of the Child would focus on the interrelationships between women as mothers and their effect on future generations; that would be in preparation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980.

285. Women's issues could not be considered as issues concerning women only. Their situation was closely related to such questions as human resources, skilled manpower, productivity of work in agriculture and industries as well as in intraregional and world trade and international affairs in various fields. It had been realized that some of the problems which hindered development as a whole and women's role in it, were high child and maternal mortality, malnutrition of mothers and children, illiteracy, lack of education, lack of planning, training and skills for women, of infrastructure and technology.

286. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that since the region began its programme for women in 1971, adopted a Regional Plan of Action in 1974, and acquired its first Regional Training and Research Centre for Women in 1975, the position of women had seen some improvement. Most member States now had national machineries for implementing national, regional and global plans of action. Other developments in that regard were the Subregional and Regional Co-ordinating Committees for the Integration of Women in Development. Referring to the World Conference to be held in Copenhagen in July 1980, she explained that its themes would be health, education and employment and all regions were

expected to express their needs and priorities for inclusion in the programme of the second part of the Decade for Women. She looked forward to increasing interagency co-operation and the integration of women's components in all African plans and programmes.

287. In the discussions which followed, it was suggested that the pertinent question to be asked was what type of integration for women was envisaged because all along African women were traditionally involved in the process of development. In that connexion, it was pointed out that women played an even greater role than men, for example in trade, although there was need at the same time to consider other areas of economic activity. It was pointed out that the problem of the integration of women should be solved by African solutions. It was also pointed out that in some countries women were ministers as well as high officials. Nevertheless, there was need to consider integrating all women in economic development. Some participants saw the role of the Conference as one of harmonization and co-ordination to ensure that there were national structures to integrate women in development.

288. At the ECA level, it was recommended that women of the highest calibre should be employed to supervise the implementation of women's programmes. It was also suggested that women should be employed in the MULPOCs to ensure the efficient integration of women within subregional economic development. It was observed that "integration" of women really meant their integration in the planning of development. The women in Africa who needed help were, not the very few, highly placed ones but the numerous women who lived and toiled in the depressed rural areas and city slums.

289. Attention was drawn to the phrase "national commissions" appearing in operative paragraph 2 on the first page of the annex to the report of the Inaugural Session of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (E/CN.14/716) and the Conference agreed to replace that phrase with "national machineries".

290. In his intervention in the debate, the Executive Secretary stated that the issue of the integration of women was an important one and could not be taken lightly. Although some countries had done more for women than others, yet there was evidence that in Africa, where there were more women than men, the vast majority of women continued to suffer deprivations, there were still, after the attainment of independence by African countries, more boys in school than girls. African women still toiled for long hours in farms and very few of them were in the profession or in high public office. Thus not only were women, who represented over half the population of Africa, prevented from contributing fully to the development of Africa but, what was more, they did not receive an equitable share of the benefits of development. That was the challenge that must be met if the pace of the development of the region was to accelerate. The Decade for Women, he emphasized, was not an ECA invention but stemmed from a resolution of the General Assembly.

291. The Conference unanimously adopted the report submitted under agenda item 16 and the draft resolutions attached thereto as amended.

Report and recommendations of the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners (agenda item 17)

292. Before the Conference discussed this agenda item, the representative of Rwanda who had been attending the ACP/EEC talks at the Bahamas briefed the Conference on the talks. He explained that the ACP countries were asking for unrestricted access for their products to the markets of EEC countries and the relaxation of rules of origin applicable to their products. The ACP countries and EEC had agreed on the definition of technical and financial co-operation but the criteria to be used in determining the amounts to be paid were still to be finalized. With respect to co-operation in industry and agriculture the two groups agreed on the need to make improvements on the present position. It was also agreed that special provisions should be included in all the chapters of the new convention that would succeed the Lomé Convention, with respect to the least developed, land-locked and island ACP countries. He concluded that the life of the Lomé Convention would depend upon when the new convention was finalized.

293. The representative of Nigeria then introduced the report of the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners (E/CN.14/717; E/CN.14/CAP.7/11), highlighting the main points of that report. They included the indigenization of African economies that would ensure full and effective popular participation of Africans in the development of Africa; the implications of the Third United Nations Development Decade; the promotion of self-reliance and autonomous growth; regional economic integration; the eradication of poverty; the planning of environmentally sound development; co-operation between ECA and ECLA; the MULPOCs; the desirability of African Governments paying their contributions towards the operation of IDEP and the election of the members of the Governing Council of IDEP; and the undertaking of studies and the preparation of projections for African development in the 1980s by the Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division in collaboration with the ECA/FAO and ECA/UNIDO Joint Division. Finally he drew attention to the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Planners on the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America and on the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

294. The Conference adopted the report of the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners (E/CN.14/717; E/CN.14/CAP.7/11) together with the two resolutions annexed thereto.

Report and recommendations of the third session of the Conference of African Demographers (agenda item 18)

295. In introducing this agenda item, the first Vice-Chairman of the Conference of African Demographers at its third session drew attention to the report of that session which was contained in document E/CN.14/718. He said that while Africa had made some progress in demography, much remained to be done. At the session, the work accomplished by the ECA secretariat had been examined as had the work programme for the next three years. Three resolutions had been adopted; one on the setting of priorities in the ECA work programme, one on regional training in population studies, in which the Executive Secretary was requested to start negotiations with the United Republic of Cameroon and Ghana to ensure full regional coverage, and the third on the merger of the three sectoral conferences.

296. The report and resolutions were adopted by the Conference.

Regional co-operation and integration: Report on on-going activities and new proposals (agenda item 19)

297. The Executive Secretary introduced this agenda item and drew attention to the document on regional co-operation and integration: Report on on-going activities and the proposals (E/CN.14/719). He explained that the document was divided into four parts. They dealt with a general review of economic co-operation; specialized co-operation arrangements, such as sectoral intergovernmental arrangements like the African Groundnut Council, the Cocoa Producers' Alliance and the Cattle and Meat Economic Community of the Council of the Entente States; ECA-sponsored co-operative arrangements such as the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys, the African Remote Sensing Council, and the African Regional Centre for Technology; and conclusions. He pointed out that those Centres which were being financed by small numbers of member States, provided services which benefited many other African countries. He appealed for more African countries to support those centres. With respect to the Remote Sensing Centre at Ouagadougou, the Executive Secretary explained that it had begun operations and that that of Nairobi was about to begin operation. He drew attention to the fact that the fourth meeting of the Conference had agreed that there should be apart from those two receiving centres, five user and training assistance centres to be established at Nairobi, Kinshasa, Ile-Ife, Cairo and Ouagadougou.

298. In the general discussion that followed, one participant pointed out that the phrase "national reconstruction" should be "national development". He also stressed that efforts should be made by the MULPOCs to promote intra-subregional co-operation. In his view, the establishment of an African Solar Energy Society should be considered after the effective establishment of the African Centre for Solar Energy. The secretariat should **step up** its efforts towards the rationalization of air transport between African States and the elimination of the difficulties which faced African national airlines and the air traveller within Africa. He called upon the Conference to support the work being done within the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa so that effective results could be achieved.

299. The representative of ILO drew attention to four factors which would assist in the promotion of regional co-operation, namely, the harmonization of social legislation which would enable migrant labour and other persons to move freely; the association of employers and workers in the integration process; the establishment of payment arrangements to facilitate intra-African trade; and emphasizing the economic viability of the African highways network so as to attract financial assistance for its implementation.

300. One participant wanted to know what progress had been made in the implementation of PANAFTEL. He also suggested that, although African countries did not possess joint transport and communications systems, those that they had should be harmonized so as to eliminate the barriers which now faced the users of those systems in Africa. His delegation would submit a resolution to that effect to the Drafting Committee.

301. Another participant referred to the unsatisfactory progress being made by many of the African intergovernmental centres so far established and wished to know what steps were taken after the adoption of a resolution to establish an intergovernmental centre to implement that resolution, and how such a centre was financed and staffed; he asked that a detailed report on the financing activities, courses and other activities of all centres should be presented to the next Conference of African Planners. Finally, a participant wanted to know when he should present the work programme of his MULPOC and suggested that ECA should undertake a programme covering all aspects of the development of energy in Africa.

302. In response to the various points raised, the Executive Secretary agreed that the phrase "national reconstruction" should be "national development" and that efforts should be concentrated on the establishment of the African Centre for Solar Energy, leaving it to that Centre to consider the establishment of the African Solar Energy Society.

303. He also endorsed all the comments that had been made about the harmonization of social legislation, the association of employers and workers in the integration process, payments arrangements and the need to stress the economic viability of the African Highways Network. He explained that all African countries were committed to the establishment of an African common market and that ECA had been working towards that end. It was however most essential to lay a sound foundation upon which to establish the common market. In that respect ECA was undertaking several projects which would assist in laying the proper foundation for the establishment of an African common market. They included the initiation of the Transport and Communications Decade to promote the rational and cheap movement of goods and people within the region; ensuring through the MULPOCs and the provision of assistance to existing African intergovernmental organizations the development of subregional co-operation as a stepping stone towards the attainment of regional co-operation; assistance to West Africa and Central Africa in the establishment of subregional clearing and payments arrangements, missions to other subregions on the possibility of establishing subregional clearing and payments arrangements and assistance to the Association of African Central Banks and its Centre for Monetary Studies. When the foundations for a regional common market were well laid, the establishment of the common market itself would be easy. The Executive Secretary pointed out that it would be an empty gesture if African countries signed an agreement to establish an African common market when no solid foundations had been previously laid; even EEC had not been established overnight. It had developed out of the foundations previously laid through commercial, industrial, transport and other infrastructural co-operative activities.

304. Referring to the steps that were taken to implement resolutions to establish intergovernmental centres, the Executive Secretary explained that meetings of plenipotentiaries were convened to consider, approve, and sign related agreements establishing the centres. Acceding States then became bound to discharge their obligations arising out of the agreements concerned. Each centre had its own governing body, budget and administration. Once a centre was established it had to run its own affairs although ECA tried to assist it within the limits of its resources. The problems with

all the centres was that once they had been established, their member States failed to contribute financially towards their operation. Thirty African States, through their plenipotentiaries, had signed the agreement establishing the African Regional Centre for Technology. None of them had paid anything towards the agreed budget of the Centre, yet in the meantime the ECA secretariat had been requested to recruit the Director and other senior staff of the Centre. African countries also defaulted in meeting their financial obligations towards IDEP. Where centres had been successful it had been due solely to the commitment of and resources which their host countries had invested single-handed towards the centres; what was needed and vital was true commitment by African countries to the centres which they established. Granted that African countries were faced with various economic problems, if they wanted an African common market, then they must be prepared to pay towards laying the solid foundations on which to erect the common market.

305. One participant stated that while major concepts such as common markets were being considered, parallel work in economic co-operation in well defined sectors, such as sector by sector studies on select commodities to identify bottlenecks, should be undertaken. Another participant suggested that ECA should send at the end of each year reminders to countries which had defaulted in the payment of their contributions towards the running of centres to which they belonged. He explained that in many cases, many countries, because of their preoccupation with a variety of matters, had to be sent reminders.

306. Referring to the questions raised on the presentation of the work programme of the MULPOCs and the undertaking by the ECA secretariat of a project covering all aspects of energy in Africa, the Executive Secretary explained that the work programmes of all the MULPOCs had already been approved by the Conference and that the totality of energy problems in Africa was part of the work programme of ECA; that matter had been dealt with by a Regional Conference on Energy convened and serviced by ECA which had been held at Accra in 1976 and followed by the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy held in January 1979 at Niamey. The proposed global conference on energy would also give the opportunity for ECA to convene before the global conference a regional meeting of experts on all aspects of energy to consider and adopt a common stand.

Technical co-operation among developing countries and economic-co-operation among developing countries (agenda item 20)

307. In his introduction to this agenda item, the Executive Secretary said that it related to another aspect of co-operation - that of South-south co-operation. As the negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order progressed, the developing world was coming more and more to see the need first and foremost to develop co-operation among the developing countries themselves. Vertical co-operation had tended to exacerbate the dependence of those countries on industrialized economies. He spoke of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries (ECDC) held in Mexico in 1977 and of the one on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) held at Buenos Aires in 1978, which had been attended by representatives of many African countries, and explained that the secretariat

was **trying** to give concrete expression to the Programmes of Action adopted at those Conferences.

308. He drew attention to document E/CN.14/720/Add.1 in which the progress made in that regard was reported and pointed out that it contained proposals for joint action programmes with other regional commissions which were being made in the light of some of the conclusions of the Buenos Aires Conference, in the course of which there had been a meeting of African and Latin American representatives, who had come up with the proposals contained in the addendum to document E/CN.14/720 and agreed that those proposals should be brought before the legislative organs of each region. The proposals had accordingly been considered by the Conference of African Planners at its seventh session, which had based its resolution 1 (VII) on them. He pointed out that there was an **understanding with UNDP for the financial support of TCDC activities.**

309. The representative of UNDP pointed out that, in accordance with a decision taken at Buenos Aires, UNDP planned to hold a meeting on TCDC just before the Governing Council met in June 1979. That meeting would be attended by representatives of all the countries concerned at the ministerial level. Documents relating to the meeting would be **sent** to each Government in advance of the meeting, and each Government would be briefed by its Resident Representative.

310. He reaffirmed that UNDP was prepared to assist activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, **whether bilateral and multilateral** at the subregional level or between Africa and the rest of the world.

311. One representative said that although he had no objection to the principle of establishing interregional co-operation, he was somewhat concerned about the plans for co-operation between ECA and ECLA. He did not fully understand the motivation for such co-operation and wanted to know what had guided the Executive Secretary in the steps he had taken. He was also concerned about the financing of the ECDC/TCDC programme and asked for some clarification on that.

312. Another representative asked for information concerning the decisions taken at the Arusha meeting on co-operation among developing countries and on ECA's position on the negotiations being conducted between the African countries and the other countries in the Group of 77, especially in the area of production since all developing regions were not at the same level of industrial development.

313. In his reply, the Executive Secretary said that solidarity among the third-world countries must be based on economic and technical co-operation. However, he also agreed with what he believed was implied in the two questions, i.e., that in co-operating with countries in other regions, African countries must not substitute dependence on other third world countries for their former dependence on industrialized countries. Such co-operation must be reciprocal. While he recognized that many African countries were poor, he did not think they were too poor to give some of their experience to countries in other developing regions. Also there was much for Africa to learn from other developing regions, which shared the same geographical, environmental and climatic conditions. The flow of information and technical know-how between

African and non-African developing countries was at present extremely limited. The most important contribution to be made by ECDC and TCDC was to add substance to the political co-operation reflected in the Group of 77. He pointed out that whenever African countries needed information or technical personnel and whenever they undertook basic research, the vertical arrangement persisted, whereas there was much to be gained from horizontal co-operation.

314. It was those considerations which had led to the discussions between ECA and ECIA. But before those discussions had taken place, the General Assembly had agreed to the principle of TCDC, and the Group of 77 had made a declaration on the need for co-operation among the developing countries of the world. The secretariat was merely trying in a limited way to give practical meaning to those expressions of political will.

315. With regard to the financing of the proposed programme, he pointed out that such co-operation could be either bilateral or multilateral. In bilateral co-operation an African country entered into an agreement with a non-African developing country, and such agreements were financed under the terms of the agreement. In multilateral co-operation, a few African countries would make an arrangement with a few countries in Asia or Latin America for specific purposes, and the regional commissions concerned could play a catalytic role in the implementation of such an arrangement, which would be financed either by the Governments involved or under a trilateral procedure with non-governmental participants in the arrangement.

316. Thirdly, he pointed out that co-operation with ECIA was a region-wide effort and that it had been agreed at the Conference of African Planners as a first step to convene a meeting of selected technicians from Latin America and Africa to spell out the meaning of such co-operation in concrete terms. That proposal had been submitted to the Conference.

317. With regard to the question about the Arusha Conference, he said that the report of that Conference had just been received in English and would be distributed to the participants as soon as the French version became available.

318. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD provided some clarification about the Arusha meeting of the Group of 77, which had been serviced by his organization. The meeting had resulted in a document entitled "Programme for Collective Self-reliance and Framework for Negotiations". Part II of that document, containing the Programme, constituted an agreement among developing countries. It concerned economic and technical co-operation among them and did not, as such, require further consideration at the fifth session of UNCTAD. Part III contained a framework for negotiations between developing and developed countries.

319. The report dealt with questions relating to ECDC and TCDC, and he referred participants specifically to pages 7 to 24 in that regard. It referred to General Assembly resolution 32/195 and to the Plan of Action agreed to at Buenos Aires and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly, which called for various activities in TCDC, including co-operation with the regional commissions. In that respect it constituted a fundamental instrument on the promotion of TCDC, in which it gave a major role to the United Nations system as a whole in underpinning activities and acting as a catalyst in promoting a flow of resources and analysing activities. It did not ignore the fact that TCDC/ECDC was not a negation of co-operation

between the developed and the developing countries but was intended to enable developing countries to be in a position of strength because they were co-operating among themselves.

320. The representative of ILO drew attention to the importance of exchanges among the various types of training centres in developing regions and to the need to associate universities in such exchanges. In that connexion, he pointed out that some interesting experiments were being conducted in Asia and Latin America.

321. The observer for ADB drew attention to the cordial relationship that existed between ADB and ECA and the pioneering role which ECA had played in the establishment of ADB. Although the specific orientation and emphasis of the activities of the two organizations differed, they complemented and reinforced each other. ADB was of the strong opinion that the effective co-ordination and co-operation of initiatives in the region would promote the development of the region. ADB and ECA had entered into co-operative arrangements and ADB continued to give active support to programmes and projects of ECA.

322. In answer to a question regarding ECA's position on Afro-Arab co-operation and what its contribution would be to the forthcoming Afro-Arab Conference at Tripoli, the Executive Secretary reminded the Conference that he had participated in the Summit Conference held at Cairo two years before and had taken part in the work of the Negotiating Committee. Since then the secretariat had worked in every way possible with OAU where Afro-Arab co-operation was concerned because such co-operation was political, and its main instruments were OAU and the Arab League. ECA's role was to contribute technical inputs. He mentioned that BADFA had been in contact with the secretariat to assist in mounting a mission on Afro-Arab trade. He reminded the Conference that at the Summit Conference ECA had submitted four projects which had been considered to be of extreme importance to the future of Africa and to the institution of meaningful Afro-Arab co-operation. Those projects related to the Pan-African highway system, PANAFTEL, the African Data Bank and the remote sensing programme. At the request of the African countries, the technical, financial and economic agreement provided for the support of those projects. During the pledging by major Arab donor countries, funds were pledged in support of economic co-operation, African liberation movements, the African Development Fund and of feasibility studies on regional projects. The modalities of funding in respect of such projects were still to be worked out.

323. The representative of BADFA said that Afro-Arab co-operation was a reflection of the firm political will of African and Arab countries for such co-operation, for which they had recognized a need. The Arab countries attached great importance to that type of co-operation, which had become a major concern in their strategies. The structure of Afro-Arab co-operation was now entering its operational phase, and included more than 40 projects financed by BADFA. He appealed to African Governments to give it the consideration it deserved at African meetings. Very special links existed between the Arab world and Africa which were based on fraternity and solidarity, so Afro-Arab co-operation should be consolidated and used as an example, throughout the world either among developing countries or between developing and developed countries.

324. One representative said the question of access to the funds pledged at the Afro-Arab Summit Conference in Cairo and the modalities for receiving them involved difficulties in interpreting the manner in which the Arab countries had pledged those funds and the procedures for receiving them. He felt it would be a good idea for the Conference to lay stress on two of the four projects to which the Executive Secretary had referred - the PANAFTEL project and the Pan-African Highways project. He asked the Executive Secretary to prepare aide-mémoires to African States on those two projects calling the attention of the Arab States to the need for assistance in the implementation of those projects. Those documents could be discussed at Tripoli.

325. The representative of BADEA said there was no ambiguity as to the amount that had been set aside for Afro-Arab co-operation in that \$US 1.5 billion had been earmarked for that purpose in the national funds of the donor countries. In subsequent meetings the donor countries had explained their point of view with regard to its accessibility. It was desired to avoid involving non-African and non-Arab consultants in feasibility studies. The African side had been consulted and asked to agree that whoever wanted to implement a project would be responsible for the feasibility study related to it. Thus, the national development funds of the donor countries were responsible for disbursing the money. As for the proposal that aide-mémoires should be prepared on the PANAFTEL and the Pan-African Highway projects, he informed the Conference that BADEA had contributed \$US 1 million to prefeasibility studies on two PANAFTEL links through ITU. Moreover, the President of BADEA had secured the approval of the World Bank, EEC and the Canadian Development Fund to participate in both the projects early in 1979. While it was all well and good to do something about the PANAFTEL project, he hoped that the African proposals to the Afro-Arab Council would not ignore subregional projects being carried out within Africa itself. Recently some smaller groupings of African countries had been trying to co-operate with BADEA, and he felt that was a very healthy development because the initial stages of Afro-Arab co-operation had been characterized by requests to BADEA for bilateral assistance by individual States. Since BADEA was a development bank of multilateral nature, it had originally been conceived that its contribution to Afro-Arab co-operation would be multilateral, but the pressure put on the Bank by individual States had been so strong that the Bank had been unable to resist requests to finance national projects.

326. The representative who had originally requested the preparation of the aide-mémoires said he still thought there should be a document to submit to the Tripoli Conference to make the Arab countries aware of the problems confronting Africa and to attempt to determine the position of Afro-Arab co-operation.

327. In conclusion, one representative said he felt that ECA's task was to examine its role in strengthening Afro-Arab co-operation since the Commission's primary function in that connexion was to strengthen and to guide. The Cairo Conference had laid the diplomatic, economic, political, cultural and social foundations of co-operation, and now an attempt should be made to determine the framework of that co-operation in detail. The ECA Conference of Ministers was not the place to discuss differences of opinion in that regard. With regard to all commitments made donor countries had fulfilled all the promises made in accordance with the procedures laid down.

United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (agenda item 21)

328. In introducing documents E/CN.14/721 and E/CN.14/709/Add.1 relating to the progress report on pledges and contributions received for United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) and ECA operational programme 1979-1981, the Executive Secretary expressed gratitude for the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference at Kinshasa in resolution 288 (XIII) requesting him to convene a Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries within 60 days following that Conference in order to review arrangements for voluntary contributions and to report to the Executive Committee immediately following the Conference on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, on the funds received and on the uses to which such funds were being put. He had done all those things and he drew particular attention to the fact that during the Lagos Pledging Conference in April 1977 pledges amounting to \$US 3.8 million had been made by 14 African Governments. There were also those who could not pledge at such short notice then but who had now done so. He explained that document E/CN.14/721 showed the pledges as well as actual contributions paid in 1977 and 1978.

329. The Executive Secretary further explained that since the writing of document E/CN.14/721 the ECA secretariat had received additional contributions totalling \$US 445,197.37 as follows: Ethiopia \$36,775.37; Kenya \$40,000 plus \$20,000 paid earlier; Sierra Leone \$20,000; **the United Republic of Tanzania \$250,000** thus fulfilling their pledge; Uganda \$1,200 more than their original pledge of \$10,000; and Zaire \$87,222, which the representative of Zaire corrected to read \$160,000 which he said was what Zaire had paid up to date.

330. Thus, the Executive Secretary said that the total amount received was \$US 2,079,390 (see document E/CN.14/721/Add.1). On the basis of the existing arrangements, the total contributions received from various countries covered by the MULPOCs were: Niamey (West Africa) \$US 1,222,688.00; Yaoundé (Central Africa) nil; Gisenyi Great Lakes countries \$122,222.00; Lusaka (East and Southern Africa) \$634,480.37 and Tangiers (North Africa) \$100,000.

331. He also drew attention to document E/CN.14/709 indicating the planned operational programmes of ECA for 1979 and 1981 as delineated in tables 1 to 5 of the document.

332. He further referred to ongoing projects which had been reported on in document E/CN.14/721/Add.1 as well as the new projects which appeared on page 5 of the document. He also referred to the proposals which had been made at the Arusha meeting of the Executive Committee regarding least developed countries as contained in document E/CN.14/724 on the subject. He drew attention to the resource gap which was shown in tabular form in document E/CN.14/724 and stated that that was what the Pledging Conference really should take into account. He explained that expected total expenditure for the biennium was \$US 66.9 million of which \$25.8 million was from the regular budget and \$41.1 million on operational programmes and projects. Anticipated resources amounted to \$US 54.6 million broken down into \$25.8 million from the regular budget, \$23.4 million from other sources in the United Nations system; and \$5.4 million from bilateral donors. The resource gap therefore stood at \$12.3 million, which, it was expected, would be covered principally by voluntary contributions in the form of pledges by African Governments and institutions, and to a lesser extent by mobilization of new extra-budgetary funds from donor Governments and institutions.

333. In the discussions that followed, it was pointed out that African development depended solely on the collective self-reliance of Africa. Attention was drawn to the fact that, so far, not even three quarters of the funds pledged had been paid and it was difficult to reconcile that with the requests member States made regularly to the ECA secretariat to undertake more and more work.

334. The Conference felt that an objective **critterion** which would determine how much each member State had to contribute should be formulated; the present system of voluntary contributions from member States was unsatisfactory. One participant stated that a resolution should be adopted to that effect. It was suggested that a machinery should be established to follow-up the collection and use of amounts pledged and to send reminders to Government which had not honoured their pledges or made any pledge. It was further decided that the Executive Secretary should present to the next Pledging Conference proposals for such machinery and a list indicating pledges made, actual payments made, balances outstanding and those who had made no pledges at all.

International Year of the Child (agenda item 22)

335. A representative of the secretariat introduced document E/CN.14/722 on the subject of children which she said needed no introduction for Africans. But 1979, the International Year of the Child, was being commemorated in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 31/169.

336. During the discussions that followed, it was pointed out that problems of mother and child could not be separated. The next World Health Day would concentrate on the child. Reference was made to paragraph 46 of the document which stated that there was perhaps not a single programme which utilized the integration of all valid health components. In that connexion it was stated that what should be appreciated was the fact that up until now, the question of health had always been approached in isolation and should now be included in a global social economic development programme particularly with respect to women and children in the rural areas.

337. It was further felt that paragraph 51 of the document should include a joint approach proposed by WHO and UNICEF on primary health as a priority strategy including nutrition, water, basic sanitary measures, housing, health education, vaccination against communicable diseases as well as the rehabilitation of disabled children. Attention was also drawn to the need for more research on bio-medical and genetic parameters.

338. The need for assessing what progress countries were making during the International Year of the Child was mentioned and a suggestion made that perhaps one way of doing that would be for ECA to designate a member of the staff of each MULPOC to monitor progress and thus obviate the need for United Nations questionnaires to be issued to Governments in connexion with the Decade. ECA was urged to undertake in future more concrete activities for disabled children in the rural areas.

Other matters (agenda item 23)

339. The question of whether there should be five subregions was raised but the proposal was withdrawn and the Conference agreed that the present

structure of having four political subregions and five economic subregions (MULPOCs) should be maintained. Among the reasons given were that at a time when all were thinking about an African Common Market it would be easier to achieve that goal with fewer economic groupings to integrate than a host of tiny groupings.

Dates and venues of forthcoming meetings of the Conference (agenda item 24)

340. The representative of Liberia pointed out that in view of the contribution which ECA had made in the development process and the positive role it continued to play in that field his Government would be pleased to host in Monrovia the seventh meeting of the Conference in 1981.

341. The representative of Mozambique supported the offer made by the representative of Liberia to host in Liberia the seventh meeting of the Conference. He said his delegation would like to take the opportunity to submit its candidature to host the ninth meeting of the Conference at Maputo.

342. The representative of Mozambique emphasized that at the present time when the African continent was heavily committed to the struggle for economic independence, the convening of the ninth meeting of the Conference in southern Africa would do much to promote the attempts to find solutions for the economic problems of the people of that subregion and to attain freedom from the domination and exploitation perpetrated by the racist and minority regimes which still existed there.

343. Both offers of invitation were accepted by the Conference by acclamation. With regard to the sixth meeting of the Conference, it was decided that it should be held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 April 1980, being preceded by the meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole from 3 to 8 April 1980 at the same venue.

Consideration of draft resolutions and adoption of the report of the Conference (agenda item 25)

344. After concluding its discussion of the main items on the agenda, the Conference adopted by acclamation the present report on the work of the fourteenth session of the Commission fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers for submission to the Economic and Social Council. The Conference then adopted the resolutions annexed hereto.

Signing of grant agreements by Plenipotentiaries and the Executive Secretary of the Commission

345. Separate agreements between African Governments and the United Nations, relating to the pledges made during the course of the Second Pledging Conference held at Rabat on 28 March 1979, were signed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and Plenipotentiaries acting on behalf of the following African Governments Botswana, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, the Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zaire. An Agreement was signed between the representative of the African Development Bank and the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

346. A summary of the pledges made at the Second Pledging Conference appears in annex II to this report.

Message to the President of Pakistan

347. The Conference adopted by acclamation a message to the President of Pakistan, General Muhammed Zia-ul-Haq, urging him to spare the life of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Ali Bhutto.

Closure of the meeting

348. Closing speeches were made by the representatives of Rwanda, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Kenya, the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Conference, and the usual courtesies were exchanged.

349. The representative of Rwanda, speaking on behalf of the countries of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, referred to the coming of age of ECA and its restructuring. That would enable ECA to undertake more effectively the great tasks ahead and provide assistance to Africa in the acceleration of its social and economic development, in the international negotiations for an equitable global economic system and in the promotion of the economic integration of the region.

350. The representative of Liberia, speaking on behalf of the countries of the Niamey-based MULPOC, referred to the frankness which had characterized the discussions of the Conference on the problems facing the development of the region. He urged participants to press at the national level for support of the strategy for the development of Africa within the context of the Third United Nations Development Decade, which had been adopted by the Conference.

351. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, speaking on behalf of the countries of the Tangiers-based MULPOC, stated that the discussions at the Conference had made African countries aware of the social and economic difficulties facing the region. The resolutions adopted by the Conference were an expression of the desire of the Conference to meet the expectations of the peoples of Africa in the establishment of a fair and just society.

352. The representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the countries of the Lusaka-based MULPOC referred to the Conference as one of the most successful conferences ever held. A strong institution was required to assist in solving the social and economic problems of the region and since ECA could only be as strong as member States would make it, he urged them to give ECA their fullest support. He urged African Governments to give proper acknowledgement to the role of women in development and to embark on programmes for the care and development of children on whom the future of the region would depend. He emphasized that the total development of the region could not be achieved without the total liberation of all parts of Africa from minority domination. He then moved a vote of thanks to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, his Government and the people of Morocco, which was adopted by acclamation **[see resolution 374 (XIV)]**. A telegramme was also addressed to his Majesty the King of Morocco, the text of which was adopted by acclamation.

353. The Executive Secretary in, a stirring speech, referred to the spirit of Rabat which had manifested itself during the Conference. The spirit of Rabat represented a new awakening to the realization that the destiny of Africa lay

in the hands of Africans and nobody else. Speeches had a role to play, resolutions were useful and discussions helped to harmonize views and **co-ordinate** activities. But they would all be futile if they were not translated into action. He urged African countries to take concrete action immediately for the rapid social and economic development of the region as every day that was spent in inactivity would increase and compound the problem of the most underdeveloped continent in the world, Africa.

354. In his closing statement the Chairman said that the fourteenth session had been an all important one in that it had come at the beginning of a new phase in the development of the continent and participants had been called upon to lay the foundations for the development of African resources and for a form of co-operation which was truly African. In particular he mentioned the attention which had been given to a thorough examination of the components of the next development strategy and of the need to prepare the African region to play an active role in international negotiations. He also referred to the action taken in connexion with the restructuring of the Commission.

355. He said the Economic Commission for Africa continued to serve as an appropriate and highly useful instrument in achieving the objectives of Africa. Finally, he thanked all the participants, the other officers and the members of the ECA secretariat for their invaluable contribution to the success of the Conference. He also thanked the delegations of Liberia and Mozambique for their invitations to host the meeting of the Conference in 1981 and 1983.

356. The Chairman declared the fourteenth session of the Commission (fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers) closed.

D. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
AT ITS FIFTH MEETING

330 (XIV). Restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa 1/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 188 (IX) of 10 February 1969 on the institutional machinery of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 328 (XIII) of 3 March 1977 on the restructuring of intergovernmental machinery for development and co-operation in Africa and 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and in particular the relevant provisions of that resolution which require inter alia that, taking into account the special needs and conditions of their respective regions, the regional commissions should:

(a) Exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level,

(b) Convene periodic meetings, as necessary, for the purpose of improving the co-ordination of the relevant economic and social activities of the United Nations system in their respective regions,

(c) Rationalize their structures, inter alia, by streamlining their subsidiary machinery,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 16 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development reaffirming the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/197 as they relate to the regional commissions,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system in which it is inter alia, decided that the regional commissions shall have the status of executing agencies, in their own right, in respect of the categories of projects described in and in conformity with paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197,

Conscious of the need to establish a much closer relationship between the institutional machinery associated with the development operations of the Commission and those of other agencies of the United Nations development system,

1/ See paras. 255-265 above.

Recognizing that the important role of operational executing agency which the Commission has now assumed, as a result of paragraph 23 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 inevitably requires a well-structured arrangement which will enable the Commission and other United Nations agencies to assist member States concerned to deal with development problems in a more rational and co-ordinated manner,

Recognizing also that the 1980s are likely to constitute a crucial decade for the African region, in view of the African approach to the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, as well as international negotiations and other significant issues affecting the economic and social conditions of African countries,

Aware that the existing co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the Commission on the one hand and between the Commission and other development agencies operating in the region on the other hand needs to be further strengthened with a view to deriving the maximum benefit from the scarce resources available in the best interest of the over-all development of the countries of the African region,

Re-affirming its belief in the crucial and dynamic role being performed by the Organization of African Unity in its endeavour to secure the rapid improvement of economic and social conditions in Africa through collective action among African countries,

Also reaffirming its resolution 327 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 in which it is recommended that arrangements should be made, in co-operation with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, for the Executive Secretary to be invited once a year to present to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity a statement on economic and social conditions in Africa, as well as a progress report on economic co-operation and integration within Africa and between the African region and other developing regions,

Having considered the recommendations of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee dealing with the restructuring of the institutional machinery of the Commission, 2/

Decides that:

(a) The Executive Committee and the Technical Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be abolished;

(b) The meetings of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be held annually and the annual meetings shall be organized in such a way that alternate meetings shall, in particular, consider the programme of work and priorities of the Commission, which is examined at two-year intervals by the General Assembly, together with the Executive Secretary's biennial report on the execution of the Commission's biennial work programme, while the other meeting shall be held for a much shorter period in the years when the established major programme of work and priorities of the Commission are not being considered and shall consider such other matters requiring urgent attention, as the implementation of programmes and projects and resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Organization of African

Unity and the specialized and other agencies of the United Nations as they affect the work programmes of the Commission; issues of international significance affecting development activities in the African region and any matters which the Executive Secretary may submit for consideration;

(c) A Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole composed of high-level officials representing States members of the Commission shall be established to deal with the various matters submitted for the consideration of the annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers;

(d) The existing Conference of African Planners, Conference of African Statisticians and Conference of African Demographers shall be combined into a single Conference to be known as the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, which shall be held biennially;

(e) The programme of work and priorities of the Commission shall be derived from the decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the Conference of Ministers, the various ministerial sectoral conferences, the Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and the work programmes thus derived shall be assembled by the Technical Preparatory Committee for submission to the Conference of Ministers;

(f) The Economic Commission for Africa shall continue to work closely in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity in the field of economic and social development and co-operation in Africa;

(g) The arrangements proposed above for holding annual sessions of the Conference of Ministers shall be established on an experimental basis and shall in due course be subject to review by the Conference of Ministers in the light of experience.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

331 (XIV). The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development 3/

The Conference of Ministers,

Expressing its satisfaction at the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development,

Having examined the progress report on pledges and contributions received for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development, 4/

Appreciative of the goodwill demonstrated by African Governments in contributing to the Fund,

3/ See paras. 328-334 above.
4/ E/CN.14/721 and Add.1 and 2.

Determined to mobilize as large a volume of resources as possible in order to support development activities in Africa as efficiently and rationally as possible,

1. Commends the United Nations Secretary-General on the creation of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;
2. Decides that the Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries shall be held biennially, immediately following the meeting of the Conference of Ministers at which the biennial programme of work and priorities of the Commission is approved;
3. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit annually to the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole progress reports on (i) payments of pledged contributions and (ii) implementation of approved programmes and projects financed out of the Fund;
4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to submit annually for the consideration of the Technical Preparatory Committee a programme of work to be financed from the paid-up pledged contributions of member States, together with its budgetary implications, in conformity with the Commission's approved work programme and the expressed wishes of the contributing Governments;
5. Requests the Technical Preparatory Committee to:
 - (a) Assist the Executive Secretary in the formulation and periodic review of policies, criteria and priorities for the programming and use of the Trust Fund for approval by the Conference of Ministers;
 - (b) Review and submit for consideration at the annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers the reports submitted by the Executive Secretary in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above;
6. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to make effective arrangements to facilitate the regular and prompt payment of pledged contributions by African Governments so as to ensure the timely implementation of approved priority projects;
7. Appeals to the Governments of member States to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development with a view to providing the Fund with resources needed to execute the approved work programmes of the Commission in accordance with the Commission's policy for collective self-reliance.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

332 (XIV). Development strategy for Africa for the Third Development Decade 5/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/193 of 29 January 1979 which affirmed that the new international development strategy should be designed to promote the development of the developing countries within the framework of the new international economic order and especially through the promotion and support of economic and technical co-operation among themselves, specify goals, objectives and policy measures addressed to both developed and developing countries for accelerated development of the developing countries, contribute to the solution of international economic development and support such development on the basis of justice and mutual benefit,

Noting that Africa's participation in the formulation of strategies for United Nations Development Decades has hitherto been extremely marginal,

Conscious of the urgent desire of member States of the continent of Africa to contribute fully to the formulation of the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Desirous that the next international development strategy should facilitate accelerated development on a self-sustaining and self-reliant basis at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Noting that the continent of Africa is still the least developed of the world's major regions, has displayed a persistent failure to achieve the targets set in the first two United Nations Development Decades, and that now is the time to take urgent and appropriate measures to forestall the obvious and ominous increase in mass poverty, unemployment and external dependence, the risk of natural resource depletion and of environmental degradation as a result of the widespread adoption of patterns of development and life styles imported into the region,

Aware that the African continent is more drastically affected than the other regions of the world by the negative consequences of development strategies adopted by most countries, whose failure has been aggravated by the economic and social crisis which the industrialized countries are currently undergoing, and which stubbornly fail to yield to treatment by conventional policies, strategies and instruments within the familiar structure of international relations,

Aware also that Africa is excessively and chronically dependent on other countries even for food, and that trade and commercial structures are still almost invariably in a North-South direction, a legacy from the past which fosters the law of unequal exchange and its consequences, deteriorating terms of trade, outward oriented production and little domestic processing of raw materials,

5/ See paras. 249-254 above.

Aware of the pressing need for the physical integration of the continent through the development of transport and communications,

Recalling resolutions of the General Assembly, the Conference of Ministers and the United Nations Environment Programme which deal with the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment,

Recalling resolution CM/Plen./Res.11 (XXXII) of the thirty-second ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity which met at Nairobi from 23 February to 4 March 1979 and which among other things takes note of the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liberia concerning the formulation of a Declaration of Commitment to specific priority projects for the speedy economic development of the continent and urges member States to give serious consideration to the idea of a Declaration of Commitment and to come to the thirty-third session of the Council of Ministers with concrete suggestions for such a Declaration,

1. Adopts the document prepared by the Technical Committee of Experts as amended entitled "Strategy for the African region in the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade" contained in annex A to the present resolution, the reports of the OAU/ECA Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the year 2000 6/ held in Monrovia from 12 to 16 February 1979 and the ECA/UNEP Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region 7/ held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979, as working documents to be submitted to the sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

2. Expresses appreciation to the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme for organizing the OAU/ECA Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 and to the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme for organizing the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region;

3. Expresses appreciation to the Government of Liberia for its active support, generosity and facilities for hosting the OAU/ECA Symposium;

4. Recommends to member States for adoption the draft Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order contained in annex B to the present resolution;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary forthwith to transmit the draft Declaration as well as the other working documents to all member States;

6/ E/CN.14/698/Add.2.

7/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1.

6. Invites member States to study the draft Declaration and the strategy statement on the basis of the working documents and submit as soon as possible, but not later than 15 May 1979, such comments and suggestions as they may have on the draft Declaration and strategy statement to the Executive Secretary;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare the final documents embodying the Declaration on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-reliance in Social and Economic Development for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the statement on strategy having regard to the comments and suggestions received pursuant to paragraph 6 above for submission to the sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity;

8. Further requests the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the final documents as prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with paragraph 6 above are submitted to member States at least thirty days before the thirty-third ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

ANNEX A

STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Section I

Guiding principles

1. In examining the question of the strategy for the African region in the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and in adopting the following strategy for the African region in the international strategy for the Third Development Decade, the following considerations were taken into account:

- That African participation, for many historic reasons, in the formulation of the strategy for the First and Second United Nations Development Decades respectively was marginal;
- That the African region is known to be the least developed of all developing regions and to contain the largest number of least developed and land-locked countries as well as being the least physically integrated in terms of transport and communications;

- That the present imbalances in the international economic order are largely due to the overwhelming industrial and technological gap among the various groups of the nations of the world, and that the multiplying effects of this industrial and technological gap are increasingly becoming more severe on the international monetary system, trade relations and economic co-operation;
- That the region has displayed a persistent failure to achieve the targets set for the first two United Nations Development Decades;
- That it has in general not significantly succeeded in designing and implementing measures for effecting internal structural changes and improvement of factor inputs on both of which self-reliant and self-sustaining development depends;
- That it has, during the past three years, given considerable thought to the approach to the strategy for the African region in the Third United Nations Development Decade.

2. It was noted that policies, strategies and development programmes in the region continued to be markedly affected by misconceptions and erroneous strategies which tended to consolidate the region's external dependence for food, skills, technology, capital goods and services, markets and even life-styles and patterns of development and economic growth.

3. The strategies are characterized by a persistent confusion between growth and development and fail to measure advance by appropriate socio-economic indicators or indices of general well-being.

4. The region's external socio-economic relations could be summarized as those of client States and their principals in which relations tended to be prescriptive rather than contractual and Africa was the accidental beneficiary of the progress and welfare of others.

5. Emphasis was placed on outdated concepts of the international division of labour as a result of which member States still lacked sufficient mastery over the technical and financial instruments essential for new types of development appropriate for the creation of a material and cultural system which would be consistent with self-reliance, self-sustainment, the conservation and development of inherited cultural values and the recovery of self-confidence particularly as regards the nurturing of creativity and inventiveness.

6. In more specific terms it was noted that:

(a) It was no longer desirable and feasible to replicate alien life-styles, production patterns and consumption patterns. Efforts to do so in the past had often led to a continuing state of unhealthy dependency, persistence of mass unemployment, poverty, wide and increasing disparities in the distribution of income and wealth and gradual loss of cultural identity. Approaches to planning development had been predominantly based on economic factors such as rate of growth of gross national product, rate of return on capital investment, indiscriminate acquisition of foreign technology, etc.;

(b) Existing life-styles and patterns of economic growth in industrialized countries as well as in several developing countries had led to serious environmental degradation and rapidly increasing social costs, natural resources depletion, technologically-created unemployment, alienation, pathological urbanization, erosion of family and community life and, in general a deteriorating quality of life;

(c) In the light of increasing social costs, including the costs of alleviating environmental damage, it was doubtful whether the dominant patterns of growth and life-styles from the developed countries would be desirable, suitable and/or sustainable over the long run;

(d) The serious structural imbalances in international economic relations between the developed and developing countries had imposed significant constraints, and, in effect, had led to a growing distortion of indigenous development patterns and life-styles, locking developing countries into given patterns, and had made it progressively difficult to realize the declared aims of social progress and to make autonomous choices;

(e) Despite the development experience of several African countries, productivity of labour and other factors of production had remained low. The internal dynamics of growth had not led to self-reliant and self-sustaining economic development in most cases. Moreover, sizable sections of populations, including women and the entire rural population, had been left out of the mainstream of development. There had been a notable persistence of intellectual colonization in many parts of Africa, which had weakened efforts to design new development patterns and life-styles rooted in the African situation which were fully consistent with African aspirations. There had been also a notable lack of systematic attempts to utilize and draw on traditional experience and knowledge in the field of socio-economic development.

7. Bearing in mind the document on development process and Africa's problems and perspectives in the framework of the Third United Nations Development Decade; 8/ the report of the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life-styles for Africa; 9/ the report of the Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000; 10/ and the revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order in Africa; 11/ it was proposed that as far as the African region is concerned the new international development strategy should serve the following objectives:

(a) The establishment of self-sustaining, internally located processes of development and economic growth at the national and/or multinational level;

(b) Subregional and regional collective self-reliance;

(c) Development of human resources to ensure their greater participation in the development process;

(d) Broad-based participation in the development process concurrent and consistent with equitable distribution of the gains of socio-economic development;

(e) Acceleration of the industrialization process on the continent in the context of the social and economic environment of each country and not as a simple importation of foreign industrialization patterns.

8. In the pursuit of these objectives, priorities for the next United Nations Development Decade should be as follows:

- First, the attainment of regional self-sufficiency in food;
- Second, the establishment of a sound industrial base with special emphasis on the development of the requisite national industrial and technological policies, capabilities, and institutional infrastructure, as well as intra-African co-operation in order to permit the industrial take-off of Africa;
- Third, the physical integration of the region through the development of transport and communications at the national, multinational and regional levels;
- Fourth, the development of capabilities - national, multinational and regional - required to enable African Governments and their peoples to establish sovereignty over their natural resources;
- Fifth, the establishment of mutually beneficial and equitable relations between African countries and the rest of the world;
- Sixth, the attainment of a substantial increase in the present meagre 4 per cent share of intra-African trade in the total trade of Africa.

9. The following modalities were recommended for the achievement of objectives and priorities:

(a) At the national level - Establishment and implementation of programmes for large-scale development of manpower, inter alia, at the intermediate level where African countries are extremely weak, and the mobilization of human resources for development purposes;

(b) At the regional level - Strengthening of existing subregional and regional institutions for implementing priority programmes and projects. Emphasis on the development of human resources and Africanization of training;

(c) At the international level - Strengthening or devising new forms of co-operation, inter alia, through the agency of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, in connexion with the new international economic order;

(d) The plan of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development must have regard to these objectives and priorities;

(e) Declaring the period 1980-1989 as the African Industrial Development Decade for the purpose of focusing greater attention and evoking greater political commitment and financial and technical support, at the national, regional and international levels for the industrialization of Africa.

10. It was realized that these objectives, priorities and targets are unrealistic without:

- The total political commitment of all African States to their pursuit as expressed in the realistic translation of these commitments into concrete action through:
 - (i) Declared policy priorities;
 - (ii) Budget and financing;
 - (iii) National and international consistency in the selection of agreed strategies and investment criteria;
 - (iv) Co-ordinated positions taken by member States individually and collectively at international negotiations.

- The political will needed on the part of the developed countries to ensure the implementation of priority programmes and of work towards the agreed objectives and special attention to the least developed, land-locked, island and most severely affected developing countries.

Section II

Plan of Action

1. Self-sufficiency in food supply

(a) The Regional Food Plan for Africa

The chief features of the plan to be incorporated into the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade should include:

- The relation between food products and other products; the allocation of financial and real resources; the system of incentives;
- Institutions within the context of integrated rural development;
- Changes in strategies and instrumentation: infrastructure of transport; marketing; storage; processing capabilities;
- Technical inputs:
 - . Specific improved seeds, R and D; multiplication and distribution;
 - . Agricultural chemicals;
 - . Implements, tools, machinery and manufacturing and repair servicing capabilities;
 - . Irrigation: Water resources exploration and evaluation;
 - . Storage facilities;
 - . Irrigation technology; production and supply of irrigation equipment;
 - . The promotion of intra-African trade in food.

(b) Increased over-all productivity in agriculture (inclusive of crops, livestock, forestry and fishery)

Through:

- Improved policy emphasis for agricultural development;
- Increased investment through national budgets and foreign assistance;
- Improved infrastructure in the rural areas including mass education of the rural population; establishment at national levels of agricultural mechanical centres for the production of tools, equipment and other relevant and appropriate machines inclusive of servicing; encouragement of the creation of national agro-service centres aimed at bringing agricultural inputs within the early reach of farmers; encouragement of multi-purpose river basin development;
- Integrated rural development approach consistent with other necessary institutional changes.

(c) Agricultural research for appropriate inputs, skills and technological improvement

- Intensive and urgent agronomic research for the development of new crop and livestock strains able to cope with the changing ecological conditions and the special problems of the Sahel and other arid and semi-arid areas;
- Training and research to generate (large-scale) massive adaptive technology for accelerated agricultural development;
- Increased productivity and effective control of exploitation of the resources from the farms, forests, livestock and fish products.

2. Human resources development

Very high priority should be attached to the development of human resources during the Third United Nations Development Decade. It is therefore recommended that special efforts by the United Nations system, bilateral aid and other donors in assisting member States to develop their human resources as much as possible should be included in the international development strategy for the Decade.

Major areas of such resources comprise:

- High and middle-level technical manpower;
- Manpower for industry at the workshop level;
- Improved agricultural manpower;
- Manpower for marketing, distribution and maintenance services;
- Manpower for business support institutions (such as industrial estates and extension services, agricultural extension, etc.);
- Manpower for major sectors such as natural resources exploration, evaluation and extraction (including mining), transport and communications, food production, etc.;

- Eradication of illiteracy (use of local languages).

In regard to segments of the population requiring special development efforts technical training and entrepreneurial development are recommended relating to:

- Women;
- Out-of-school population;
- Drop-outs.

and attention is called to the need for research on methods and content of non-formal education and particularly of education technologies for converting the primary out-of-school/drop-out population into efficient operatives in industry, farming and services including maintenance of equipment and structures.

Special attention should be given to the development of national capabilities in project design, planning, installation and management, the lack of which constitutes a grave weakness in most African countries. Special and imaginative efforts should also be made to create conditions of work and other incentives to halt and reverse the present brain drain from the region.

3. Population

With regard to population, account was taken of:

- The high rate of population growth in many African countries;
- The rapid rate of uncontrolled urbanization;
- The high levels of mortality and fertility;
- The existing gap in meeting the needs of large groups for health, education, shelter, food, employment, etc.;
- The imbalance in opportunities for the development and application of latent capabilities in the population of women and the young.

4. Survey, inventory and management of natural resources

The strategy should aim at substantially strengthening the national and multinational capabilities of the region with regard to the collection and dissemination of information needed for the purposes of planning natural resources at the national level with a view to their efficient management and use including considerations of environmental protection, the conservation of exhaustible resources and the careful management of renewable resources capable of ultimate exhaustion.

The main elements of this part of the strategy should include:

- The expansion and development of national and multinational capabilities for making full use of modern technologies (including remote sensing) for natural resources exploration, evaluation and inventory;

- The development of technologies for the extraction and processing of natural resources which will maximize the economy of physical use of these resources (including recycling and materials substitution) and which will contribute towards the protection of the environment;
- The acquisition and/or development of capabilities at the national and multinational levels for negotiating the exploration, extraction and disposal of their natural resources on the most advantageous terms;
- The development and distribution of information on natural resources with a view to identifying complementarities in natural resources for planning socio-economic development; and
- The development of policies, machinery and operational infrastructure for effectively securing the optimum advantages from the resources of the sea bearing in mind the opportunities and responsibilities which are inherent in the proposed International Convention on the Law of the Sea.

5. Energy

- Establishment of national and subregional energy models by the years 2000-2020;
- Harmonization of energy policies;
- Rural electrification;
- Development of non-conventional and new energy sources;
- Promotion of the use of solar energy, especially for agricultural needs.

6. Environment and development

Considering that environment provides the human, physical and biological resources that form the basis for any development process and that an integrated approach should form an integral part of any development planning, environmental considerations have to be taken into account in the plan of action for the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

In order to promote the accelerated development of the developing countries within the framework of the New International Economic Order, environment factors have to be taken into account to reduce social and economic costs that arise from neglect and utter disregard of problems of pollution; soil degradation; resource depletion; desertification; flooding; water-borne diseases; climatic changes and others that result from various development processes and patterns.

The main components to be included in an integrated environment-development strategy should include:

- Protection of the environment by monitoring pollutants in the air (smoke and noxious industrial gases), in the seas (oil); in the soil (excess fertilizers and heavy metal pesticides); and in foods as contaminants;

- Conservation of natural resources to combat deforestation, soil loss and degradation, mineral depletion, desertification, salinization of arid farm lands;
- Environmental legislation to improve the quality of life by maintaining the basic needs of clean air and water, good food and health and a satisfactory work and leisure ratio;
- Promotion of environmentally-sound development through careful development planning for siting an economic activity, choice of process and technology, anticipatory environmental problems, choice of end products, marketing strategy and periodic assessment of rural-urban population migration resulting from the promotion of the industrialization process.

7. Science and technology

The teaching of science and scientific research in Africa have not been properly linked to technology and its application. Moreover, the two of them have not been treated as priorities and oriented towards the social and economic needs of Africa. Yet technology is the outcome of a specific agent (generally a business unit) attempting to solve particular technological problems, under specific constraints, at a particular place and time. This raises questions about the existence, character and sectoral distribution of such agents and the relationship of technological adaptation, **invention** and innovation to production.

It is therefore considered that:

- Measures should be taken to make science teaching and scientific research related to technology and both of them oriented towards the social and economic needs of Africa;
- Measures should be taken for the establishment in Africa of multinational teaching companies within the principal sectors and subsectors of production priorities;
- These companies should be closely associated in their operational activities with universities, polytechnics and educational and training institutions at the second level;
- These companies should also assist in the development of technical entrepreneurs;
- At the national level, efforts should be made to identify and develop or establish production units where experiments can be carried out in the production of parts and components, in the substitution of materials, in changes in design and other processes of the upgrading of traditional technology and the adaptation of imported technology;
- Measures should be taken for the establishment of networks of information on low cost and other adapted technology from other developing countries and regions;
- Measures should be taken for increasing the supply of equipment, parts, raw materials, blueprints, technical literature, etc., to facilitate the operation of clearing and teaching centres for technological research and experimentation.

8. Transport and communications

For satisfactory implementation of the various schemes planned during the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa:

- (a) African countries should make the development of transport and communications a top priority and give it the required support;
- (b) The Economic Commission for Africa should have all the necessary finance, equipment and resources available to enable it to prepare the programmes for the various phases of the Decade;
- (c) The international community should provide special and ongoing assistance by supplying African countries with services, equipment, capital and know-how so that the projects can be implemented during the Decade;
- (d) African countries should be assisted by the international community to develop transport and communications networks within their countries in order to accelerate the development of the rural areas which will complement the implementation of the international network.

The main elements of the strategy should therefore be as follows:

(i) Road transport

- Establishment during the biennium (before 1982) of a master plan for a unified homogenous African international road network.
- This master plan would be superimposed on national plans and would complement them as needed.
- In this context the implementation of ongoing projects should be continued, whilst at the same time promoting the study and implementation of other trans-African links, in particular the nine highways mentioned in document E/CN.14/710 which should be accorded the same degree of urgency.
- Establishment of a Road Charter for this African network, which will define the technical construction, maintenance, and operating standards, including all legal and administrative aspects.
- Expert missions carried out by the Commission to study with national authorities this Master Plan and the related charter.
- The approval of these two documents as soon as possible by all the member States should be encouraged.
- Harmonization of the various codes and systems of road signs and signals and axle load limits.
- Simplification and harmonization of administrative and legal barriers on international sections of road.
- The setting up of training centres.

(ii) Maritime transport and ports

- Ratification and application of the Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and application of Rule 40/40/20;
- Setting up of subregional maritime shipping companies;
- Establishment of shippers' councils;
- Development and upgrading of ports;
- Adoption of modern unit transport facilities and development of multi-modal transport and coastal traffic;
- Harmonization of administrative and customs formalities;
- Construction of shipyards;
- Establishment of training institutions;
- Marine pollution programmes.

(iii) Air transport

- Liberalization of traffic rights and harmonization of time-tables and programmes;
- Pooling of equipment, lines and ground installations;
- Establishment of joint training centres and servicing and repair facilities;
- Establishment of multinational air freight companies;
- Standardization of equipment and formalities.

(iv) Rail transport

- Standardization, development, co-ordination and improvement of rail services;
- Interconnexion of the different networks;
- Harmonization and standardization of track gauges, rolling-stock loading gauges, brake systems and motive power;
- Construction of an African rail network.

(v) River and lake transport

- Joint development of rivers and lakes;
- Pooling of the various possibilities provided by rivers and lakes;
- Development of river and lake transport - infrastructure, management, legislation.

(vi) Telecommunications

- Construction of the PANAFTEL network;
- Improvement and development of national networks;

- Development of the telecommunications and electronics industry;
- Development of training and of data processing equipment;
- Harmonization of charging systems and international accounting procedures;
- Setting up of remote sensing facilities.

(vii) Mail services

- Organization of subregional sorting centres;
- Organization of international accounting system;
- Development of mail services: infrastructure, management, training of specialists;
- Improvement of mail routing and delivery, especially in **rural areas**;
- Establishment throughout the continent of monetary services primarily of postal and money order and postal savings facilities.

(viii) Radio and television

- Setting up of a multinational satellite communications system;
- Programme exchanges;
- Improvement and development of the infrastructure and of the broadcasting equipment and electronics industry.

9. Tourism

- Elaboration of an over-all policy for the development of tourism on a **continental scale**;
- Sectoral development study at the regional and subregional level;
- Training and upgrading of cadres and specialists;
- Exchange of experience and information;
- Direction of national tourist flows;
- Design of tourist products for joint marketing at a subregional level.

10. Economic co-operation

In pursuit of the strategy for the Decade, existing regional and subregional bodies designed to favour subregional co-operation and integration should be strengthened.

Special priority should be given to the implementation of projects **designed** to fulfil these aims by encouraging intra-African trade and other forms of regional economic co-operation.

11. Intra-African trade

To achieve an 8 per cent share of intra-African trade, it is suggested that :

(a) The Economic Commission for Africa should intensify its activities in the identification of trade and other barriers to intra-African trade; market research and trade promotion with a view to imparting the necessary information to member States on a continuous basis and assisting them in taking advantage of existing and potential intra-African trade opportunities;

(b) African countries should undertake trade negotiations aimed at eliminating or reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers among themselves at subregional levels within the framework of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, and at inter-subregional levels and eventually at the regional level;

(c) The Commission should bring about direct contact between buyers and sellers of specific commodities in the form of workshops and trade in these commodities;

(d) Steps should be taken to strengthen existing clearing house and other payment arrangements and create new ones at the subregional level with a view to integrating them into an African Payments System by the end of the Decade and thus minimize the use of foreign currencies for the financing of intra-African Trade;

(e) Export credit insurance systems should be established at national, sub-regional and regional levels to encourage African business men to trade with each other.

12. International trade

High priority should be accorded to the need for a market improvement in the clearly inequitable relationships that exist between African countries and other groups of countries with a view to securing such terms of trade for the region as will actually assist its development effort, instead of impeding it, as is at present the case. To this effect, steps will need to be taken to upgrade significantly the local value-added content of Africa's exports to these countries; and to diversify Africa's trade patterns with a view to reducing the region's excessive dependence on trade with any other group of countries.

13. Industrial development

High priority should be attached to industrial development programme in Africa within the framework of the establishment and execution of a programme of action.

(a) Integration of industry and economic development

(i) In order to speed up industrialization efforts and to increase the multiplier effects on the other development sectors in Africa, it is

recommended that, "systematic industrial development" be approved and applied in preference to the sectoral system, that is to say, the method of starting with the processing of a primary raw material. Processing units based on successive by-products would then be identified, studied and implemented, making maximum use of Africa's resources and putting a stop to the alarming waste of industrial by-products which has so far been observed in Africa;

- (ii) The total integrated vertical development of natural resources with particular attention to mineral, agricultural, marine and energy resources, with a view to increasing the value added; reducing exports of primary products; increasing employment opportunities and increasing the benefit of these resources to the entire population of the countries concerned;
 - (iii) The development of basic, engineering, capital goods, small-scale and light industries to provide inputs for the development of the other sectors of the economy and to enable the total development of natural resources;
- (h) Industrial and technological strategies, policies and plans
- (i) A re-examination of existing industrial strategies, policies, plans and programmes, taking into account the status of technical personnel and scientists involved in industrial and technological development, and the promotion of indigenous industrial entrepreneurs especially in the small-scale industrial sector;
 - (ii) The preparation of national technology plans and programmes as an integral part of the national economic development plan; this needs to include the institutional machinery for the development or upgrading and commercialization of indigenous technologies, as well as the evaluation, selection, acquisition, adaptation, absorption and regulation of foreign appropriate technologies.
- (c) Industrial and technological manpower development
- (i) The development of industrial and technological manpower to cover the entire spectrum of the various skills and expertise required at the various stages of the industrial development process;
 - (ii) The establishment of national institutions, such as teaching companies, rural workshops, demonstration plants, sectoral institutes and the strengthening of existing ones for the training of industrial and technological skills;
 - (iii) A realignment of the existing educational system, national compensation schemes, to the status of technical personnel with the increasing emphasis on industrial and technological development.

(d) Industrial and technological institutional infrastructures

- (i) The development of a sound national industrial institutional machinery for the effective planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of industrial development activities.
- (ii) The national machinery should include institutions dealing with :
 - Industrial and technological research and development;
 - Standardization, quality control and metrology;
 - Regulation of technology import;
 - Commercialization of indigenous technologies;
 - Industrial and technological information;
 - Industrial planning, project identification, preparation and evaluation;
 - Industrial investment promotion with special emphasis on assistance to small-scale industrial entrepreneurs;
 - Industrial consultancy and management;
 - Industrial and engineering design including product and process adaptation.

(e) International industrial trade

- (i) Improving the present system and structure of international industrial trade and the marketing of African manufactured goods;
- (ii) Promoting greater intra-African co-operation in the expansion of African markets for manufactured goods.

(f) Intra-African industrial and technological co-operation

- (i) Harmonization of strategies and policies in order to overcome the constraints facing African countries, especially those related to shortage of industrial manpower; development or acquisition of technology, integration of markets; and optimum utilization of their limited financial resources;
- (ii) Greater participation by the African countries to influence action, at the international level, through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization industrial consultation meeting, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development negotiation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization policy-making organs and those of other relevant United Nations and international organizations;
- (iii) Greater emphasis on industrial and technological matters in trade and economic agreements between African and industrialized countries;

- (iv) Increased technical assistance from international organizations to the African countries in support of their industrial development efforts, with emphasis on assistance to multinational projects and the least developed countries, land-locked, island and drought-stricken countries.

14. Financing development

It is recognized that Africa has a considerable amount of resources in terms of development funds. To exploit this advantage there is need to :

- (a) Arrest the drain of foreign exchange out of the region by various mechanisms of which the activities of transnationals constitute one element;

- (b) Mobilize these and other financial and real resources with and redeploy them on a region-wide basis for the purpose of national, multinational and regional development and economic growth particularly in the development of basic and strategic industries. Such mobilization and redeployment will require specialized financial institutions where the concentration of particular kind of skill and the accumulation of particular kind of experience can be brought to bear on their optimum utilization;

- (c) However, given the urgency and the complexity of the problems of accelerated development and economic growth that will face the countries of the region, it is clear that substantial net transfer of external resources from the international community will be needed, on terms and conditions that do not exacerbate the debt burdens of the region and for purposes which will enable the region to service, without undue strain, such debt payments. Appropriate measures should therefore be taken to increase the net inflow of resources and improve the terms by which such resources are transferred.

15. Transnational corporations

The strategy should include :

- (a) Measures to develop a comprehensive information system on transnational corporations so as to increase the awareness and perception of African countries of the issues relating to their structure, operations and policies, and how these affect the socio-economic development process including steps to increase the flow and exchange of knowledge and experience on national regulations and legislations;

- (b) Measures to develop negotiating capacities and to strengthen the bargaining position of member States vis-à-vis transnational corporations through the creation of appropriate institutions at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels;

- (c) Measures for regulating the purchase and acquisition of technology from transnational corporations in such a way as to ensure the growth of indigenous production and technological capacity, thereby accelerating the attainment of self-reliance;

(d) The harmonization of measures towards transnational corporations including the adoption of a common stand; and

(e) Measures to maximize the advantages which transnational corporations are expected to confer on African countries in the forms of, e.g., employment opportunities, investment finance, development of managerial and technical skills, transfer of technology and the development of industry, agriculture and the rural sector. ;

16. Political commitment

In order for the African region to accomplish the declared priorities and objectives of the African Development Strategy for the 1980s, there must be the political will to take the needed action at the national, subregional and regional levels and it is therefore recommended that a commitment to this strategy should form a frame of reference in the pursuit of the socio-economic transformation of the African continent.

ANNEX B

DRAFT DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ON GUIDELINES AND MEASURES
FOR NATIONAL AND COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling our resolution CM/ST.12(XXI) adopted at the tenth ordinary session of the Organization of African Unity on 25 May 1973 containing the African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence,

Aware that Africa is a vast continent amply endowed with natural resources of all kinds, provided with a potentially rich human resource base and capable of a rapid transformation of its economies and improvement in the standards of living of its peoples,

Recognizing the need to take urgent action to provide the political support necessary for the success of measures to achieve the goals of rapid self-reliant and self-sustaining development and economic growth,

HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS :

1. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to promoting the social and economic development and integration of our societies with a view to achieving an increasing measure of self-reliance and self-sustainment;

2. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to promote the physical integration of the African region in order to facilitate social and economic intercourse;

3. That we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to establish national, subregional and regional institutions which will facilitate the attainment of objectives of self-reliance and self-sustainment;

4. That, most specifically, we commit ourselves individually and collectively on behalf of our Governments and peoples to :

- (a) Self-sufficiency in food production and supply;
- (b) The complete implementation of the programme for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;
- (c) Subregional and regional internally located industrial development;
- (d) Co-operation in the field of natural resources exploration, extraction and use for the development of our economies and for the benefit of our peoples and the setting up of appropriate institutions to achieve these purposes;
- (e) The development of indigenous entrepreneurial, technical manpower and technological capacities to enable our peoples to assume greater responsibility for the implementation of our individual and collective development goals;
- (f) Co-operation in the preservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment.

We hold firmly to the view that these commitments will lead to the creation at the national, subregional and regional levels of a dynamic interdependent African economy and will thereby pave the way for the eventual establishment of an African Common Market leading to an African Economic Community.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

333 (XIV). Programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 and biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1977-1979 12/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined and discussed the biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1977-1979, 13/ and the draft programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981, 14/

Bearing in mind that the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 15/ was considered and approved at the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee and that the programme of work and priorities was based on it,

12/ See paras. 249-284 above.
13/ E/CN.14/695.
14/ E/CN.14/707.
15/ E/CN.14/706.

1. Takes note of the biennial report of the Executive Secretary, 1977-1979;
2. Recommends that the Commission should intensify its activities as an executing and operational agency in co-operation with other United Nations agencies;
3. Takes note of the medium-term plan for 1980-1983;
4. Approves the programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981, as amended by the Technical Committee of Experts.

207th meeting

27 March 1979

334 (XIV). Programme budget for 1980-1981 16/

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that Africa is the least developed region in the world, having a larger number of least developed countries than any other region,

Aware of the magnitude and wide ranging challenges facing the African region in its endeavours to bring about rapid economic transformation,

Bearing in mind the crucial role of the Economic Commission for Africa in influencing such rapid economic transformations, the related work programme recommended for implementation by the Commission and the financial difficulties which prevent the Commission from fully and effectively executing that work programme,

1. Calls upon African Governments to bring pressure to bear on the United Nations General Assembly with a view to encouraging it to allocate the Commission enough resources to enable it to implement its programme of work and priorities;
2. Urges the United Nations General Assembly and its organs, in the light of the crucial and operational role of the Economic Commission for Africa in the rapid economic transformation of the region, to allocate substantial resources to the Commission with a view to enabling it to help African countries to fulfil their aspirations.

207th meeting

27 March 1979

16/ See paras. 249-254 above.

335 (XIV). Multinational Programming and Operational Centres 17/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the establishment of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Having noted the work programme approved by the Councils of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Mindful of the need to consolidate the progress made so far and to enhance subregional multinational co-operation as a step towards regional co-operation and integration,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary on the efforts made to establish the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, their work programmes and policy organs;
2. Approves the decision of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa that the work programme of the Centres should be integrated with the over-all work programme of the Commission with effect from the 1980-1981 biennial work programme;
3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Executive Secretary to mobilize resources for the effective implementation of the work programme of the Centres;
4. Records its appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for all the aid it has granted to the Centres and asks it to continue and increase its financial support of their activities;
5. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take action to increase the regular budget of the Commission to ensure that the volume of resources allocated for the operational activities of the Centres is as large as possible;
6. Urges other members of the United Nations family and interested international organizations and bilateral donors to give material support to the Centres in order further to strengthen their resources;
7. Urges member States to continue to give the necessary support to the activities of their respective Centres;
8. Recommends that the Executive Secretary should, in the over-all interest of the Commission, decentralize the operational activities and resources of the Commission in line with the spirit behind the establishment of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

207th meeting.
27 March 1979

336 (XIV). Integration of the work programme of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre for the North African subregion with the over-all work programme of the secretariat 18/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the important role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in the promotion of economic co-operation among African countries,

Noting that at its inaugural meeting held at Rabat on 26 March 1979, the Committee of Plenipotentiaries of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre for North Africa adopted the work programme of the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre,

1. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to integrate the work programme of the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre into the over-all work programme of the Commission, as has been done with the work programme of the other Centres for the period 1979-1981;

2. Invites the States members of the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre to provide every material, financial and political support;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to ensure that the activities of the North African Multinational Programming and Operational Centre are co-ordinated with those of existing intergovernmental institutions in the subregion so as to preclude any possibility of duplication in their work programmes;

4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to provide financial assistance to the North African Multinational and Operational Centre in the same way as is being done for the other four Centres created by the Commission.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

337 (XIV). Solar Energy research and development 19/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy 20/ held at Niamey in the Niger from 8 to 13 January 1979,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 598 (XXI) of 4 May 1956 expressing the view that the United Nations should display the same interest in all new sources of energy as it had in the conventional sources of energy,

18/ Draft resolution submitted following the Inaugural Meeting of Plenipotentiaries held in Rabat on 25 and 26 March 1979.

19/ See paras. 276-281 above.

20/ E/CN.14/713.

Recalling further Commission resolution 113 (VI) of 2 March 1964 on the utilization of solar energy in Africa,

Taking note of its resolution 265 (XII) of 28 February 1975 in which it was recommended that the Executive Secretary should undertake any action needed to ensure that use was made of the results of solar energy research to benefit the development of African countries and he was requested to provide maximum possible assistance to any African country or group of countries which had undertaken solar energy research, experimentation or exploitation,

Bearing in mind the recommendations made by the Second African Meeting on Energy 21/ held at Accra from 8 to 19 November 1976 concerning the development and utilization of non-conventional sources and new energies,

Bearing in mind further that the optimum development and sound use of renewable sources of energy requires concerted action, co-operation and full commitment on the part of African States,

Taking into account the report of the Monrovia Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000, 22/

Taking into account also that new energies and notably solar energy, could constitute alternative sources of energy and contribute to the future development of African economies,

Taking into account further that solar energy can provide valuable additional assistance in meeting the needs of communities in rural and remote areas,

Considering that the mastery of various technologies regarding solar energy and their adaptation to local conditions require adequate technological infrastructure and appropriate research and development efforts,

Considering further that genuine development cannot be ensured and that new technologies cannot be mastered without highly skilled, competent and motivated staff with the required knowledge, practical experience and sense of initiative,

1. Endorses the recommendations made by the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy held at Niamey in the Niger from 8 to 13 January 1979;
2. Decides to establish a Regional Centre for Solar Energy Research and Development in Africa;
3. Urges the Executive Secretary to take all the measures necessary for the establishment of that Centre;
4. Approves the Commission's training programme for African technicians, engineers and scientists in the field of solar energy;

21/ E/CN.14/665.

22/ E/CN.14/698/Add.2.

5. Also approves the Commission's project on the promotion of the use of solar energy in Africa as approved by the Executive Committee at its nineteenth meeting held in Arusha from 23 to 25 October 1978 23/;

6. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to implement the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Solar Energy, in co-operation with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and all United Nations bodies in particular, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation, and other international organizations concerned with activities in the field of solar energy.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

338 (XIV). Cartographic Inventory for Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that a first and basic step in any attempt to increase knowledge of natural resources in Africa is to undertake a thorough inventory of already existing data and to publish a series of map indexes of aerial photographic coverage, topographic surveys, geodetic operations, geological and hydrogeological mappings, surveys and land use and land potential, water resources data, hydrological and meteorological networks and geophysical surveys,

Noting with appreciation the completion by the Commission of the first atlas indexing such data for a large area covering Algeria, Benin, the Niger, Nigeria, Togo and the United Republic of Cameroon, and the concise and effective methods by which this atlas presents the existing data, focuses attention on the limitations and gaps in existing knowledge and provides collected data for intelligent planning of investigations so as to avoid wasteful duplication of efforts,

1. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa for initiating this programme and the International Development Research Centre of Canada on its foresight in providing financial support for the implementation of the programme;

2. Recommends :

(a) That the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa take the necessary action to ensure the availability of adequate funds for the completion of the preparation of the 12 atlases of the inventory covering Africa and the printing of a sufficient number of copies to meet the expected demand by seeking a supplementary grant from the International Development Research Centre and/or other sources, such as the United Nations Development Programme;

(b) That the Commission include in its regular budget submission posts for professional and supporting staff, as stipulated in the original agreement with the International Development Research Centre, to ensure the regular revision of the Inventory's index maps and the publication of suitable addenda within short intervals of time;

(c) That the Commission, in consultation with the competent international, regional and national bodies, arrange for the implementation of phase II of the programme, in particular the detailed analysis of the data, contained in the inventory, the drafting of specifications for future activities in the various disciplines covered by the inventory and the preparation of preliminary adjustments on unified bases of geodetic operations.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

339 (XIV). African Regional Meeting on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 24/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2115 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, in which it was recognized that the central role which the Committee on Natural Resources and the regional commissions should play in the promotion of intergovernmental co-operation in the follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan on integrated water resources development and management and the regional commissions were called upon to convene meetings to obtain the views of States Members of the United Nations on the follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference and the opportunities, needs and problems with respect to carrying out the recommendations of the Conference at the regional level,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 requesting the regional commissions to strengthen and intensify their responsibilities in the water sector and the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the co-ordinated preparation and servicing of the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, which would deal with a wide spectrum of water-related activities,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, adopting the report of the United Nations Water Conference, approving the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the other agreements reached at the Conference and endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 2115 (LXIII) and 2121 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977,

Having considered the report of the African Regional Meeting on the follow-up and Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan held in Addis Ababa in October 1978 containing proposals for submission to the special session of the Committee on Natural Resources, 25/

24/ See paras. 266-272 above.

25/ E/CN.14/ECO/161.

Bearing in mind that the management and development of water resources is one of the most important factors in the human, social and economic development of Africa and is necessary for enhancing the quality of human life,

1. Approves the report of the African Regional Meeting and commends it to the Committee on Natural Resources;

2. Endorses the proposals contained in the report, in particular those concerning :

(a) Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the national level;

(b) Institutional arrangements at the regional level for the follow-up and implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan;

(c) Implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level in the fields of assessment of water resources; community water supply and sanitation; agricultural water use; hydro-power generation; inland water transport; environment; health and pollution; water policy; planning and training; drought; education; training and research; and technical co-operation among developing countries with regard to water resources development;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to follow up the Mar del Plata Action Plan and, in co-operation with all United Nations agencies and other international organizations, to assist the Commission and member States in the implementation of the proposals contained therein.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

340 (XIV). Resources of the sea 26/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 238 (XI) of 22 February 1973 on Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s with particular reference to the development of minerals, energy, water resources, the environment, transport and telecommunications, tourism and science and technology,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and specifically those paragraphs of the Strategy which deal with the expansion and diversification of production and General Assembly resolution 2692 (XXV) of 11 December 1970 on permanent sovereignty over natural resources of developing countries and expansion of domestic sources of accumulation for economic development,

Noting the stage reached in the current negotiations on the Law of the Sea Conference and the responsibilities of the African member States therein,

26/ See paras. 249-254 above.

Having approved the Commission's programme of work and priorities for 1980-1981 and, in particular, as it relates to the resources of the sea, 27/

Noting that, although the Resources of the Sea Unit at the Economic Commission for Africa was created in 1976, it has to date not been provided with staff,

1. Reaffirms the need for member States, individually and collectively, to move expeditiously, in 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 Administrative 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. Requests the General Assembly to make adequate provisions for the staffing of the Resources of the Sea Unit at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

341 (XIV). United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa 28/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977 in which it is recommended that the international community should proclaim a transport and communications decade in Africa, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 also recommending the proclamation of the Decade by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Noting with gratification General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977, in which approves the recommendation made in paragraph 1 of Conference of Ministers resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977 and proclaims a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988,

Taking account of resolution ECO (XVIII)/Res.2 adopted by the Executive Committee on 4 May 1978 at Khartoum in which the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity are requested to prepare a detailed programme of action for the implementation of the Decade,

27/ E/CN.14/707.

28/ See paras. 273-275 above.

Noting with satisfaction resolution CM/Res.675 (XXXI) adopted at Khartoum in July 1978 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and General Assembly resolution 33/197 of 29 January 1979 endorsing resolution ECO(XVIII)/Res.2 of the Executive Committee of the Commission,

Welcoming the results of the Inter-agency meeting of March 1978 and the commitment made by United Nations agencies to co-operate with a view to the execution of the work programmes for the Decade,

1. Notes with interest the global strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1978-1988), 29/
2. Expresses its thanks to the General Assembly of the United Nations for having proclaimed the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for the years 1978-1988 and for the financial measures taken to ensure the preparation of the programme of the said Decade;
3. Also expresses its thanks to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for the substantial financial support it agreed to provide to the Economic Commission for Africa which has made it possible to prepare the programme for the first phase of the Decade;
4. Urges member States:
 - (a) To give high priority to the development of transport and communications in the region;
 - (b) To participate effectively in the Conference of Ministers responsible for transport, communications and planning scheduled to take place at Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 May 1979 for the purpose of reviewing and adopting the programme for the first phase of the Decade;
5. Appeals to the General Assembly of the United Nations to continue to make efforts to provide the Commission with all the financial and human resources needed to discharge fully its responsibilities during the Decade;
6. Further appeals to the United Nations Development Programme to increase its financial support to the Commission in order to permit it to prepare and execute the programme for the Decade;
7. Appeals also to the international community to take measures to ensure the full success of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of Donors which will be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the last quarter of 1979 with a view to mobilizing the resources needed to execute the programme for the Decade;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all the measures required to ensure the success of the Decade.

342 (XIV). Transport and communications in Africa^{30/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering its resolution 291 (XIII) of 26 February 1977 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Considering the importance of transport and communications in the development and integration of Africa,

Considering the role that the training of cadres and other staff may play in the development of transport and communications technology,

Considering also that a Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Works will be held from 8 to 12 May 1979 at Addis Ababa to establish a programme of action and prepare a detailed programme of projects for the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Calls on the Executive Secretary to request participants in the aforementioned Conference to consider the inclusion on the programme of action for the Decade of the projects listed hereunder:

(a) Creation of an African Transport Research and Studies Centre responsible for training cadres and promoting the development of transport technology adapted to Africa's needs;

(b) Creation of a training centre for drivers of heavy equipment;

(c) Preparation of a study on a master plan for the African road network based on the nine highways mentioned in document E/CN.14/710/Add.1;

(d) Preparation of an African road charter laying down construction, maintenance and operating standards;

(e) Promotion of the project relating to the construction of the Rabat-Nouakchott road within the framework of the Cairo-Nouakchott link;

(f) Preparation of a feasibility study on the project relating to a Gibraltar crossing within the framework of a permanent link between Africa and Europe, if appropriate, jointly between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe;

(g) Establishment of a subregional maritime transport co-ordinating committee composed of representatives of African shipping lines with the task of harmonizing maritime legislation and establishing a joint data base;

(h) Holding of seminars and workshops in the maritime transport and ports sector;

^{30/} See paras. 273-275 above.

(i) Promotion of inter-State ship building and repair projects;

(j) Promotion of action designed to co-ordinate air freight traffic and liberalize operating rights among African States;

(k) Establishment of telecommunications links among African countries within the framework of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network project.

207th meeting

27 March 1979

343 (XIV). Bilateral trade consultations between African countries ^{31/}

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 222 B (X) of 13 February 1971 in which it was recommended that, in the carrying out of projects with a view to expanding intra-African trade, the Executive Secretary could set up working groups and convene meetings, including the holding of non-committal and confidential bilateral trade consultations in conjunction with the meetings of the Conference of Ministers,

Also recalling its resolution 323 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 referring to the need to take stock of and assess the results of the consultations held at the second, third and fourth meetings of the Conference and inviting member States to provide the secretariat with the necessary information on the results of those consultations and on the follow-up action taken thereon,

1. Notes with satisfaction the Executive Secretary's report on bilateral consultations between African countries containing suggestions as to how consultations and suggesting how best the procedure for the consultations could be improved with a view to enhancing the usefulness of such consultations in promoting intra-African trade, ^{31/}

2. Urges countries which participated in the consultations held in conjunction with the present meeting of the Conference to communicate to the Commission secretariat all relevant information on the results of these consultations and the follow-up action taken systematically every six months until the next session.

207th meeting

27 March 1979

344 (XIV). Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the stress laid at its present meeting on the promotion of intra-African trade as an integral part of the African Strategy for the Third Development Decade,

Recalling its resolution 300 (XIII) of 28 February 1977 on economic co-operation relating to the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations,

Aware of the major role which the Association could play in the promotion of intra-African trade,

1. Urges those member States which have not yet done so to become members of the Association;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to assist the Association in carrying out its work programme.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

345 (XIV). Negotiation of a new co-operation agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Economic Community 32/

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the report and analysis contained in the document on the negotiation of a new co-operation agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Economic Community, 33/

Conscious of the problem facing the negotiations,

Recognizing the necessity for the negotiations to be speedily concluded in order to minimize the expenditure of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group on protracted negotiations,

Noting the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Ministers made on this subject at its nineteenth meeting held at Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania from 23 to 25 October 1978,

32/ See paras. 38-248 above.

33/ E/CN.14/701.

1. Requests the Commission secretariat, within the limits of its resources, to continue to provide, when so requested, African negotiators with the necessary technical support, including that required for the preparation of studies and the provision of appropriate statistical information, in order to assist the group in clarifying issues raised in the negotiations;
2. Calls upon African Governments to continue to provide constant technical, political and financial support to their negotiators;
3. Appeals to the European Economic Community to co-operate fully in ensuring that the negotiations are not unduly protracted and are concluded in the mutual interest of all concerned.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

346 (XIV). Fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 34/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to be held at Manila in the Philippines in May 1979 has special importance in view of the persistent crisis in the international economic system, which has a particularly great impact on African countries, and of the pressing need to accelerate the economic development of developing countries and to re-structure international economic relations within the framework of a new international economic order,

Recalling the recommendations made in the Rapporteur's Report of the Conference of African Trade Ministers adopted at the fifth session of the Conference held at Addis Ababa from 30 January to 1 February 1979 to agree on a common negotiating strategy for the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Further recalling the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations adopted at the fourth Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 held at Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania from 6 to 16 February 1979, which in many of its key elements was largely based on the African position, as defined at the fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade,

Reiterating the disappointment and concern of the African region at the slow progress, and limited results in the implementation of most of the resolutions that were adopted at the fourth and earlier sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as referred to in document E/CN.14/702 and Add.1 and reflected in the above-mentioned Arusha programme,

34/ See paras. 38-48 above.

1. Notes the agreement reached at the United Nations Negotiating Conference on the Common Fund held at Geneva from 12 to 20 March 1979 on the fundamental elements of the Common Fund which would serve as a basis for further work on the drafting of the articles of agreements;
2. Nevertheless reaffirms its conviction that the establishment of the Common Fund without a strong second window will not ensure the full achievement of the objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and that further improvements are therefore necessary, especially in respect of the scope of the second window and the resources that would be available to it and the voting system;
3. Strongly urges African delegations at the meeting of the Interim Committee of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on the Common Fund and at the reconvened negotiations to press for the necessary improvements and to ensure that the final Agreement incorporates these improvements;
4. Calls on African delegations at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to maintain unity among themselves and with other members of the Group of 77 and use their full bargaining power with a view to ensuring that the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations is fully defended;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide member States with the technical support of the secretariat during negotiations at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and at subsequent meetings;
6. Invites the Executive Secretary as soon as possible after the fifth session to undertake a preliminary assessment of the results obtained and their implications for Africa in the light of the Arusha Programme of Action for Collective Self-Reliance and Framework for Negotiations and of recommendations adopted by the present Conference;
7. Requests the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to hold consultations with African Ministers in Manila during the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the need for convening a meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to undertake an evaluation of the outcome of that session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit a comprehensive report on the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and its aftermath to the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and fifteenth session of the Commission to be held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 April 1980.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

347 (XIV). Transnational corporations 35/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Also recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1961 (LIX) of 29 July 1975 on joint liaison and support units of the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations and the regional commissions,

Having considered the major issues relating to the operations of transnational corporations in Africa as set forth in the document submitted to it on that subject, 36/

Mindful of the need to control and eliminate the negative effects of the operations of transnational corporations on the economies of developing African countries and to take the necessary steps to maximize their contribution to the socio-economic development of member States,

Noting that the Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations established by an agreement between the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Director of the Centre on Transnational Corporations is now fully operational,

1. Urges States members of the Commission to establish a system of exchange of information and sharing of experiences, especially as concerns negotiations and other agreements between host countries and transnational corporations, and to give their full support to the work of the Joint Unit in this field;

2. Requests member States which have not yet done so to intensify their efforts to implement its resolution 326 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 urging member States to set up appropriate units to monitor the activities of transnational corporations and deal with problems arising therefrom, on the understanding that the work of such national units would also include the evaluation of the activity of transnational corporations at the national level; advising governments, parastatal and private enterprises on how to negotiate with transnational corporations and acting as a contact point with the Joint Unit;

3. Calls upon the Commission Transnational Corporations to intensify its efforts aimed at working out urgently an effective code of conduct related to transnational corporations, taking fully into account the interests of the African region;

35/ See paras. 38-248 above.

36/ E/CN.14/703.

4. Welcomes the way in which the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Economic Commission for Africa are working together in developing and implementing a common programme of technical co-operation aimed at strengthening the capability of the countries of the region to deal with transnational corporations.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

348 (XIV). Manpower development 37/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 306 (XVIII) of 1 March 1977 on co-operation in manpower development and utilization in which it recommended that member States should, inter alia, make maximum use of the training and research facilities of existing African technical colleges, universities and other specialized institutions for the training of African nationals, and should accordingly reserve a number of places in their institutions for students from other developing countries to be filled through student exchange and scholarship programmes,

Reaffirming its resolution 318 (XVIII) of 1 March 1977 on training for development in which the Executive Secretary was called on, inter alia, to initiate appropriate studies and follow-up action for the mobilization of resources for the operation of a Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa, which should accord priority to the critical manpower requirements of member States, and to promote the development of appropriate multinational, subregional or regional training institutions and programmes designed to meet Africa's present and future manpower needs,

Recalling also its resolution 319 (XVIII) of 1 March 1977 on accelerated industrialization in Africa, in which it called upon member States to adopt and implement policies, programmes and projects at the national level in respect of the industrial sector, including manpower; recommended that special attention should be given in international consultations and negotiations to programmes for training local manpower and appealed to the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to contribute their expertise to solving problems of industrial manpower,

Aware of the manpower and management challenge implicit in the Lima target of industrial output in respect of Africa, 38/ the technical and managerial inputs needed to ensure the success of the African Regional Food Programme, the Transport and Communications Decade, the transformation of the rural sector and to achieve accelerated development in other sectors of national economies, including the efficient running of the public services and the profitable management of public enterprises,

Noting the action already taken by the secretariat in establishing and operating the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa, which is designed to enhance the training capability of African multinational and regional training institutions and to train Africans in critical areas of manpower requirements particularly in industry, agriculture, science and technology, transport, management and education,

37/ See paras. 266-272 above.

38/ Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation (document ID/B/155/Add.1).

Deploring the resource constraint in the implementation of this very important training programme,

Welcoming the effort being made by the secretariat to promote the establishment and development of subregional graduate schools of business management and finance in Africa and its support of the development of management educators in an attempt to help African States to develop much needed self-reliance in managerial capability in their national development efforts,

Recognizing that further efforts to enhance Africa's resources in trained manpower and managerial capability could contribute very significantly to the achievement of national objectives within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the implementation of a new international economic order in Africa based on self-sustaining and self-reliant economies,

Endorsing the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of an African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 27 November 1978, which called for the establishment of an African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research concerned in particular with the training of middle- and higher-level technicians, and technical instructors and with the post-experience training of engineers and technologists, 39/

Expressing gratitude for the assistance given through the Commission by various non-African Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies and organizations for the training of African nationals and in particular for the financial and fellowship support so far given to the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa,

I. General

1. Endorses the objectives, design and operation of the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa;
2. Decides that an African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research shall be established forthwith and located in a member country to be decided by the Governing Council of the Institute;

II. Action by member States

3. Calls upon member States and African intergovernmental organizations to:
 - (a) Make meaningful contributions in both funds and fellowships in support of the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa;

(b) Co-operate effectively with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the country chosen to host the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research in getting the Institute established and operational as soon as possible by promptly paying their contributions and providing other appropriate support;

III. Action by the United Nations system and other organizations

4. Appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies in the United Nations system, and to bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations outside the United Nations to intensify their co-operation with the Commission secretariat in the training of Africans and in particular to:

(a) Support the establishment and operation of the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research with grants, expert personnel, equipment and fellowships;

(b) Participate meaningfully in the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa by providing grants and fellowships for the first five years of the programme;

IV. Action by the Commission secretariat

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to:

(a) Seek the assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Labour Organisation, in particular in determining the trained manpower requirements in the various branches of the basic industries as a basis for working out and operating both long-term specialized training for African nationals and short-term in-plant training designed to eliminate any manpower constraints in the realization of the Lima target of industrial output in respect of Africa;

(b) Intensify the implementation of the study and experimentation project on job breakdown, skill analysis and accelerated training techniques suitably adapted for use in industries and other establishments in member States;

(c) Identify and establish contact with qualified African specialists residing and working outside Africa with a view to getting them to seek appointment in the various regional and subregional training and research institutions being established or already operating in Africa;

(d) Develop and expand the capacity of the secretariat to collect and deliver information on African specialists and consultancy organizations with a view to facilitating their placement and use in Africa;

(e) Within the framework of the resources available under the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme for Africa, accord priority to manpower training in the fields of natural resources inventory and appraisal, solar energy development and utilization and transport and communications with a view to meeting the urgent need for manpower in these fields;

(f) Both at the secretariat and through the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre initiate a concrete programme for the provision of technical assistance, advisory services and training in organizational development and improved management in the public services and enterprises of member States;

(g) Continue to support the subregional graduate schools of business management with grants, fellowships and staff development;

(h) Submit to each meeting of the Conference of Ministers progress reports on the Expanded Training and Fellowship Programme in Africa and on the establishment and operation of the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

349 (XIV). Support for African multinational training, research and service institutions 40/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 297 (XIII) of 28 February 1977 on economic co-operation in the field of natural resources, in which it called on African countries which had not yet signed and ratified the agreements on the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys, the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping and the East African Mineral Resources Development Centre to give full political and material support to those institutions,

Noting with regret that there has been no significant improvement with regard to the support extended to those three Centres,

Recalling further its resolution 318 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on training for development, in which it called on the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to promote the development of appropriate African multinational, subregional or regional training institutions and programmes designed to meet Africa's present and future manpower needs using, whenever feasible and desirable, existing national or multinational institutions,

Aware that of the developing regions of the world, Africa is the least endowed with resources in trained manpower, research capability and specialized services,

Noting that African States have on several occasions agreed to establish jointly institutions with specific objectives and that these objectives have continued to be relevant to the cause of African economic and social development,

Recognizing that many multinational institutions for training, research and services are set up primarily because their establishment on a national basis is not often practical and that in many cases their purpose is to encourage the establishment of national counterparts,

Concerned that the effectiveness of some of these institutions that African States have voluntarily decided to establish has suffered from a variety of problems, the principal one being inadequate financial, moral and political support from member States,

Convinced that, in order to be self-reliant, African States need to cooperate in the establishment of institutions for training, research and services, which have a vital role to play in the advancement of the region, and that such institutions can best achieve their objectives when given full and effective support by member States,

Urges all member States upon subscribing to membership in an African multinational, subregional or regional training, research or service institution to:

(a) Pay their annual contribution to the budget of that institution and meet any other financial obligations they may have to it regularly and promptly;

40/ See paras. 266-272 above.

(b) Participate effectively in the management of the institution;

(c) Show the same positive interest in the survival, growth and progress of the institution as they would accord to national institutions in recognition of its importance in the infrastructure for collective self-reliant and self-sustaining development and economic growth.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

350 (XIV). Administrative and budgetary questions relating to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning: Statute and finances 41/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 250 (XI) of 22 February 1973, 285 (XII) of 28 February 1975 and 320 (XXII) of 1 March 1977 on the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Noting:

(a) That, at its eighteenth meeting held in Khartoum in May 1978, 42/ the Executive Committee of the Commission endorsed the statute of the Institute as adopted by resolution 320 (XIII) and revised in the light of the proposals made by the Secretary-General on the advice of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations and recommended that the revised statute be submitted through the Economic and Social Council for approval by the General Assembly,

(b) That, at its nineteenth meeting held in Dakar in February 1979, the Governing Council of the Institute recommended the adoption of the draft statute as amended, without prejudice to having the provisions of the statute reviewed at the beginning of the next phase of the Institute at a time when the future financing of the Institute would be the subject of a complete evaluation,

(c) That, at its seventeenth meeting held in Addis Ababa in December 1977, the Governing Council of the Institute adopted a two-year programme as decided by resolution 320 (XIII), 43/

(d) That, at its seventh session held in Addis Ababa in December 1978, the Conference of African Planners, 44/ after consideration of the report of the Institute on the implementation of the two-year programme, recognized that unless the member States fulfilled their financial commitment as decided by resolution 285 (XII), the Institute would not be in a position to implement effectively its programme of activities,

(e) That, during its deliberations at its seventh session, the Conference of African Planners further considered the administrative procedures for collecting the contributions of member States for the Institute,

(f) That, at its nineteenth meeting held in Dakar in February 1979, the Governing Council of the Institute, after consideration of the financial resources available to the Institute for 1979, recognized that a minimal annual budget of \$US 1,800,000 would be needed for the implementation of the Institute's two-year programme,

41/ See paras. 266-272 above.

42/ E/CN.14/692 - E/CN.14/ECO/143.

43/ E/CN.14/723 - E/CN.14/ECO/164.

44/ E/CN.14/717 - E/CN.14/CAP/7/11.

(g) That, at the eighteenth session held in Dakar in December 1977, the Governing Council of IDEP adopted a proposal recommending that countries use their United Nations Development Programme indicative planning figures to finance the fellowships of their nationals at the Institute as an additional means of increasing the resources available to the Institute,

(h) That, at its nineteenth meeting held in Dakar in February 1979 the Governing Council of the Institute, bearing in mind that the Institute was a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa, recommended that funds be made available to the Institute from the United Nations regular budget through the budget of the Commission,

1. Adopts the revised statute of the Institute as amended by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Commission after amendment of article IV.2(d) which is contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. Invites the Executive Secretary to submit the statute as adopted through the Economic and Social Council for approval by the General Assembly;

3. Urges member States to pay their arrears of financial contributions to the Institute and to pay their annual contributions regularly and on time;

4. Appeals to the member States concerned to clear all their outstanding assessed contributions by the end of 1980;

5. Requests the co-operation of the United Nations Development Programme through its resident representatives, in facilitating the regular collection of the financial contributions of member States;

6. Requests also member States to consider the possibility of awarding scholarships which may be financed out of their national indicative planning figures to meet the costs of training their nationals at the Institute;

7. Further requests the Executive Secretary to do everything within his power to give new impetus to the Institute and to secure the necessary financial resources, through the United Nations regular budget, in order to meet the cost of two additional professional posts and teaching material at the Institute.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

ANNEX

Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Article I

Purpose and functions of the Institute

1. The primary purpose of the Institute shall be the training of specialists and senior officials of those services and institutions in Africa responsible for economic development and planning. Such training shall include appropriate supportive research activities. The Institute shall also organize seminars of varied duration on practical problems of national or regional development and of the planning of various economic factors. The functions of the Institute shall be as follows:

(a) To provide at its headquarters training courses of varying duration on various aspects of development and planning. The details of such courses and the requirements for admission shall be determined periodically by the Governing Council on the advice of the Advisory Board on Studies and Research. The Council will also determine the type and nature of the certificates to be awarded at the end of such activities;

(b) To organize in African countries, in co-operation with the appropriate national services and the specialized agencies concerned, seminars of varying duration on practical problems of national and regional development and planning;

(c) To provide advisory services at the request of Governments and in so far as the training programme allows;

(d) To establish documentation which will be made available throughout Africa to research workers, to national institutions dealing with economic development problems and to subregional organizations in the field of economic planning and development;

(e) In undertaking these four functions, the Institute should take into account the paramount importance of promoting and defending the economic independence of African countries.

Article II

Site of the Institute

1. The headquarters of the Institute shall be situated at Dakar, Senegal.

2. The host Government shall provide, in agreement with the United Nations, adequate premises, facilities and services as required for the efficient operation of the Institute.

Article III

Status and organization of the Institute

1. The Institute is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa.
2. The Institute shall have its own Governing Council and budget. It shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, except as may be otherwise provided by the General Assembly. It shall also be subject to the Financial Rules, the Staff Rules and all other administrative issuances of the Secretary-General, except as may be otherwise decided by him.
3. In addition, there shall be an Advisory Board on Studies and Research, a Director and supporting staff.

Article IV

The Governing Council

1. The Governing Council shall be composed as follows:
 - (a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who shall be ex-officio Chairman;
 - (b) A representative of the Government of Senegal;
 - (c) Twelve members appointed by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa on the recommendation of the Conference of African Planners. These members, selected on the basis of their personal competence and experience in affairs connected with the work of the Institute, must be nationals of 12 different African countries, chosen with due consideration for the principle of geographic distribution. They shall be appointed for a period of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment. To achieve continuity, six of the 12 shall initially be appointed for two years. Vacancies occurring due to disability or resignation shall be filled for the interim period by the ECA Executive Committee or the Conference of Ministers, whichever meets first;
 - (d) During the period of UNDP assistance to the Institute, a UNDP representative, who will normally be the UNDP resident representative at Dakar, shall participate as a non-voting member in the deliberations of the Governing Council;
 - (e) The Director of the Institute shall act as secretary of the Governing Council.
2. The Governing Council shall:
 - (a) Lay down general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, including the general conditions of admission;

- (b) Review and approve work programmes and the relevant budgets;
 - (c) Examine and approve the Director's annual report on the work and progress of the Institute, including the budgetary and financial report for the preceding year;
 - (d) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute including a complete audited report in respect of all income and expenditures at the appropriate meeting of the Executive Committee of the Economic Commission for Africa or the Conference of Ministers;
 - (e) Review the administration of the Institute and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate.
3. The Governing Council shall hold an ordinary session twice a year, once to adopt the budget and programme activities and once to review the management report and statement of accounts. It may hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Chairman or one third of its members. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article V

The Chairman of the Governing Council

1. The Chairman of the Council shall:
 - (a) Convene the Governing Council and prepare its agenda;
 - (b) By delegation of authority from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, appoint the Director and other staff of the Institute;
 - (c) With the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive aid from specialized agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other sources.

Article VI

The Director

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon recommendation by the Executive Secretary of ECA, shall appoint the Director of the Institute. The Executive Secretary shall consult with the Governing Council before making his recommendation. The initial appointment of the Director shall be for three years, renewable for succeeding periods of two years each.
2. The Director will be assisted by a Deputy Director.
3. The Director shall have the responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute. In accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, he shall:

(a) Submit the programme and budget of the Institute to the Governing Council for approval;

(b) Carry out programmes and effect disbursements as provided in the budget through which funds have been allocated;

(c) Submit to the Governing Council annual reports on the activities of the Institute, together with a complete report on revenue and expenditure for the preceding period;

(d) Submit the names of senior personnel for approval and appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, depending on the level of the posts to be encumbered;

(e) Select and appoint personnel of the Institute other than those in (d) above, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(f) Make the necessary arrangements with other national and international organizations for the utilization of the services offered by the Institute, it being understood that arrangements with national organizations will be made with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Article VII

Advisory Board on Studies and Research

1. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research shall be composed of:
 - The Director of the Institute;
 - The Deputy Director;
 - Two senior lecturers nominated by the Director;
 - A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa;
 - A representative of each of the United Nations agencies concerned;
 - Four professors or research workers appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Council, having regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation;
 - Two senior members of appropriate university disciplines outside Africa, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to be appointed by the Governing Council and proposed by the Chairman.
2. Members of the Board appointed by the Chairman of the Governing Council shall normally be requested to serve for at least three years.
3. The Director shall be the Chairman of the Advisory Board on Studies and Research.

4. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research shall be responsible for giving technical advice with regard to the design of research and study programmes of the Institute.

5. The Board shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairman. At its meeting, it shall formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Governing Council on the future work programme of IDEP.

Article VIII

Co-operation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, within the limits of its resources, assist the Institute in every possible way in order to facilitate its work in economic planning for Africa. In particular, ECA should, from time to time, make available to the Institute experienced staff to give lectures, to assist in supervising research and to participate in seminars.

Article IX

Financial resources and rules governing the financial management of the Institute

The Institute shall derive its finances from contributions made by African Governments and by UNDP. The Institute may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and institutions, Governments and non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Institute of offers of such further assistance shall, in every case, be subject to the decision of the Chairman of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the basic aims of the Institute and the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Institute. The Chairman of the Governing Council shall report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

Article X

General remarks

1. This statute supersedes that adopted pursuant to resolution 93 (VI) of 27 February 1964 at the 109th meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Secretary-General is requested to issue revised administrative instructions to ensure the effective implementation of this statute.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

351 (XIV). Regional Food Plan for Africa 45/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that there are various reasons for the decline of agricultural and food production which can be attributed in particular to poor climatic conditions, underdeveloped and inadequate production systems and methods, irrational distribution, an inadequate quantity of graded and/or improved seeds and food products, ineffective utilization of available technology, insufficient factors of production, insufficient control over the ecology and the environment and socio-economic and institutional constraints,

Recognizing the importance of the Freetown Declaration adopted by member States at the ninth FAO Regional Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture in November 1976, and resolution 4/78 on the Regional Food Plan for Africa adopted by the tenth FAO/ECA Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture for Africa in September 1978, 46/

Recalling its resolutions 289 (XIII) and 290 (XIII) of 26 February 1977, 296 (XIII) of 28 February 1977, and 317 (XIII) of 1 March 1977,

1. Recommends that the Commission, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the World Food Council, working in collaboration with regional financial institutions such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the African Development Bank and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and other international multilateral and bilateral financing organizations and institutions, continue to give assistance, on request and within the limit of their resources, to inter-governmental organizations in Africa with respect to their agricultural and food policies, programmes and projects;

2. Further recommends that the Commission expedite the establishment of a Feasibility Study and Investment Promotion Unit to assist member States in undertaking prefeasibility and feasibility studies and investment promotion in all economic projects, and in particular in major projects relating to food and agriculture within the context of the implementation of the Regional Food Plan;

3. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to utilize, as appropriate, part of the resources made available under the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development in order to ensure that the Unit is established without delay;

4. Urges African Governments to give full support to subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations in their efforts to increase and improve food production and trade among African countries;

5. Appeals to member States effectively to implement the Regional Food Plan for Africa.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

45/ See paras. 38-248 above.

46/ FAO document ARC/78/REP.

352 (XIV). Agrarian reform and rural development

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious that inadequate agrarian systems and production structures are among the factors that have hampered the development of agriculture, especially of food production in the African region,

Recognizing that the majority of the population in the region depends directly on rural activities for their livelihood,

Taking note of resolution 13/77 of the nineteenth FAO Conference and the Economic and Social Council resolutions convening a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in Rome in July 1979,

1. Welcomes the resolution on agrarian reform and rural development adopted at the tenth biennial FAO/ECA Regional Conference of African Ministers of Agriculture held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in September 1978; 47/
2. Acknowledges that, in order to achieve higher levels of productivity, the need for increased optimum distribution of resources and income to the rural areas and more employment opportunities implies that the existing traditional land tenure systems and rural institutions in member States may have to be adjusted;
3. Urges the Governments of the region to improve the socio-economic infrastructure essential for the promotion of integrated rural development;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate actively with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other relevant United Nations organizations in the work of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination's Interagency Task Force on Rural Development Joint Exercise at Country Level for Africa;
5. Calls upon the Commission, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Organization of African Unity, to convene a Regional Meeting on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as soon as practicable to consider the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and the practical ways of implementing those pertinent to the African region.

207th meeting
27 March 1979

353 (XIV). Least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected African countries 48/

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering that the majority of the least developed, land-locked and most seriously affected countries are in Africa,

Recalling United Nations recommendations and resolutions, particularly resolution 2564 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969 and 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 on international development strategy and 2803 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, on the programme of action for establishing the new international economic order,

Further recalling its resolutions 210 (IX), 222 (X), 232 (X) and 218 (X) and 238 (XI) of 13 February 1971 on Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s and the report of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commission, 1978, 49/

Bearing in mind the ongoing and planned activities assisted by the various agencies of the United Nations system in support of the development efforts of these countries,

Considering the need for fruitful co-operation among African countries during the Third United Nations Development Decade,

Having regard to the priority need of land-locked and island countries for transport and communications to promote and expand their economic development,

Considering that inadequate shipping links with island countries and high freight charges are obstacles to the growth of trade in land-locked and island countries,

1. Endorses the general resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Africa on the International Development Strategy and Africa's Development Strategy;

2. Calls on coastal and neighbouring land-locked countries to increase their efforts at co-operation in order to help in the search for solutions to the problems of opening up land-locked countries;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary, within the framework of Africa's Development Strategy, to draw up a special programme of aid and assistance to least developed, land-locked and island countries in line with their needs, particularly in the fields of transport, communications and trade;

4. Appeals to member States to take the necessary measures to ensure the success of ongoing bilateral and multilateral negotiations aimed at facilitating access to ports for land-locked countries and goods transit facilities as well as appropriate application of customs charges;

48/ See paras. 38-48 above.

49/ E/CN.14/723.

5. Calls on the Executive Secretary to assist member States upon request in achieving the objectives set out in paragraph 4 above;

6. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in co-operation with donor countries, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to give substantial aid to the least developed countries, particularly land-locked and island countries, in their endeavours to open up their economies;

7. Calls on all member countries to give their full support to the crash programme and the new programme of action for the 1980s adopted at the fourth Conference of Ministers of the Group of 77 at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

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354 (XIV). Economic and social conditions in Africa 50/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VII) of 1 May 1974 on the establishment of a new international economic order and resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Also recalling its own resolutions 218 (X) of 13 February 1971 and 238 (XI) of 22 February 1973 on Africa's Strategy for Development in the 1970s,

Recalling further the "Revised framework of principles for the establishment of a new international economic order in Africa 51/ approved at its fourth meeting held in Kinshasa and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Libreville,

Bearing in mind the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa 52/ prepared by the secretariat of the Commission and the conclusions of the Addis Ababa Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Africa 53/ and the Monrovia Symposium, 54/

Also bearing in mind the need for African Governments to have a prospective vision of African development challenges with a view to reorganizing their development effort accordingly,

Aware of the need for self-reliant and self-sustaining development in Africa based on the forces and resources available within the countries and geared to ensuring well-being and improving the quality of life, with special reference to the satisfaction of material and non-material needs,

1. Recommends that member States should improve their economic, social and cultural structures based on the principle of self-reliant and sustaining development and growth so as to contribute effectively to the on-going activities to establish a new international economic order;

2. Also recommends that greater emphasis be placed on development studies and research as a contribution to the preparation of medium-term and long-term development strategies;

3. Accordingly invites member States to draw on the conclusions and suggestions of the Addis Ababa Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Africa and the Monrovia Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 when preparing their development strategies;

50/ See paras. 38-248 above.

51/ E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3.

52/ E/CN.14/697, parts I and II.

53/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1.

54/ E/CN.14/698/Add.2.

4. Also recommends that member States should pursue their efforts to improve harmonious income distribution and employment creation and seek the best ways and means of encouraging the active and effective participation of all sectors of the population in the development process with a view to promoting social justice;

5. Requests member States to improve the living conditions of the rural population in all development sectors for the purpose of eliminating the disparities between the urban and the rural areas;

6. Requests member States to take measures to prevent the brain drain from Africa to the developed countries and to encourage African cadres living abroad to return home.

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355 (XIV). Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries 55/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order,

Recalling also the Plans of Action of the Mexico Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held in September 1976 56/ and the Buenos Aires Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in September 1978, 57/ as well as its own resolutions which have as their principal objectives the fostering, development and the implementation of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recalling further the various resolutions adopted at meetings held outside the United Nations framework on economic and technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries as an instrument for collective self-reliance and for the attainment of the New International Economic Order,

Supporting the idea of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres becoming the focal point for the combined efforts at the subregional level of all United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations engaged in economic and technical co-operation activities in Africa,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in developing close links with the four other regional commissions to bring about economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of the various regions,

1. Endorses resolution 1 (VII) on the ECA/ECLA Interregional Action Programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America, adopted by the seventh session of the Conference of African Planners and annexed hereto;

2. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to intensify efforts for the foundation and implementation of similar action programmes with the Economic Commission for Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe;

3. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Development Programme to convene in 1980 an intergovernmental meeting of African experts to study concrete ways and means of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries in Africa;

55/ See paras 306-326 above.

56/ A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1.

57/ United Nations publication, sales No. E.78.11, A.11.

4. Urges all African Governments to participate actively in the preparation of that meeting and in the meeting itself;

5. Requests the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the responsible organizations for technical co-operation among developing countries and economic co-operation among developing countries, as well as other United Nations agencies, to continue to promote and support economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, by providing the necessary resources, both human and financial;

6. Appeals to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the resources required to enable the Commission to build a cadre of effective and efficient support staff at the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

7. Appeals further to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary steps to eliminate the very fine line of distinction between economic co-operation and technical co-operation by reviewing the present institutional machinery designed to deal with these areas of activity.

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Resolution 1 (VII). ECA/ECLA Interregional Action Programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America 58/

The Conference of African Planners,

Having examined the proposal submitted jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America for an ECA/ECLA Interregional Action Programme for the promotion of technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America, 59/

Recognizing that that proposal has been submitted pursuant to resolutions on interregional co-operation adopted by the policy organs of both regional commissions and by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Recognizing further that the joint proposal is in the spirit and within the context of the Plan of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, particularly as it relates to interregional co-operation,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa on their initiatives;

2. Endorses the joint proposal contained in document E/CN.14/CAP.7/6 and recommends that it be used as a basis for formulation of a joint Interregional Action Programme between Africa and Latin America;

3. Recommends that African and Latin American countries share their planning experience inter alia by:

(a) Attending each others' planners' conferences and seminars;

(b) Exchanging information on the institutional and legal machinery for importing technology and on contractual agreements with transnational corporations on the transfer of technology, so that in the long run they can standardize their legislation and increase their collective bargaining power vis-a-vis the transnational corporations;

(c) Exchanging information on research and engineering activities to make it possible to establish a network for collecting and disseminating technological and scientific information;

(d) Concluding bilateral economic and technical co-operation agreements and establishing joint commissions to monitor their implementation;

(e) Formulating specific projects within selected sectors and seeking the necessary financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme and/or other appropriate organizations;

58/ See paras. 293-294 above.

59/ E/CN.14/CAP.7/6.

(f) Promoting cultural co-operation between the countries of the two regions;

4. Recommends that the present resolution be brought to the attention of the next Conference of Ministers of two regional commissions with a view to incorporating the proposed ECA/ECLA interregional work programme into their respective work programmes for 1979-1980 and beyond.

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356 (XIV). Acceleration of industrial development 60/

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order in Africa 1976-1986, 61/

Guided by the report of the Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 62/ organized by the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in Monrovia, Liberia from 12 to 16 February 1979 and the report of the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles for the African Region 63/ held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 March 1979; and the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development, 64/

Bearing in mind the decisions and priority industrial branches adopted by the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry in Kaduna in March 1977, 65

Conscious of the close relationship between the structure, orientation and quality of national and multinational facilities for human resources development, the types of technologies developed, the product mix, and effective participation in production and distribution,

Aware of the large number of small national markets for industrial products in many African countries at present,

Taking note of factors such as technical fragmentation, product differentiation, rapid product succession and poor inter-firm sales and purchase arrangements all of which inhibit the internal growth of the industrial sector, thereby preventing it from serving as a motive power for promoting the development of other sectors,

Taking note further that in general Africa consumes what it does not produce and produces what it does not consume,

Conscious of the need to restructure domestic markets by inter alia promoting expansion and the demand for industrial products for consumption by the mass of the people partly in order to reduce mass poverty and to expand opportunities for industrial employment and also by encouraging the balanced regional distribution of industry within national borders,

Keenly aware of the serious deficiencies of industrial entrepreneurial resources including national and multinational capabilities for project design, planning and management and for over-all industrial programming,

60/ See paras. 38-248 above.

61/ E/CN.14/ECO/90/Rev.3.

62/ E/CN.14/698/Add.2.

63/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1.

64/ See document A/10112, chap. IV.

65/ E/CN.14/689.

1. Affirms that efforts to evolve internally self-sustaining industrial development processes in the African economies should aim at creating productive capacities in terms of mutually complementary and integrated skill, technical and managerial expertise, physical industrial productive structures and infra-structures so as to be able to satisfy the changing domestic industrial material needs of the mass of the population;

2. Invites African countries to give close consideration to the role of industrial priorities agreed upon by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Kaduna in November 1977, viz., food and agro-industry forest-industries, building materials, engineering, chemicals and metallurgical industries, in their industrial development policies strategies and programmes, taking into account their direct bearing on the development of the rest of the economy especially agriculture, mining, transport and communications;

3. Recommends that, in the implementation of industrial priorities at the national and multinational levels, special attention be given to the following:

(a) Continuous review and appraisal of industrial strategies taking into account the results of the forthcoming Symposium on Industrial Policies and Strategies;

(b) Progress in the development of effective national and regional consultancy services, industrial management cadres and national, multinational and regional institutions which support industrial production activity such as development banks, industrial estates, business information centres, centres for the testing of raw materials and finished products, quality control advisory services, and so on;

(c) Progress in the establishment of institutions for the mobilization of African and international financial resources for industrial development;

(d) The character and effects of industrial linkages;

(e) Progress in the integration of national economies and domestic markets for industrial products;

(f) Progress in the strengthening of national, multinational and regional arrangements for international negotiations bearing in mind, inter-alia, the system of international industrial consultations called for by the Lima Declaration;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant international organizations to strengthen the Commission's programme of technical assistance to the African countries at the regional level as far as multisectoral activities are concerned;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary to convey the present resolution to the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry as an input for the preparation of Africa's participation in the third General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

357 (XIV). Science and Technology 66/

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware of the crucial role of science and technology in economic development,

Aware also that science and technology are the least developed elements in the socio-economic apparatus of African countries and that progress in the exploitation of natural resources and in industrial development is often hampered by the low technological capabilities of African countries,

Aware further of the need for greater efforts towards the development of indigenous technologies consistent with the development policies and appropriate to the conditions and requirements of the countries of the region,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 in which, inter alia, the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development with the objective of enabling developing countries to apply science and technology to their development,

Noting the preparatory activities that have taken place at the national, subregional and regional levels in the African region for the Conference,

Noting in particular the report of the African Regional Meeting 67/ held in Cairo from 24 to 29 August 1978 and the views and recommendations expressed by member States,

Convinced that the document, and in particular the Programme of Action set out in it, truly reflect the wishes and aspirations of the African peoples,

Taking into account the report of the Symposium on the Future Development Prospects of Africa towards the Year 2000 held in Monrovia, Liberia, from 12 to 16 February 1979 and the report of the Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 5 to 9 March 1979, 60/

Recognizing that the Science and Technology Unit at the Commission and the African Regional Centre for Technology will be among the principal instruments for the implementation of action programmes for Africa emerging from the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

1. Decides that the Programme of Action should constitute the basis for formulating the section of the World Programme of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development relating to Africa with emphasis on programmes for the development of indigenous technology;

66/ See paras. 276-281 above.

67/ E/CN.14/711/Add.1.

68/ E/CN.14/698/Add.1 and 2.

2. Urges all Governments of the region:

(a) To ensure relevant and active participation in all preparatory activities leading to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and in the Conference itself so as to influence effectively the evaluation of the said Programme of Action;

(b) To offer their full political, moral and material support towards the implementation of the African Regional Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development;

(c) In this regard in particular to support the African Regional Centre for Technology;

3. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take appropriate steps to mobilize adequate resources from all sources both within and outside of the United Nations system to enable the relevant organizations, including the Commission, to implement action programme for the African region emerging from the Conference;

4. Recommends that member States should provide material, financial and moral support for the application of science and technology at the national level.

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358 (XIV). Human settlements 69/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having examined the report of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlement, 70/

Noting General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977 concerning institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements, including arrangements at the regional level,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which particular stress was laid on the responsibilities of the regional commissions in so far as regional co-ordination and co-operation were concerned,

Recalling its own resolution 316 (XIII) of 19 March 1977 on institutional arrangements in the field of human settlements at the regional level,

Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/74 of 4 August 1978 on regional co-operation and development in which the Council affirmed its conviction that the regional commissions were in a particularly advantageous position to promote subregional, regional and interregional co-operation in their respective regions,

1. Takes note of the comments and observations made by the Executive Committee in connexion with human settlements in the report of the nineteenth meetings; 71/

2. Welcomes the efforts made by the secretariat, in co-operation with other agencies of the United Nations system, to organize the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 October 1978;

3. Endorses the resolutions adopted by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

4. Reaffirms the competence of the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements to take decisions concerning human settlements in accordance with the provisions made in General Assembly resolution 32/162;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to take the measure needed to implement decisions taken by the Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements;

69/ See paras. 266-272 above.

70/ E/CN.14/ECO/162 - E/CN.14/HUS/33.

71/ E/CN.14/723.

6. Supports the action taken by the Executive Secretary to secure effective decentralization to the Commission of responsibilities in respect of regional policy and programmes relating to human settlements;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all steps necessary to ensure that the Human Settlements Unit set up within the secretariat be constituted as an entity within the Commission's secretariat with adequate resources to enable it to undertake effectively the tasks set out in General Assembly resolution 32/162 and its own resolution 316 (XIII);

8. Invites member States individually and within the framework of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres to pay urgent attention to the formulation of policies and strategies, the establishment of instruments and appropriate legislation relating to human settlements and to the incorporation of such policies, strategies and instruments in national development plans;

9. Also invites the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the policy of decentralizing the resources and operational activities of the Commission to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres, to give assistance to member States in the design of policies and strategies as well as in the establishment of instruments and appropriate legislation as recommended in paragraph 8 above;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of Ministers in due course on the activities of the Commission in respect of human settlements, including action taken in pursuance of paragraph 8 above;

11. Invites member States, the competent organs of the United Nations system and donor countries to assist the Executive Secretary in securing the resources needed to establish on a fully operational basis the Human Settlements Unit and to implement effectively decisions relating to human settlements policy and programmes in the African region.

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359 (XIV). Data Bank 72/

The Conference of Ministers,

Conscious of the poor state of numerical and non-numerical information and documentation resources and referral services in Africa,

Convinced that well organized numerical and non-numerical information and documentation services with emphasis on internally generated documents and data are urgently needed for the new approach to the economic development of Africa,

Taking into account the objectives collectively agreed upon by member States to promote at the national, subregional and regional levels an increasing measure of self-reliance and self-sustainment,

Recognizing the need to develop national, subregional and regional data bases reflecting this change in perspective,

Recalling that the Executive Committee of the Commission at its fifteenth meeting held in Algiers 73/ and the Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government at its eleventh session held in Libreville in 1977 recommended close co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the Commission for the creation of a Pan-African Data Bank,

Recalling the programme for the development of household survey capabilities in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the secretariat to create a pan-African numerical and non-numerical information network, with subregional branches based on national information and documentation systems and in close co-operation with existing international systems and networks,

1. Endorses the general design and objectives of the African Data Bank;
2. Invites the Executive Secretary to provide, out of the resources at his disposal, assistance to member States in order to enable them to create national numerical and non-numerical information systems and services;
3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to assist member States to establish national data banks and to facilitate in so far as possible free access of African countries to data banks of industrialized countries containing information to which African countries have had no access hitherto, so that Africa can have a network of data banks at the regional, subregional and national levels;
4. Also calls upon member States to give the Executive Secretary the fullest possible assistance and to co-operate with him in the design and implementation of this project;

72/ See para. 322 above.

73/ See E/CN.14/655 - E/CN.14/ECO/116.

5. Further calls upon donor Governments and institutions to give the necessary assistance to ECA to enable it to realize this project;

6. Expresses appreciation for assistance already rendered to the project by the International Development Research Centre of Canada and wishes that such assistance will continue to be made available in future.

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360 (XIV). Creation of national commissions for the advancement of women in development 74/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 269 (XII) of 28 February 1975,

Recalling also resolution 18 of the World Conference of the International Women's Year 75/ in which Governments were requested to set up national commissions to enable women to participate actively in development,

Further recalling that paragraph 34 of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year 76/ states inter alia that the establishment of national machinery is essential for the full integration of women in national life,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development which was adopted for the region under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa, 77/

Noting the reports of the secretariat on national, subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development and progress reports of the subregional committees,

Appreciating the results obtained by those member States which have received assistance from the African Training and Research Centre for Women in the creation or strengthening of national machineries in line with their socio-political conditions,

Noting that the report of the review mission relating to the African Training and Research Centre for Women 78/ stresses that the effectiveness of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and the success of the subregional committees would depend upon the relations established with the respective national machineries,

1. Requests the Commission to continue its assistance for the creation or strengthening of national machineries;
2. Further requests member States which have not **already done so to take the necessary action** to set up national machineries for women with the **task** of outlining national strategies for the full integration of women in development.

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74/ See paras 284-291 above.

75/ E/5725 and Add.1.

76/ E/5752 part one, sect. II.A.

77/ ST/ECA/SEKB/6 and Add.1.

78/ E/CN.14/715.

361 (XIV). Research on African women 79/

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the important role which African women play in Africa's economic, social and cultural development,

Noting that insufficient research has been carried out in most African countries in the activities of women,

Aware that policies for integrating women in development cannot be formulated without adequate information on the condition of women,

1. Invites member States to undertake research and produce statistics on the status of women, in order to obtain qualitative and quantitative data on the roles of women in the various sectors of the economy;
2. Calls on the Executive Secretary to collect and disseminate the conclusions and statistics obtained from the research concerning African women through the appropriate organs of the Commission;
3. Urges the agencies of the United Nations and international bodies concerned with technical and financial assistance to help African Governments in their research work on women.

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79/ See paras. 284-291 above.

362 (XIV). Mobilization of human and financial resources 80/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having taken note of the reports of the various subregional committees and the report of the Review Mission of the African Training and Research Centre for Women, 81/

Acknowledging the need to mobilize resources in order to promote the integration of women in the development process in Africa,

Having noted with satisfaction the willingness of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation to make substantial increases in their contributions to the priority programmes of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development and to the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme and to the International Labour Organisation for this gesture;
2. Calls upon the United Nations agencies and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide the subregional committees with the necessary back-stopping for their operation and projects implementation so as to achieve effective and efficient decentralization of the activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women;
3. Invites the Executive Secretary to speed up the recruitment of experts for co-ordinating the Women's Programme in the various subregions;
4. Requests the Commission to transmit to member States the list of vacancies and corresponding job descriptions;
5. Urges member States to prepare a list of candidates with the required qualifications and to transmit the same to the secretariat;
6. Requests States members of the various subregions to contribute and to provide technical assistance for implementing priority programmes.

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80/ See paras 264-291 above.

81/ E/CN.14/715 - E/CN.14/ECO/145.

363 (XIV). ECA structures for the integration of women in development 82/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having noted the progress made in setting up and/or strengthening national subregional and regional machineries for the integration of women in development,

Recalling the provisions of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development adopted for the African region and proposing the establishment of various national, subregional and regional machineries, 83/

Noting that those provisions recommended that the Commission should establish appropriate means of integrating women in development,

Recalling the recommendations of the Nouakchott Regional Conferences on the Implementation of the National, Regional and World Plan of Action 84/ concerning the setting up of subregional committees and of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development,

Bearing in mind the suggestions made by the representatives of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development,

Having regard to the new requirements emphasized in the report of the Review Mission on the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW), 85/

1. requests the Executive Secretary to reconsider the functions and objectives of the African Training and Research Centre for Women so that it can meet the requirements of member States more effectively;
2. Recommends that the African Training and Research Centre for Women should become a division of the Commission secretariat to be called the Division for the Integration of Women in Development and be provided with facilities necessary to enable it to achieve its objectives;
3. Calls on the Bureaux of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development to attend the meetings of the committees of officials and councils of ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operations Centres,
4. Decides that the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development should participate in the meetings of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the whole and the Conference of Ministers of the Commission;

82/ See paras. 284-291 above.

83/ ST/ECA SERB/6 and Add.1.

84/ E/CN.14/714.

85/ E/CN.14/715.

5. Requests African Governments and the Executive Secretary to provide the bureaux of the subregional committees for the integration of women in development with the facilities to enable them to play a more active role in their own subregions;

6. Calls on the bureaux of the subregional committees in collaboration with the Commission to prepare and harmonize their rules of procedure as soon as possible.

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364 (XIV). The African Regional Conference on Women and Development 86/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having taken cognizance of the arrangements for the holding of the next regional Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, in August 1979,

Considering the need for African women to make an important contribution to the next World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1980,

1. Approves the holding of the next regional conference in Lusaka, Zambia;
2. Accordingly adopts for that Conference a draft agenda which will be communicated to all States;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the Zambian Government for agreeing to host the Conference;
4. Calls on all Governments and all women in Africa to ensure the success of this important meeting by the effectiveness and high quality of their participation.

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86/ See paras. 284-291 above.

365 (XIV). Structure and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development 87/

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Nouakchott Regional Conference on the Implementation of the National, Regional and World Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, 88/

Having considered the report of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, 89/

Aware of the need to integrate the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee within the system of the deliberative Organs of the Commission,

1. Takes note of the report and recommendations of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the desirability of amending the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee;

2. Decides to amend the constitution and terms of reference of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee:

(A) By replacing the provisions relating to the composition of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee and its officers with the following:

I. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall be constituted as follows:

(a) Three members designated by each subregional committee (with the right to vote);

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA (without the right to vote), and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (without the right to vote);

(c) (i) The Pan-African Women's Organization;

(ii) United Nations agencies;

(iii) The representatives of donor agencies;

the above being invited as observers if a particular subject under consideration is of interest to them;

87/ See paras. 284-291 above.

88/ E/CN.14/714.

89/ E/CN.14/716.

II. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee shall elect a bureau composed of:

- A Chairman,
- A first and a second Vice-Chairmen, and
- Two Rapporteurs.

III. The terms of office of the Bureau will be two years. The Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee will meet once a year when convened by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Bureau."

(B) The African Training and Research Centre for Women will act as secretariat of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

(C) The rules of procedure of the Committee shall be the same as those of the Economic Commission for Africa.

(D) By replacing the terms of reference of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee with the following:

"1. To harmonize and co-ordinate the subregional programmes approved within the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres;

2. To evaluate and implement work programmes, bearing in mind the availability of resources and to oversee the implementation of work programmes;

3. To organize the exchange of information and experiences;

4. To participate in the activities and meetings of the United Nations and other relevant organizations;

5. To mobilize resources for the implementation of programmes agreed at the regional and subregional levels;

6. To review and evaluate activities carried out in the region in the framework of programmes for the advancement of women;

7. To convene every three years, the African Regional Conference on Women and Development;

8. To report to the deliberative organs of the Economic Commission for Africa on the activities and programmes carried out in the subregion (Committee of officials and Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres)."

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366 (XIV). Priority population programmes of ECA 90/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 16/2 (LII) of 2 June 1972 on population and development in which all States Members of the United Nations were urged, among other things, to take such steps as might be necessary to improve demographic statistics, research and planning machinery needed for development of population policies and programmes,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Regional Post World Population Conference Consultations held in Lusaka in April 1975, 91/ which called upon African countries to give attention to the reduction of mortality levels, the relationship between population and development, the integration of population variables including its composition, distribution, growth, fertility, mortality and changes in the population in socio-economic development planning,

Taking note of the report of the third session of the Conference of African Demographers 92/ held in February 1979,

Recalling its resolution 273 (XII) of 27 February 1975 on integrated programmes on population as well as its resolution 230 (X) of 13 February 1971 on the establishment of the demographic training centres and case studies on population and economic and social development,

Noting with satisfaction the assistance given by the Commission secretariat, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and other bodies of the United Nations to countries in the organization of censuses during the 1970 round of population and housing censuses under the African Census Programme and the arrangements already under way to assist countries during the 1980 round as well as in the household survey capability programme,

Noting however with regret the undue delays experienced by these countries in processing the data from these censuses, which in many cases have in turn led to delays in the analysis and use of the data,

Noting further the urgent need to analyse the data already collected in order to facilitate their use in development planning,

Taking note of the recommendations of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities Evaluation Mission to the Commission and some countries of the region, and the decisions taken by the Inter-Agency meeting organized by the Fund in Nairobi in February 1979 on the Fund's strategy for funding intercountry programmes in the field of population in Africa,

90/ See paras. 295-396 above.

91/ E/CN.14/POP/136.

92/ E/CN.14/118.

Noting also the declaration of the International Year of the Child and its significance for Africa in view of the high proportion of children in the population of Africa and the current high level of infant mortality to which attention ought to be drawn,

1. Invites the Executive Secretary to continue to give high priority to studies on interrelations between population growth and economic and social development after a careful examination, review and reorganization of the current programme of country case studies on population and socio-economic development;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to initiate in this regard a programme of assistance to the countries of the region as part of the Commission's work programme, in establishing special units in the countries to deal with the integration of population variables in development plans as recommended in paragraph 95 of the World Population Plan of Action; 93/

3. Requests the Executive Secretary, as part of the efforts for the creation of better awareness of population issues and their implications for socio-economic development, to expand and improve the activities of the secretariat in the field of population information and documentation in order to give better service including training in this field to the countries of the region and to ensure the secretariat co-ordinates the activities of other United Nations organizations in this field of activity to prevent unnecessary duplication;

4. Invites the Executive Secretary to accelerate its programme of assistance to the countries of the region in the organization of national seminars on population and development planning as well as subregional seminars /expert groups dealing with this issue;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to consider as priority areas in the work programme of the Commission population dynamics; the analysis of censuses, studies on mortality, the relationship between infant and childhood mortality and levels and patterns of fertility and their future prospects; the relationship between population distribution and socio-economic development and studies which would help the process of integration of population policies and programmes in development planning.

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27 March 1979

367 (XIV). Regional training in population studies in Africa 94/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 230 (X) of 13 February 1971 which, among other things, invited the Executive Secretary to speed up the establishment of sub-regional centres for the training of demographers,

Recalling further its resolution 273 (XI1) of 27 March 1975, which noted with satisfaction the actual establishment and operation of the Regional Institute for Population Studies in Accra and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques in Yaounde and the continuation of the Cairo Demographic Centre,

Noting with satisfaction the work done so far by the training centres in providing the countries of the region with personnel needed for population work at the country level,

Noting further with satisfaction the laudable efforts made by the United Nations through the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon, Egypt and Ghana to provide the resources needed for the running of the training centres,

Aware of the high priority that the countries of the region give to the training of personnel and the need to augment the supply of qualified staff,

Noting also the steady increases in the subventions made by the host Governments and the greater demands that the expansion of the training programmes may imply in the future and the burden that the increase in the subventions from the host Governments may place on the Governments concerned,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon, Egypt and Ghana for the facilities and resources they have been providing for the running of the institutes;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to speed up the decentralization of the management of the Regional Institute for Population Studies in Accra and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques in Yaoundé to the Commission in line with General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977;

3. 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;

94/ See paras 295-396 above.

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to hold consultations with the Governments concerned in order to find the best means whereby the secretariat could assist the Portuguese-speaking countries in their training needs in order to help them to find a solution to the acute shortage of qualified personnel currently in existence in these countries;

5. Requests the Portuguese-speaking member States concerned to make use of the block allocation for fellowships available at the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in New York to train their nationals outside the region until arrangements for training in the region are completed.

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27 March 1979

368 (XIV). Merger of the Conference of African Planners,
Statisticians and Demographers 95/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the decision taken by the Executive Committee of Commission to the effect that the Conference of African Planners, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers be merged into one Conference as a means of rationalizing the resources of the Commission and the Governments,

Noting that the proposed merger could give the opportunity to the three groups of experts to forge better co-operation in their work and thus ensure an interdisciplinary approach to development planning at the country level and the integration of population variables in socio-economic development,

Recalling the role that was assigned to each of the three conferences at the time they were established and taking into account their activities with regard to the determination of the secretariat's work programme in specific fields,

Noting the agreement of the Conference of Demographers to the proposed merger of the three conferences,

1. Approves the merger of the Conference of African Planners, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Conference of African Demographers into one Conference; 96/
2. Directs that this new Conference should ensure that the work of the three component conferences is given equal importance at its sessions and that the secretariat's work programmes in the fields of planning, statistics and population are given their due importance and adequate consideration in the deliberations of the new Conference;
3. Requests the States members of the Commission to ensure that their delegations to the sessions of the new Conference are made up of the appropriate number of experts, who can cover the deliberations on the different work programmes and issues to be taken up in the three fields, namely, planning, statistics and population;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all measures to ensure that the new Conference deals with all the three fields concerned including the setting up of sub-committees during the sessions of the new Conference to cover the three subject areas namely, planning, statistics and population.

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95/ See paras. ~~287-296~~ above.

96/ See resolution 330 (XIV) above.

369 (XIV). Establishment of joint OAU/ECA Offices
at Geneva and Brussels 97/

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution CM/ST.12 (XXI) containing the African Declaration on Co-operation, Development and Economic Independence, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its tenth session held in Addis Ababa in May 1973,

Recalling further Conference of Ministers resolution 270 (XIII) of 28 February 1975 on co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity,

Noting with satisfaction the Declaration of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity adopted at its eleventh extraordinary session held in Kinshasa from 6 to 10 December 1976, endorsing Conference of Ministers resolution 270 (XII) and requesting appropriate follow-up action by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling again its resolution 327 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 on the strengthening of relations between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity,

Noting the desire expressed at the thirty-second session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity to see increased and closer links between the Commission and the Organization of African Unity,

Conscious of the need to strengthen further the existing arrangements for co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity,

1. Reaffirms the need for continued efforts to be made to strengthen further the relations between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to consult with each other as soon as possible with a view to considering the possibility and advisability of the two organizations' co-operating in the joint staffing and running of the existing office of the Organization of African Unity at Geneva and the office which the Organization of African Unity intends to establish at Brussels.

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370 (XIV). Direct assistance to liberation movements 98/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having endorsed the report of the Technical Committee of Experts, 99/ paragraph 132 of which, inter alia, calls on the Economic Commission for Africa to respond directly to requests for training and manpower needs of liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity,

Recognizing that the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, has developed programmes for, and already provides assistance to refugees and the liberation movements referred to above in a variety of fields,

1. Calls on the Commission to respond directly to requests for assistance by liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

2. Further calls on the United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to collaborate with the Commission in developing direct assistance programmes to members of liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity.

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98/ See paras. 249-254 above.

99/ E/CN.14/705.

371 (XIV). Staff and administration questions 100/

The Conference of Ministers,

Mindful of the wishes of the General Assembly of the United Nations to increase the recruitment of staff from non-represented and under-represented countries in order to ensure an equitable geographical distribution among the member countries,

Bearing in mind also the need to ensure the implementation of its resolution 293 (XII) of 28 February 1977 concerning the Africanization of the Commission secretariat,

Taking into account the recruitment difficulties encountered by the secretariat of the Commission in locating suitable candidates from non-represented and under-represented African countries,

Taking into consideration the high quality resources required for the implementation of the programme of work and priorities,

Noting with satisfaction that 38 African countries are represented in the secretariat,

1. Expresses its satisfaction for the efforts being made by the Executive Secretary to ensure that the secretariat reflects the reality of Africa;

2. Urges the Executive Secretary to continue with his efforts to bring to the notice of African Governments the job opportunities open to highly qualified staff within the secretariat;

3. Calls on non-represented or under-represented African Governments to spare no effort to identify qualified experts in the various fields and to release them for recruitment by the Commission secretariat;

4. Requests the General Assembly, in the event that it should not prove possible to recruit sufficient candidates from non-represented and under-represented African countries, to authorize the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in so far as the African region is concerned, to recruit qualified candidates from over-represented African countries in order to avoid jeopardizing the whole policy of the Africanization of the secretariat;

5. Requests African delegates to the General Assembly to bring the present resolution to the notice of the Fifth Committee.

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372 (XIV). Twenty-first anniversary of the Commission 101/

The Conference of Ministers,

Having considered the report of the Executive Committee on the twenty-first anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa which will be celebrated on 29 April 1979, 102/

Cognizant of the manifold contributions which the Commission has already made and is making to the economic and social development of Africa,

Cognizant also of the historical imperative for the Commission, in very close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, to continue to promote Africa's development,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV) of 29 April 1958 establishing the Economic Commission for Africa,

Bearing in mind the imperative need to make the peoples of Africa aware of the various socio-economic problems of African development and the contribution which the Commission, with their moral support and active co-operation, can continue to make towards their solution,

Aware of the beneficial results to be achieved, with regard to the sense of mission and dedication of multinational institutions, by the declaration and observance of anniversary days at the regional and national levels;

1. Requests the Executive Secretary to communicate to member States the appreciation of the Conference of Ministers for their expressions of congratulations and goodwill on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the Commission;

2. Draws the attention of member States once again to resolution CM 675 (XXXI) adopted in Khartoum in July 1978 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity calling on member States to organize appropriate programmes of activities marking the Commission's anniversary;

3. Requests States members of the Commission, bearing in mind the theme of national and collective self-reliance, to observe every twenty-ninth day of April as "ECA Day".

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101/ See paras 266-272 above.

102/ E/CN.14/696.

373 (XIV). Commendation of the work of the secretariat

The Conference of Ministers,

Welcoming the new orientation in the activities of the Commission since 1975, its involvement in and dedication to African development, its efforts in promoting economic co-operation and integration in Africa, its success in the implementation of the Africanization policy of the secretariat by securing the largest number of African countries so far represented on the staff of the secretariat,

1. Takes this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Secretary and his staff and expresses its full confidence in the work being performed by the secretariat;
2. Urges States members of the Commission to continue to give all necessary support to the Executive Secretary and his staff in the execution of the programme of activities of the Commission;
3. Appeals to the United Nations Secretary-General to give every support and encouragement to the Commission;
4. Requests the Chairman of the present meeting of the Conference of Ministers to transmit this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General.

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374 (XIV). Vote of thanks to the Government and People
of the Kingdom of Morocco

The Conference of Ministers,

Deeply grateful to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for their most generous hospitality in providing the necessary facilities which have enabled the Economic Commission for Africa, within the past three weeks, to hold six important meetings in Rabat, namely, the fourteenth session of the Commission and fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, the seventh meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts, the meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development, the third informal meeting of high-level officials of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and other intergovernmental organizations with special responsibility for development programmes in the African region, the meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions and the second Pledging Conference,

Conscious of the fact that the facilities afforded by the host Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to hold these six meetings in Rabat have provided a momentous opportunity for the legislative organ of the Commission and other bodies to assemble together in the same venue to consider collectively various aspects of the new international economic order, Africa's strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and their full implications for the African region, as well as to take positive action for the mobilization of resources and concerted efforts by African Governments for the implementation of the work programmes of the Commission, thereby demonstrating in a concrete manner that spirit of self-reliance which is a prerequisite for the rapid advancement of the African region and its peoples,

Noting with appreciation the inspiring message of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and particularly his keen and judicious analysis of the complex economic and social problems confronting the African region,

1. Addresses its gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco as well as to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for their warm hospitality and for the physical and other facilities generously provided for the meetings and their participants;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present resolution to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

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27 March 1979

ANNEX I

Summary of pledges made at the Second Pledging Conference
held on 28 March 1979 in Rabat (Morocco)
for the period 1979-1981*

1. Botswana	20 000
2. Egypt	50 000 (Egyptian pounds)
3. Gabon	20 000
4. Kenya	60 000
5. Lesotho	7 000
6. Liberia	20 000
7. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	200 000
8. Mali	25 000
9. Mauritius	20 000
10. Morocco	500 000
11. Niger	10 000
12. Rwanda	15 000
13. Senegal	50 000
14. Sierra Leone	20 000
15. Togo	20 000
16. United Republic of Cameroon	40 000
17. Zambia	170 000 ^{a/}
18. Zaire (135,000 Zaires)	87 663
19. African Development Bank	250 000

* In United States dollars unless otherwise indicated.

a/ In kind covering the cost of accommodation towards the Eastern and Southern African MULPOC based in Lusaka.

Annex II

Meeting of subsidiary bodies held during the period under review

<u>Body and officers</u>	<u>Meeting or session</u>	<u>Document Symbol</u>
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
<u>Chairman:</u> Citizen Kwatar Bwalum (Zaire)	Eighteenth meeting Khartoum 2-4 May 1978	E/CN.14/692 E/CN.14/ECO/143
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Khetla T.J. Rakhetla (Lesotho)		
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. E. Ntei (United Republic of Tanzania)	Nineteenth meeting Arusha 23-25 October 1978	E/CN.14/723 E/CN.14/ECO/164
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Mostafa M. El Arawady (Egypt)		
<u>Conference of African Planners</u>		
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Gilbert Chikelu (Nigeria)	Seventh session Addis Ababa 11-16 December 1978	E/CN.14/717 E/CN.14/CAP.7/11
<u>Conference of African Demographers</u>		
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Lamine Diop (Senegal)	Third session Dakar 19-24 February 1979	E/CN.14/718
<u>Rapporteurs:</u> Mr. A. Hassen (Ethiopia) Mr. B. Diallo (Mali)		
<u>Technical Committee of Experts</u>		
<u>Chairman:</u> Mr. Zine El Abidine Alaoui (Morocco)	Seventh session Rabat 12-18 March 1979	E/CN.14/705 E/CN.14/TECO/45
<u>Rapporteur:</u> Mr. Lauoal Chafami (The Niger)		

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