

2. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider taking action on the Framework, as appropriate;

3. *Calls upon* the international community, especially developed countries and multilateral institutions, to consider requests to provide support to the country programmes prepared by African countries.

*37th plenary meeting
28 July 1989*

1989/117. African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the services it has rendered to African Governments and the increasing and continued interest of Member States in its activities,

Considering the critical financial crisis facing the Institute, the decline in the contributions of member States and the decision of the United Nations Development Programme to withdraw its assistance for training at the Institute and funding of its core staff at the end of 1989,

Noting with satisfaction that the Governing Council of the Institute has appointed a sub-committee to review the structure and management of the Institute and make recommendations on its restructuring,

Expressing appreciation for the support that the United Nations Development Programme has so far given the Institute,

1. *Urges* the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to expedite the work of restructuring and rationalizing the activities and means of the Institute in order to establish, as early as possible, a renewed and financially viable Institute for the benefit of African development;

2. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to reconsider, in the light of the progress made in the restructuring process, the decision to cease the funding of the Institute after December 1989 and to provide support, as appropriate;

3. *Earnestly urges* African Governments to pay their contributions in a regular and timely manner and make plans to pay gradually their accumulated arrears.

*37th plenary meeting
28 July 1989*

1989/118. Interregional co-operation for facilitation of international trade

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1982/174 of 30 July 1982, in which it requested the executive secretaries of the

regional commissions to submit recommendations concerning a subject for interregional co-operation of common interest to all regions, and noting ongoing activities undertaken by the regional commissions within this framework,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation,⁹³ in particular section IV thereof,

Conscious of the global importance of trade facilitation and of the work carried out by the regional commissions to reduce, simplify and harmonize formalities, procedures and documentation for the development of international trade, and of the technical co-operation activities carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote and implement such measures pursuant to the decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 31 July 1969,

Noting that the Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) being developed and maintained within the Economic Commission for Europe allow for the progressive replacement of trade documents by electronic messages,

Recalling, in the light of Economic Commission for Europe decision L (44) of 21 April 1989,⁹⁴ that consideration should be given to augmenting the existing facilities in the Commission for the development and the maintenance of EDIFACT, given the central importance of these facilities for the use of EDIFACT by all countries concerned,

Recognizing that the introduction of trade facilitation measures leading to simpler, faster and more economical documentary procedures might require the modification of trade-related practices,

Noting that the introduction of electronic data interchange is contingent upon the availability of appropriate data-processing equipment and telecommunications facilities, as well as relevant business management techniques, which have still to be established in many countries, particularly developing countries,

1. *Invites* the regional commissions to formulate, jointly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, within existing resources, a draft proposal for interregional co-operation based on projects detailing technical and resource requirements, duly taking into account the national laws and regulations and the needs and concerns of the various regions, especially those of the developing countries, in the area of trade facilitation, and in particular the phased application of EDIFACT, wherever appropriate, and to submit the draft proposal for approval to the Council at its second regular session of 1990;

2. *Requests* the regional commissions to consult with funding organizations, notably the United Nations

⁹³ E/1989/96.

⁹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 15 (E/1989/34)*, chap. IV.

Development Programme, concerning the financial resources available for possible execution of the draft proposal after approval by the Council at its second regular session of 1990;

3. *Recommends* to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe that, in examining closely the resources required for maintenance and development activity now under way, consideration be given to the issue of what resources, from within the existing resources of the Commission, might be made available to support this activity.

*37th plenary meeting
28 July 1989*

1989/119. Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985 and 1987/69 of 8 July 1987,

Having considered the conclusions contained in the interim report prepared in compliance with Council resolution 1987/69 by the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the progress being made in the studies relating to the project for a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,⁹⁵

Bearing in mind the new dynamism being brought to the region owing, in particular, to the proclamation of the Maghreb Arab Union and to the greatly expanding land transport infrastructure leading to the Strait of Gibraltar,

Noting the resolution adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe⁹⁶ regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link between Europe and Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar,

Also noting the resolution adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its sixth meeting, held at Kinshasa in March 1988,⁹⁷ concerning the establishment of an entity for the development of transport in the North Africa region,

Aware that the studies on the permanent link have contributed to other regional projects, such as the connection of the electricity grids of Morocco and Spain and the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline,

Welcoming the co-operation between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for

Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean,

Conscious of the importance of the project for the development of transport in the region, the consolidation of North-South relations and the promotion of scientific and technological research at the international level,

1. *Invites* interested Governments and the enterprises and institutions concerned, as well as other competent organizations, to participate in the international symposium on the permanent link to be held at Marrakesh from 16 to 18 May 1990 with a view to the implementation of the project;

2. *Also invites* the countries concerned to co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in accelerating the creation of transport networks leading to the Strait of Gibraltar and in harmonizing transport regulations with a view to facilitating the transport of goods and merchandise between the two areas;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe:

(a) To submit, at the Marrakesh symposium, a global evaluation of the studies and work relating to the project based on the reports of the Executive Secretaries transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council;

(b) To allocate as far as possible the resources necessary for the evaluation of the studies and work relating to the project and of the results and recommendations of the Marrakesh symposium;

(c) To submit an interim report on the project to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991.

*37th plenary meeting
28 July 1989*

1989/120. Development of human resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the crucial role of human resources in the socio-economic development process, and recognizing that the development of human resources is both an essential pre-condition for development and the ultimate aim of development,

Bearing in mind that it is the sovereign right and responsibility of each country to formulate and implement national strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development as part of the overall development process and within the context of its specific national development needs and objectives,

Recognizing that the integrated and concerted strategies, policies, plans and programmes for develop-

⁹⁵ See E/1989/58.

⁹⁶ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Fortieth Ordinary Session (third part), *Texts Adopted by the Assembly*, resolution 912 (1989).

⁹⁷ See E/ECA/CM.14/24.