

Chapter XVII

Regional economic and social activities**The Economic Commission for Europe**

At its thirty-second session, held from 19 to 30 April 1977 at Geneva, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) approved a programme of work for 1977-1978, endorsed a long-term programme for 1978-1981 and reaffirmed its wish that ECE principal subsidiary bodies pay special attention to topics in the Final Act of the 1975 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (Helsinki Conference) requiring multilateral co-operation in the fields of economics, science, technology and the environment. The Commission asked for an analysis of topics that might be considered at a high-level meeting on the protection of the environment, and invited the Executive Secretary to inform the (October 1977) Belgrade (Yugoslavia) review meeting of the Helsinki Conference of progress within ECE in implementing provisions of the Final Act.

During the year ECE co-operated closely with the other regional economic commissions on matters of common concern. These included the ECE/Economic Commission for Latin America study of the evolution and prospects for economic relations between Latin America and Europe, and projects of interest to countries of the Mediterranean region. The Commission also contributed to United Nations global activities in the fields of economic perspectives, human settlements, the environment, water, and science and technology.

Other decisions adopted at the Commission's 1977 session dealt with, among other things: proposals to solve transboundary air pollution problems; problems of land use and land-use planning; general energy problems; standardization; automation; engineering industries; and the participation of the Danube Commission in the work of ECE.

For list of publications, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.

Activities in 1977**Development of trade**

As a contribution to efforts to remove or reduce obstacles to the development of intra-

European trade, an inventory of all such obstacles was established. Trade officials, managers and other experts discussed marketing research and the marketing and design of capital and consumer goods at the fourth Seminar on East-West Trade Promotion, Marketing and Business Contacts (March 1977). A multilateral system of notification of laws and regulations concerning foreign trade was given a successful trial run, and intergovernmental discussions on the development of industrial co-operation were widened to include longer-term financial aspects.

Work to adapt and harmonize international trade procedures in line with modern techniques, with the aim of reducing documentary and handling costs of transactions, went ahead in a number of fields. A study was made of the economic aspects of labour migration within Europe.

Long-term perspectives

The Over-all Economic Perspective for the ECE Region up to 1990 was completed; it was to provide Governments and principal subsidiary bodies of the Commission with an outlook on the development of the region in the context of the world economy. It was decided to begin analytical studies and projections in various fields as starting-points for a new major perspective exercise.

Scientific and technological co-operation

The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology prepared the ECE contribution to the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and made arrangements for the regional conference on this subject to be held in Bucharest, Romania, in 1978.

The first steps were taken towards co-operative technological forecasts in certain areas, such as the innovative dimensions of the energy problem. This was in line with the emphasis placed by the Senior Advisers on new technologies in the environmental context of energy

production and use, new energy sources and low-calorific fuels.

Among co-operative activities were: a joint programme of the Senior Advisers, the Conference of European Statisticians and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, relating to the measurement of international technology flows; and the preparation by the Senior Advisers and the Committee on the Development of Trade of a manual on licensing procedures and related aspects of technology transfer.

Problems of the environment

The increasing importance attached to comprehensive planning and management permitting preventive action for the defence of the environment was clearly expressed in activities of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems; a meeting on environmental perspectives was held in Bilthoven, Netherlands, in September, and another on integrated physical, socio-economic and environmental planning took place in Geneva in November/December. There was new emphasis on introducing procedures for assessing the environmental and socio-economic consequences of development. Efforts were made to promote the concept of low- and non-waste technology following the holding of a seminar in Paris in November/December 1976. Environmental impact assessment was the topic of the policy debate at the fifth session of the Senior Advisers in February 1977; preparations were made for a seminar on this subject.

A steering body for the ECE project on the long-range transmission of air pollutants was established in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization. The monitoring and evaluation of sulphur dioxide pollution under this project was started. A report on fine particulates was completed, and a task force on odours was created.

The Senior Advisers' investigations of the impact of new energy technologies on the environment reflected general concern with the adjustment of energy consumption to a new fuel-supply situation and to increasing environmental constraints.

Energy

A study on new issues affecting the energy economy of the ECE region in the medium and long term was prepared, and work was started on a new study of the rational use of secondary forms of energy in industry.

The study on perspectives of the coal indus-

try in the ECE region (1985 and beyond) was completed, and work on coal gasification and liquefaction took on importance.

A study on the rational use and distribution of gas was disseminated and a programme of specialized work was completed on the forecasting of gas demand, with the help of computers. The Symposium on the Gas Industry and Environment was held in Minsk, Byelorussian SSR, in June 1977.

A major activity in connexion with electric power was the holding of the Symposium on Load-curve Coverage in Future Power Generating Systems, in October in Rome. The changes to be expected in the supply and demand for electric power in the future in the light of increases in fuel prices were examined in a study under preparation on the medium- and long-term prospects for the electric power industry in the ECE region. Progress was made on an ECE project for the interconnexion of the electric power transmission systems of the Balkan countries.

Transport

Technical and regulatory work, including the elaboration and updating of international instruments and regulations and the making of recommendations, was a well-established function of ECE in the transport field. The Convention on Road Traffic and the International Convention for Safe Containers—both elaborated largely under ECE auspices—entered into force in 1977. A new regulation dealing with motor vehicle lights entered into force and five draft regulations on other aspects of motor vehicle construction were adopted by the Island Transport Committee. Five recommendations to improve road traffic safety were also adopted.

The Trans-European North-South Motorway project was established, with ECE and United Nations Development Programme assistance, and studies were begun of road traffic in south-eastern Europe and of road links with the Middle East.

The economic feasibility study of an inland waterway linking the Danube, Oder and Elbe Rivers was continued and the first part of a study of east-west European freight traffic flows was completed.

Industry

The Symposium on the Interrelation between the Iron and Steel Industry and the Steel Consuming Sectors in December 1977 permitted an exchange of experience and views among specialists at a time when business activity was

seriously affected by the economic situation. Three studies were in preparation: structural change in the iron and steel industry; the role of scrap in the iron and steel industry; and the use of continuous processes.

The Symposium on International Economic and Technological Co-operation in the Chemical Industry was held in Budapest, Hungary, in May. Studies on the raw material and energy requirements of the chemical industry were completed.

Enterprises were strongly represented at the Seminar on Engineering Equipment for Foundries and Advanced Methods for Producing Such Equipment, in November/December. Work continued in the field of trade statistics and market trends and prospects for engineering industries.

Automation activities in ECE established a bridge between manufacturing and the field of science and technology. The Seminar on Industrial Robots and Programmable Logical Controllers was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September. Another seminar, on computer-aided design systems as an integrated part of industrial production, was in preparation.

Agriculture and timber

The Committee on Agricultural Problems included in its programme a review of supply and demand developments for foodstuffs, milk and meat in Europe up to 1985. A symposium on new agricultural developments affecting frozen and quick-frozen foods was held in Budapest in April. The Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Timber Committee gave special attention to questions of interest to the ECE members which were developing countries from the economic point of view. Both Committees published their regular surveys of markets, and also production and trade statistics.

Human settlements

The main concern of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning was to give effect to the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1976), which singled out the regional commissions as the principal instruments of intergovernmental follow-up action. The Seminar on the Impact of Energy Consideration on the Planning and Development of Human Settlements, held in Ottawa, Canada, in October, was the first major intergovernmental attempt to reconcile long-term policies and aims in the field of energy production and conservation, on the

one hand, and human settlements development and planning on the other. The July 1977 seminar on long-term trends in housing policies, in Turku, Finland, was another of the Committee's major activities. Efforts to promote international trade in building products and know-how and to harmonize the technical content of building regulations were advanced.

Water problems

The Committee on Water Problems prepared plans to follow up on the decisions of the United Nations Water Conference (held in March 1977). The trend in the Committee's activities was to give increasing attention to water policy problems, to make its work action-oriented and to share ECE experience with other regional commissions. A start was made with the harmonization of data collection and assessment of pollutants discharged into the sea by industries. Preparations were made for a seminar on the rational use of water; ECE participated actively in the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, and the work on water problems remained closely related to ECE activities in the fields of transport, industry, energy and land use.

Statistics

An ECE seminar held in Washington, D.C. in March 1977 considered the organization and technological and methodological problems of statistical services during the next decade. A conversion key for foreign trade classifications used in different parts of the ECE region was completed; this was an important step towards making the statistical information of countries with different economic and social systems fully comparable. Progress was also made with the harmonization of statistical concepts and nomenclatures, particularly in social and demographic statistics, general energy statistics, statistics for environmental studies and policies, and price statistics.

Increased priority was given by the Conference of European Statisticians to work on statistics for environmental studies and policies and the inclusion of statistics of land use in its programme.

The regular statistical bulletins published by ECE for many sectors of economic activity were given a critical appraisal, with rationalization as the aim.

Standardization

As proposed in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, ECE began a systematic effort to

obtain information from national administrations on existing certification arrangements, with the aim of giving them a wider international field of application. Standardization continued to be a basic feature of ECE activities in such fields as trade, industrial co-operation, technology, transport, human settlements and agriculture; ECE also continued to promote its role in harmonizing government policies for defining priorities for standardization.

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On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council took note with satisfaction of the report of ECE for the period 10 April 1976 to 30 April 1977, of the views expressed during discussions in the Commission, of the resolutions and decisions adopted by ECE and of the ECE programme of work. These actions were taken by decision 245(LXIII) adopted, without a vote, on the proposal of the Council President.

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The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The thirty-third session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held at Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 to 30 April 1977. Conforming to a resolution adopted in 1976, work was further streamlined and a core of essential activities was given priority, including an integrated programme on rural development.

Attention to the question of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) was intensified. Two handbooks on TCDC training courses and consultancy services were supplemented by a new handbook containing a roster of experts. The Regional Centre for Technology Transfer was opened at Bangalore (India) in July 1977. The secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in running the TCDC Information Referral System by selecting the regional organizations with capacities for TCDC and obtaining input from them. In 1977, 15 regional advisers and experts undertook 70 missions to most of the developing countries of the region.

The Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery came into being, as did the Asian Re-insurance Corporation; and 14 countries ratified the Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. The Asia and Pacific Centre for Women and Development opened in Teheran (Iran) in February 1977.

For list of publications, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.

Activities in 1977

Agriculture

The Commission adopted a resolution by which it would establish a regional co-ordination centre for research and development of coarse grains, pulses, roots and tubers in the humid tropics of Asia and the Pacific. Indonesia offered host facilities.

A periodical, *Agricultural Information Development Bulletin*, began publication in July.

The Asian Rice Trade Fund, founded in 1974 but never operational owing to lack of participation and funds, was re-examined at an intergovernmental meeting in March. A suggestion that an expert working group be appointed to formulate concrete proposals was endorsed by the Commission.

The Joint ESCAP/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Group

Farming Project, approved by the Commission at its 1977 session, began to study successful group farming systems and village-level small-farm workshops with the intention of promoting similar groupings.

Development planning

The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 1976 was published and work began on the 1977 Survey which was to be in two parts—a review of recent developments and emerging issues, and a special study on the impact of the international economic crises on selected economies in the region. Three issues of the *Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific* were published. Plans were laid for a new series of monographs, *Development Papers*, arising from ESCAP secretariat research.

Work was expanded during 1977 by a consultant group on a major research project on new patterns and strategies for development. This was started in 1976 and was to continue until 1979, forming a regional contribution to the *International Development Strategy for the 1980s*.

Other activities during the year included contributions to general activities in rural development, extension of technical assistance and advisory services concerning planning techniques and administrative systems, studies of possible regional and subregional responses to problems concerning raw materials and commodities, and development of a co-ordinated approach to issues posed by transnational corporations.

Industry, housing and technology

The Meeting of Ministers of Industry held in Bangkok in November 1977 provided a framework for changes through new policy and strategy orientation recognizing four important elements—strengthening of linkages between industry and agriculture; orientation of industry to satisfy the basic needs of the poor; dispersal of industries away from metropolitan areas; and development of small-scale industries and their linkages with large and modern industries.

The ministers also recognized that the implementation of new policies and strategies of industrialization would involve breaking new ground and an innovative approach. It therefore decided to establish an ad hoc group of ministers which would meet periodically to

examine progress and development in different countries relating to new industrial policies and innovative approaches. The ministers also proposed setting up a club of developing countries to help the least developed.

The first regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held in Bangkok in December 1977, identified five priority areas to be reflected in country studies—food and agriculture; natural resources; energy; health and nutrition; and industrialization.

The Regional Conference on Human Settlements, held in Bangkok in May, recommended principles regarding housing and initiation of a regional programme on human settlements.

A fact-finding mission on industrialization in non-metropolitan areas visited eight countries. Its reports were to be considered at an intergovernmental meeting in 1978.

International trade

As a preparatory step in implementing some of the basic provisions of the Bangkok Agreement (on trade negotiations),¹ a workshop on rules of origin and harmonization of customs tariff nomenclatures and trade statistics was organized.

The Asian Clearing Union which began operations at the Bank Markazi Iran, Teheran, in November 1975, tripled the value of its transactions from 1976 to 1977.

Pursuant to a Commission decision, a meeting of experts was convened in November to advise the secretariat on the principles and guidelines of a draft blueprint for trade expansion and co-operation in the ESCAP region. The blueprint was to be considered by a meeting of ministers of trade.

The ESCAP Trade Promotion Centre continued its four services—professional development, market/product development, trade information and trade-promotion advice.

The Agreement Establishing the Asian Re-insurance Corporation received seven signatures during the year, by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Corporation was expected to commence operations in 1978. A draft agreement was also prepared for the establishment of a regional export credit insurance scheme.

Increased attention was given during the year to the special needs of the land-locked, least developed and island developing countries. The UNDP-financed project on assistance

to the least developed land-locked countries entered its second phase with emphasis on promoting co-operation between the land-locked and transit countries.

In the field of raw materials and commodities, the secretariat worked closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), FAO and the UNCTAD/General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade International Trade Centre, as well as the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, the Pepper Community and the South-East Asia Lumber Producers Association. Advisory services on raw materials and commodities were provided to member countries and commodity communities in the region.

Natural resources

The Committee on Natural Resources met in August 1977 and was concerned primarily with water resources. It also acted as a regional follow-up to the United Nations Water Conference, held in March. As recommended by the Committee, consultations were held with the bodies concerned on the setting up of an interagency task force on water for the ESCAP region. The Third Regional Symposium on the Development of Deltaic Areas was held in November.

In the energy sector, work was concentrated on rural energy, with a workshop in Fiji and a roving seminar in Indonesia, Iran, the Philippines and Thailand. The Commission stressed the importance of continuing work on non-conventional energy resources, noting the importance of geothermal energy in some countries. A seminar and study tour on urban electrical distribution systems was held in May and June at Tokyo and other cities in Japan and a study was undertaken on peak-load coverage with specific reference to gas-turbines and hydroelectric plants.

The Commission also endorsed a proposal for a triennial publication on mineral exploration and development.

Four sheets of the preliminary edition of the ESCAP sedimentary basins map were printed and distributed; the Bouguer anomaly map (gravity map) of the western part of the ESCAP region was published and distributed; and work continued on the second edition of the mineral distribution map of Asia.

¹ See Y.U.N., 1975, p. 527, regarding the First Agreement on Trade Negotiations among Developing Member Countries of ESCAP.

Population

Monographs on the population situation in Thailand and Sri Lanka were published and distributed. Monographs on other countries were in progress. A training course on analysis of fertility and mortality data was conducted for participants from island countries of the Pacific. Three expert group meetings were held—on migration and human settlements; on population and development planning; and on population growth and economic development in subnational areas. A comparative study of the relationship of migration and urbanization to development began in July. Technical assistance was provided to Sri Lanka for its 1971 census report.

Two expert group meetings helped member countries integrate family planning into development programmes. Seminars in Malaysia and the Philippines used research findings for development and management of family planning programmes.

Technical assistance in population information was provided to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand in preparing draft project proposals for the establishment of national population clearing-houses and documentation centres. The regional clearing-house instituted computerization of the selective distribution of population information.

Social development

A workshop and study tour on methods and techniques of promoting people's participation in local development was organized from 1 to 15 December in India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The mobile training scheme for the landlocked and least developed among the developing countries worked in Bangladesh from February until mid-November. A meeting to assess in-country training was held in Bangkok in December.

The Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women allocated \$400,000 to ESCAP for development and implementation of technical co-operation projects in the region aimed at integrating women into the development process. For 1977, UNDP allotted \$50,000 to help the initial implementation of the regional five-year action programme for such integration of women. A project on the role of women's organizations in rural areas was being financed by the United States.

A regional training workshop for the development of rural youth programmes was held in April in the Republic of Korea.

Statistics

Three technical meetings were held in 1977, relating to the 1980 censuses of population and housing. Advisory services were provided on national accounts, social and demographic statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, and population and housing censuses.

Among publications issued, the Asian and Pacific Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses was released and the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1976 published.

Shipping, transport and communications

The ESCAP secretariat continued its efforts to establish and strengthen maritime training programmes, shippers' organizations, freight study units and national merchant marines, and to develop ports and increase use of inland waterways.

Training of managerial personnel was accomplished by the organization of regional and country-level workshops and a study tour in Europe.

The secretariat continued to provide shipping statistics, undertook a study on an optional shipping network in South-East Asia, and completed a study on liner services connecting Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Europe. It also undertook a survey of inland water transport in several developing countries.

The continuing ship-users' co-operation project was centred on the strengthening of shippers' organizations and the development of suitable analytical tools and transfer of technical knowledge.

Other activities related to containerization, its impact on employment and the development of maritime information systems and optimal shipping and port networks.

The Committee on Shipping, and Transport and Communications called for the modernization of the railways, endorsing the seminars-cum-study tours to augment railway training, and the dispatch of a roving team of experts to solve railway problems. The Committee also approved regional strategies for railway development in the next development decade. Included was a master plan aimed at the development of the Trans-Asian Railway and the main national trunk lines connecting outlets to the principal sea and river ports and centres of industrial and rural development. The plan also included urban and suburban transport development, transfer of new railway technology, the sharing of railway research experience, and multimodal transport development in rural areas and in and around large cities.

A programme was started to upgrade technical conditions and ancillary services of important sections of the Asian Highway network to an international standard for the promotion of border-crossing traffic.

In telecommunications, the ESCAP/International Telecommunication Union Unit assisted in the preparation of microwave specifications for Afghanistan and the implementation of the Asian telecommunication network which was expected to be completed in 1980.

The Constitution of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, adopted by the Commission in 1977, was ratified by 14 countries.

Regional training and research institutions

As renamed by the Commission at its 1977 session, the four older institutions for regional training and research became known as the Asian and Pacific Development Institute; the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific; the Asian and Pacific Development Administration Centre; and the Social Welfare and Development Centre for Asia and the Pacific. In February the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development was established.

The first session of the Intergovernmental Governing Council of the institutions, held in November, marked completion of the process of setting up an integrated management structure for these institutions.

Despite the Commission's appeal for contributions for the institutions, their financial situation was uncertain; UNDP indicated that, in line with its established policy, it would cease support to the institutions after 1981.

The 1977 work programme of the Development Institute emphasized subregional and country-level activities, relatively greater emphasis on research directly concerned with problems of poverty, and greater involvement in the Pacific subregion. Altogether, 368 training opportunities were provided to participants from 27 countries in 1977, bringing the cumulative total to 3,003 since 1964.

The seventh general course of the Statistical Institute ran from October 1976 to March 1977. The eighth general course was inaugurated on 3 October. Two advanced courses were also held, one dealing with planning and conduct of sample surveys, with emphasis on error control, and the other with the 1980 world census of agriculture. Four country courses were conducted in Bangladesh, Iran, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

During the year, the Development Administration Centre conducted 16 seminars, expert group meetings, workshops and training courses

at the regional, subregional and country levels. It also carried out several research studies relating to rural organizations in rural development, investment prices and returns in public enterprises, and managerial civil services in Asia.

The Social Welfare and Development Centre placed major emphasis on organizing practitioner-oriented training activities and on new strategies, methods, and techniques for combating rural poverty. It conducted an expert group meeting on the development of indigenous teaching materials and training resources concerning the problems and needs of urban children and family life in Asia and the Pacific and held technical meetings and workshops in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.

The Centre for Women and Development provided advisory services to Iran and took part in preparations for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Mekong project

Resources paid or pledged to the Mekong project increased by about \$5 million during 1977 to a total of \$360.4 million. The work programme for 1977 contained 55 projects, but sites for about half were inaccessible during the year.

The hydrological network was expanded in 1977 with the addition of 17 hydrological and 8 meteorological stations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. The long-range Pa Mong optimization and downstream effects studies were completed and a draft report prepared in April 1977. The \$40 million extension of the Nam Ngum project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to increase the hydroelectric capacity from 30 to 110 megawatts and expand the transmission system accordingly, continued on schedule towards completion in 1978. Under a programme of channel marking for safer navigation on the Mekong, 31 new beacons were installed between Vientiane and Luang Prabang. Three large thematic maps covering the whole basin were published. They were produced by the secretariat of the Committee for Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin with assistance from France, based on interpretation of satellite imagery over the preceding three years. The maps presented unique information on land use and land capability.

During the Commission's 1977 session, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam signed an agreement to pro-

ceed with new water resources development activities in the lower basin of the Mekong River. They proposed an interim committee to conduct activities of interest to the three countries, pending the resumption of the participation of Democratic Kampuchea in the Mekong Committee.

Offshore mineral exploration

The fourteenth session of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas (CCOP) was held at Manila, Philippines, in September/October 1977. Extension of work conducted under its auspices to 1981 was proposed; for the period 1978-1981, UNDP approved about \$3 million, which included \$934,400 from its own funds and \$2 million from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Advisory services were rendered to CCOP countries for a geological survey of Malaysia; tin investigations in the Taiping coastal plain of Malaysia; and a geological survey of Indonesia. Assistance was also given for consideration of computerization of geological data in Indonesia and for continuation of heat-flow measurements in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Two research cruises were co-ordinated by CCOP: one in Indonesian and Philippine waters from February to May by the R.V. *Valdivia* of the Federal Republic of Germany, and one in the CCOP region from January to July by the R.V. *Thomas Washington* of the United States.

Japan provided its annual seven-month group training course in offshore prospecting. Also, shipboard training was provided to participants from member countries during geological and geophysical research cruises undertaken for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration programme.

The final report on the joint survey of the mineral potential in the Strait of Malacca undertaken in 1976 was completed and distributed.

The sixth session of the Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas and its Technical Advisory Group were held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in October. Under the auspices of the Committee, 1977 activities included reconnaissance surveys in the waters off the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, and aid to national projects in the waters off Fiji and the Solomon Islands. On-the-job training was incorporated in the projects. Also provided was a basic geology course for some 18 trainees that began in November

at the University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji).

Typhoon Committee and Panel on Tropical Cyclones

The tenth session of the Typhoon Committee was held at Tokyo, Japan, in October 1977. The Committee recommended that ESCAP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organize a review mission in the first half of 1978 to evaluate country requirements and programmes and draft a long-term plan of action for the Committee.

During 1977, "Guidelines for disaster prevention and preparedness in tropical cyclone areas," prepared jointly by ESCAP, WMO and the League of Red Cross Societies, was published. Following the success of a pilot flood-forecasting system, steps were taken to install such systems in major river basins in the Philippines, Thailand, and the states of Sabah and Sarawak in Malaysia.

The fourth session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones was held at Lahore, Pakistan, in April. At an informal planning meeting at Bangkok in November, discussions were held on ways to obtain storm-surge data in the Bay of Bengal.

Tin Research and Development Centre

The Agreement establishing the Southeast Asia Tin Research and Development Centre and the project document for UNDP financial support were signed by Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand on 28 April 1977.

The three member countries together were to contribute \$135,000 annually to the Centre; Malaysia provided facilities for the Centre at Ipoh.

The Centre aimed at developing methods for locating new primary ore deposits, efficient mining, ore beneficiation and smelting. It was to complement the work of the International Tin Research Institute and the International Tin Centre which were concerned with uses of tin and with marketing, respectively.

Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Organizational Aspects of the ESCAP Regional Mineral Resources Development Centre, at its meeting in Bangkok in August 1977, accepted Indonesia's offer of a permanent headquarters in Bandung.

During 1977, the Centre gave technical advisory services on mineral exploration to 11 countries. Work continued on the development of a systematic inventory of geological and mineral data.

Decisions by the Economic and Social Council

On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council took note with satisfaction of the annual report of ESCAP for the period 3 April 1976 to 30 April 1977, of its recommendations and resolutions, and of the Commission's programme of work. Decision 246(LXIII) was adopted, without a vote, on the proposal of the Council President.

Also on 25 July, the Council, by resolution 2092(LXIII), noting that Papua New Guinea had become a member of ESCAP, amended the terms of reference of ESCAP accordingly. The draft resolution was recommended to the Council by ESCAP, and was adopted, without objection, on the proposal of the President. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

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E/6031. Administrative and financial implications of decisions of ESCAP at its 33rd session, Bangkok, Thailand, 20-30 April 1977. Statement by Secretary-General.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft decision II.

E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 246 (LXIII)).

E/5943. Annual report of ESCAP (3 April 1976-30 April 1977), Chapter I A: Draft resolution for action by Economic and Social Council.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft resolution II.

Resolution 2092 (LXIII), as proposed by Council President, E/L.1779, adopted without objection by Council on 25 July 1977, meeting 2079.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that Papua New Guinea has become a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of the Commission,

Decides to amend paragraphs 3 and 4 of the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific accordingly.

Other documents

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Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Committee on Natural Resources Held at Bangkok, Thailand, 16-22 August 1977. Water Resources Series No. 48. U.N.P. Sales No.: E.78.II.F.12.

The Economic Commission for Latin America

In addition to the seventeenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), which is also known by the Spanish

acronym CEPAL, held in Guatemala City from 25 April to 5 May 1977, there were conferences and preparatory meetings for world con-

ferences held in the region during the year. The Commission continued to analyse the main trends of the regional development process and to provide assistance to member Governments in economic and social activity. The Commission also continued research and analysis concerning the specific situation of the region regarding the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,² and the Latin American position within the proposed new international economic order.

Thus ECLA produced its annual Economic Survey of Latin America, 1976 as well as a comprehensive appraisal of the salient features of the Latin American economy during the previous 25 years, and studies and reports on such matters as regional integration, environment, external indebtedness, inflation, transport and communications, export promotion, water resources, human settlements, the integration of women in development, and co-operation with other geographical areas.

Closely related to ECLA activities during 1977 were the programmes on training, research and information carried out, respectively, by the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the Latin American Demographic Centre and the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation.

Activities in 1977

The ECLA secretariat in 1977 prepared a study—"The economic and social development and the external relations of Latin America"—as the basis for the third regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy. This was discussed by member Governments at two regional gatherings held in March in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: the Committee of High-level Governmental Experts and the second session of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee.

The study contained an appraisal of the performance of the region's countries during the past 25 years and set forth a number of conclusions. The concept of economic development prevailing in the early 1950s, the study commented, conveyed an image of continuous progress based on industrial development, which, combined with certain economic and social reforms, would lead to a higher degree of social consensus. This concept, *inter alia*, influenced the extent and depth of production changes and the nature of the external productive, commercial and financial relations of Latin America; it also determined the persistence of distributive problems, the rigidity and changes

in the rural sector, the structure of employment and the growth of the middle strata of the population, thus characterizing the styles of regional development for more than two decades.

During the current decade, the study continued, there had been a tendency towards greater economic growth and productive and technological change, as well as an increase of production capacity. The region had broadened and diversified its external financial and economic relations while becoming progressively inserted in the international system, mainly due to developments in national policies and to the succession of significant changes occurring in the international setting because of the cycle in the industrial countries—a boom which culminated in 1973, the economic recession in the industrial economies and the slow recovery which took place during 1976—and the rise in petroleum prices.

The second part of the study, devoted to the external relations of Latin America, stated that the region's place in the world economy was undergoing a profound change: Latin American countries were ceasing to be specialized in the production of commodities alone; though commodities still accounted for most of external sales, manufactures were being exported and strongly influenced the growth rate of total exports, as a result of a considerable level of industrial development and a domestic technological effort which, while still insufficient, had already become significant. Developments in industry, technology, trade and financing had opened new development opportunities for the countries of the region. However, they were also raising new problems, according to the study. The differences among the countries of the region were growing greater; many of them—numerically the majority—were still passing through stages resembling those of many other developing countries, while a group of countries, which could be described as semi-industrialized, was gradually entering a stage of intermediate development, as a result of which they had become a case *sui generis* in the developing world.

The study mentioned the persistency of accumulated external debt and large deficits in current accounts. These features, it said, pointed to the pressing need to design and implement a co-operation policy adapted to new and changing circumstances, with the active

² See Y.U.N., 1970, pp. 319-29, resolution 2626(XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing text of Strategy.

participation of the Latin American countries, the other countries of the developing world and, above all, the developed world.

The study also examined the progress and problems of Latin America in its relations with developed areas, particularly the United States, the European Economic Community, Japan and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

The work of the Commission's seventeenth session was carried out in two phases: the first at the technical and the second at ministerial level. The third regional appraisal of the International Development Strategy, adopted at the session, was entitled the "Guatemala Appraisal." It expressed the views of the countries of Latin America regarding their own development and the fulfilment of the goals of the International Development Strategy within the framework of a new international economic order. The Commission also adopted a series of guidelines for the work of the secretariat during the next two years.

Among the topics discussed at the session were: the need to solve the problem of extreme poverty and some of its concomitants such as unemployment, underemployment, malnutrition and illiteracy; the priority to be given to the training of human resources; the need for a regional plan of action concerning integration of women in development; economic integration as a fundamental prerequisite for the development of the Latin American countries; measures to ensure stable and remunerative prices for primary commodities, and the removal of barriers affecting manufactures exported by the region; problems of domestic financing and external debt; and the adoption of a code of conduct in respect of the transfer of technology. Also, Commission members agreed on the need to put into practice a code of conduct to ensure that transnational corporations complied with the laws and regulations of the host country.

Economic and social planning

The Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Caracas, Venezuela, in April 1977 under the auspices of ECLA and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. Among other decisions, the Conference recommended the strengthening of the Institute as the focal regional body for the implementation of advisory planning services and training.

Three substantive programmes were carried out during 1977 by the Institute: advisory ser-

vices, training and research. Advisory services were rendered to Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela.

In its training programme, the Institute completed another regional development planning course, in Santiago, Chile, and two planning and economic policy courses in Honduras and Costa Rica. It also co-operated in the organization of courses in Brazil, Mexico and Spain, related to regional and urban development planning, agricultural development planning and environmental management in development.

Information

The Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation continued during 1977 the systematization of basic bibliographical information in the economic and social fields and the establishment of mechanisms to deliver this information, promptly and at a reasonable cost, to researchers, private and public institutions and international agencies. Among other activities, the Centre was engaged in technical training, integration work and assistance to countries and institutions.

Population

In 1977 the Latin American Demographic Centre started a two-year programme on population. Activities included monitoring of population trends in the region, electronic processing of population data, and teaching, training and technical advice on population matters, in particular those related to development.

As part of the assistance provided to Governments, the Centre collaborated in the design, processing and analysis of basic population statistics for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. Also, in co-operation with the World Fertility Survey, several missions were carried out in Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama, while computer services were provided for Chile and Haiti.

After the evaluation of the demographic situation in each country of the region in the period 1970-1975, the Centre undertook a study on population trends in the region for the period 1950-2000; its activities were complemented by traditional education and training programmes and by a service of documentation and information, including the collection of reports, articles, documents and other publications on population.

Regional integration and co-operation

In compliance with specific mandates from member Governments, ECLA intensified its efforts to promote diversified forms of co-operation. It collaborated closely with the Latin American Economic System in such spheres as industrial and agricultural programmes and projects, trade agreements and joint infrastructure programmes.

Co-operation with other regional organizations and institutional mechanisms such as the Andean Pact, the Central American Common Market, the Caribbean Community, and the Latin American Free Trade Association were strengthened during 1977, with particular emphasis on the integration of the countries of the Caribbean in the fields of trade, raw materials, communications and transport, environment and the removal of language barriers as a means of accelerating co-operation in a sub-region united by common interests.

Water and desertification

The Commission contributed to the United Nations Water Conference, held in March 1977 at Mar del Plata, Argentina, with a regional inventory and a regional position adopted at a preparatory meeting in Lima, Peru, in August/September 1976, and referred to as the "Lima Consensus on Water Problems."

A regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Desertification took place in February in Santiago, under the joint auspices of ECLA and the United Nations Environment Programme. Representatives of the

region's Governments worked out a common position regarding the main regional desertification problems, as a contribution to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification adopted in September in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Desertification Conference. (See p. 509.)

Women in development

In January 1977, ECLA held a preparatory meeting in Mexico City for the Latin American Conference on the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development; in June, a regional conference was held in Havana, Cuba, where member Governments studied a plan of action, which was ratified at the eleventh extraordinary session of ECLA'S Committee of the Whole, held in New York on 21 November 1977.

Decision by the Economic and Social Council

On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council noted with satisfaction the annual report of ECLA for the period 7 May 1976 to 6 May 1977, its resolutions and recommendations, and the Commission's programme of work. Decision 247(LXIII) was adopted, without a vote, on the proposal of the Council President.

The Council also, with the adoption of resolution 2123(LXIII) on 4 August 1977, requested the Commission to co-ordinate all activities regarding preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development with the Latin American Economic System. (For text of resolution 2123(LXIII), refer to INDEX OF RESOLUTIONS.)

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The Economic Commission for Africa

The thirteenth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) (fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers) was held at Kinshasa, Zaire, from 24 February to 3 March 1977. The Commission adopted 42 resolutions covering a wide range of matters concerning the socio-economic development of Africa. Included were the questions of economic co-operation among African States in a number of specified areas, trans-African highways, a pan-African telecommunication network, use of space technology for natural resources development, railways, training of manpower, industrialization, intra-African trade and integrated development.

Preparations began for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1978-1988), a programme recommended by ECA and approved by the General Assembly in December 1977, and practical activities in many economic and social sectors continued and expanded.

For list of publications, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.

Activities in 1977

Agriculture

During 1977, ECA'S activities in agriculture were centred on the promotion of food production and on the improvement of trade and co-operation within Africa.

The Commission studied African groupings and organizations involved in food for an analysis of supply and demand projections to 1990, and also prepared a study on food availability in selected west African countries. A study on waste of food in western Africa was also prepared and circulated among countries concerned.

Preparations were made for ECA'S participation in studies for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on import and export profiles and trade and production potential in food, livestock, fish and forest products.

In co-operation with the West African Rice Development Association, a study was undertaken on the possibilities of the west African subregion's attaining self-sufficiency in rice production. Another mission studied possible co-operation and trade in agriculture among the States belonging to the Central African Customs and Economic Union.

The Commission also studied trade co-operation potentials in eastern and southern Africa, which led to the formation of the Eastern and Southern Africa Preferential Trade Community.

Economic co-operation

The Economic Co-operation Office of ECA concentrated mainly on the formation of an action-oriented programme for the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCS) located in the various subregions.

The third meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka (Zambia) MULPOC, in November 1977, established a set of priority projects for the promotion of intercountry co-operation through expansion of trade, creation of integrated rural development schemes, establishment of freight booking centres and a multinational coastal shipping line, harmonization of transport policies, co-ordination of industrial policies of the subregion and manpower development.

The Council of Ministers also recommended to the countries of eastern and southern Africa that they convene an Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Trade, Finance and Planning in March 1978 for the establishment of a preferential trade area and a clearing and payments system in the subregion.

Similarly, the Gisenyi (Rwanda) MULPOC Ministerial Council held in October 1977 adopted a priority action programme for Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire. The Council decided that co-operation should concentrate on the industrial utilization of methane gas, the development of agriculture and agro-industries in the Ruzizi Valley, the expansion of trade and the development of tourism and human resources.

The Economic Co-operation Office also provided assistance in co-operation with Trade and Transport Divisions for the study of co-ordinated transport and trade policies in the countries belonging to ECOWAS.

Industrial development

The major industrialization activity of ECA was the reformulation and implementation of intercountry projects and industrial branch programmes, approved at the third Conference of African Ministers of Industry in 1975, aimed at creating national, subregional and regional centres to provide assistance in industrial design, engineering and management consultancy.

Preparatory activities were undertaken to mount investigative field missions in respect of engineering, chemical and metal industries development programmes.

The fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, meeting at Kaduna, Nigeria, in November 1977, recommended that: (a) ECA,

in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), organize in early 1979 a symposium on industrial policies and strategies for internally self-sustaining development and diversification and collective self-reliance during the period 1978 to 2000; (b) priority continue to be given to industrial branch programmes—agro-industries and forest-based, building materials and construction, engineering, metal and chemical industries; and (c) ECA, in co-operation with OAU and UNIDO, should formulate permanent institutional machinery to tackle issues raised at sectoral and global consultations and call for co-operation and consultation among African countries.

Field missions by ECA assisted member countries in such matters as industrial strategies, policies and plan formulation. Work was continued on identification of opportunities for small-scale industrial development.

Investment Africa continued to be circulated among government officials, institutions and business circles in African countries, as well as among potential investors in the industrialized countries.

Education and training

Resolutions on co-operation in manpower development and utilization and on training for development were adopted by the Commission at its February 1977 session. Among training plans discussed was a proposal to develop some African institutions into subregional graduate schools of business management and finance and to develop a regional higher technical training and research institute.

Under an ECA/Netherlands fellowship programme, designed to enhance the training capability of pre- and in-service training institutions, four trainers' workshops were organized and 19 fellows placed for training in various African institutions. With the co-operation of 10 Governments and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, 99 candidates were successfully placed, under the Commission's bilateral fellowship programme designed to develop critically needed specialists.

The secretariat undertook advisory missions in the field of procurement and supplies management and in correspondence education. Field study and promotional missions were also undertaken on the localization of accountancy training and certification and on the development of indigenous consultancy organizations in western Africa.

In addition to training courses in tax policy

and administration and in budget/plan harmonization organized for Mauritius and the countries of eastern and southern Africa, ECA, in collaboration with the African Association for Training and Development, sponsored a regional meeting on training policies and practice at which a suggested training policy statement was drafted, for adoption by member Governments.

International trade and finance

The Commission was designated Co-ordinator of the ECOWAS trade customs and monetary questions study project. A study on trade flows within ECOWAS was completed, in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and a number of studies in related fields were started.

As to global trade and finance, ECA, OAU and UNCTAD organized an African regional meeting on the proposed Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, enabling member States to analyse the complex issues involved and to work out common African positions.

Further, the Second African Regional Seminar on Multilateral Trade Negotiations was also organized jointly with UNCTAD, to assist participants in assessing developments in negotiations from an African standpoint and defining their strategy.

Remote sensing

An intergovernmental meeting to draw up a constitution for the African Remote Sensing Council was held at Nairobi, Kenya, in January 1977, and a meeting of donor countries interested in the project took place at Kinshasa in February; participants from outside the region included Canada, France and the United States.

The Conference of Ministers of ECA, meeting at Kinshasa in February/March 1977, approved the establishment of two regional receiving and processing stations in Kinshasa and Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, and, in due course, an additional station. It also approved the setting up of five regional training and user-assistance centres in Kinshasa, Nairobi, Ouagadougou, Cairo (Egypt) and Ile-Ife (Nigeria).

In order to implement the remote sensing programme for Africa, a technical committee consisting of representatives of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Governments of Canada, France and the Upper Volta and ECA drew up a detailed programme of work for the implemen-

tation of the Ouagadougou training and user-assistance centre, as well as the receiving station. Agreement was reached on modalities for implementation of the Ouagadougou complex.

Detailed consultations also took place with a view to establishing a training and user-assistance centre in Nairobi. By July, agreement had been reached and USAID agreed to fund the centre's start-up.

Mineral resources

Advisory services were given to a number of member States concerning mineral resources development. Two missions were sent to Dar es Salaam and Dodoma (United Republic of Tanzania) to discuss setting up an east African mineral resources development centre. The inaugural meeting of its Governing Council took place at Dar es Salaam in September, followed by the meeting of potential donors to the centre.

A study on the present status and main trends in the development of mineral resources in west Africa was issued at the end of the year. A seminar and study tour in the USSR for African geologists, on new exploration methods, took place at Tashkent from 16 August to 3 September, with representatives from 19 African States and five non-African countries.

Energy resources

An inventory of African energy resources as a whole was initiated in 1977 and data were collected, with a view to preparing an atlas of African energy resources. The Commission took an active part in meetings concerned with the interconnexion of electrical grids in western and central Africa and in the MULPOC inaugural meeting at Gisenyi. A regional adviser on solar energy was recruited, a solar energy library was established and a five-year project on the promotion of solar energy in Africa was prepared. Also, assistance in the development of solar energy was given to Liberia, the Sudan and the United Republic of Cameroon.

Cartography

The second meeting of the Council of the ECA-initiated African Association of Cartography was held in November 1977 at Algiers, Algeria. A ceremony was held for the first graduates of the Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys at Ile-Ife. The fourth meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping was held at Nairobi in December 1977; ECA continued

to assist the Centre to secure bilateral assistance for equipment and to encourage more East African countries to become members.

The Commission continued its cartographic inventory of Africa, including aerial photography, topography, geodesy and geophysical surveys. The inventory, financed by Canada, was to be published in a series of indexed maps of the continent, thus identifying the cartographic work that remained to be done.

Environment

A regional seminar on the human environment, attended by 15 countries, was organized at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 1977. Specific recommendations were made, to be carried out jointly by ECA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In February, at a joint programming meeting, it was decided to establish an environmental co-ordination unit of ECA, financed by UNEP. The Commission participated in the United Nations Conference on Desertification in August/September 1977 at Nairobi. During the last quarter of the year, a study tour visited countries in western and northern Africa, where the workings of existing environmental machinery were observed.

Science and technology

The ECA secretariat participated in activities which led to the convening of a meeting of plenipotentiaries at Kaduna in November 1977 on the establishment of an African regional technology centre. It also participated in regional preparations for the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Following consultations between ECA and the International Development Research Centre on technology policy instruments, a joint workshop on the subject, attended by seven English-speaking African countries, was convened at Kericho, Kenya, in December.

The fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development in Africa was held in January 1977 and the African Regional Group of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development met at Addis Ababa in October. A constitution for the African Regional Organization for Standardization was provisionally signed by 17 African countries.

Economic research and planning

The Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, 1976-1977 was completed for publi-

cation. Part I covered the international economic situation, the search for a new international economic order, economic developments in the ECA region, and education and employment. Part II analysed socio-economic developments in the independent developing countries of Africa.

On the projections and strategy for a Third United Nations Development Decade, an analysis was made of trends since 1960 and a paper reviewing progress studies was published in 1977.

A study on the growth and structure of financial institutions in a number of African countries was also completed. A continuous in-depth study of the development problems of the least developed African countries was under way.

Human settlements

At its 1977 session, the Commission established a regional intergovernmental committee on human settlements with co-ordinating responsibility.

Advisory assistance to Governments in the development of housing co-operatives was continued and a seminar was held at Maseru, Lesotho, for the eastern and southern African countries.

Work continued to implement the joint ECA/UNIDO/OAU construction and building materials industries development programme. A team of three African experts visited eight countries; their report, including a work plan up to 1980, was adopted by the fourth Conference of African Ministers of Industry at Kaduna in November 1977.

Population

During 1977, ECA completed a number of micro- and macro-case studies on the inter-relationships between population growth and social and economic development, and papers on migration, mortality, fertility and demographic policies in Africa. Assistance in analysing census and survey data was given to several countries. The provisional results of the Mali population census of December 1976 were published early in 1977. Major demographic field surveys were made to provide data for planning the new capital of Nigeria.

The Commission also participated in conferences on population matters held at Cairo, Geneva, Lagos (Nigeria), Alexandria (Egypt), Amman (Jordan) and Accra (Ghana) and in Mauritius and Mexico. Two United Nations Fund for Population Activities missions to

Liberia and Senegal assessed the basic demographic needs of those countries.

Lectures on statistics and sampling were delivered at the Regional Training Institute for Population Studies at Accra, and on demography at the East African Statistical Training Centre at Dar es Salaam. Information activities continued with the publication of two issues of the African Population Newsletter. The African Directory of Demographers and a manual on demographic concepts and definitions relevant to the African region were in preparation.

Social development

Meetings, workshops and seminars were conducted by the ECA secretariat in various African centres with the aim of enhancing rural development and improving work performance in rural socio-economic activities. Studies on national youth service schemes and their impact on development, and on family welfare services in Africa were completed.

A regional conference was held in Mauritania in September 1977 to review progress on implementation of national, regional and world plans of action for the integration of women in development.

The secretariat participated in an appraisal mission of the problems raised by the influx of South African student refugees into Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. It also co-operated with OAU and the All-Africa Conference of Churches in refugee matters.

Statistics

In 1977, ECA devoted its statistical resources to two main activities: the development of national data-gathering services, and the development of a data bank and regional statistical publishing service. Efforts were concentrated on the African Household Survey Capability Programme, designed to create statistical survey capabilities in the countries of the region, and on the Statistical Training Programme for Africa. In addition, advisory services were provided to various countries of the region in the fields of national accounts, population statistics and electronic data-processing.

Transport, communications and tourism

Meetings of the Committee of Experts and the Ministers of Transport of the Central African Subregion were held in March 1977 at Ndjamena, Chad, to consider and adopt the

draft constitution of the Central Transport Coordinating Council.

The fifth meeting of the Port Management Association of Eastern Africa was held at Tamatave, Madagascar, in July to consider technical reports on port administration in the subregion.

With regard to the Trans-African Highways Programme, Belgium and Japan accepted ECAS request to finance engineering studies of two sections of the Mombasa (Kenya)-to-Lagos highway in Zaire. The Commission continued its effort to mobilize financial and technical assistance for completion of the major trans-African highways; it co-operated with the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom to organize the Pan-African Conference on Highway Maintenance and Rehabilitation, held in November at Accra.

Efforts were continued by ECA, the African Development Bank, OAU and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as the Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Pan-African Telecommunication Network, to organize funding of the remaining portion of stage I of the network, as well as of the feasibility study on stage II, which comprised about 16,000 kilometres of route links to the main network. The Pan-African Telecommunication Union was established with headquarters in Kinshasa.

In tourism, technical assistance was given to three countries: the Congo—administrative organization, introduction of tourism statistics and legal regulation of tourism activities; Seychelles—tourism development policies; and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya—organization of professional training for the hotel industry. Also, studies of social costs and benefits of tourism were carried out for several African countries.

Decisions by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council noted with satisfaction the annual report of ECA for the period 1 March 1976 to 3 March 1977, its recommendations, resolutions and work programme. Decision 249(LXIII) was adopted without a vote, on the proposal of the Council President.

On the same day, the Council decided to amend ECAS terms of reference to add Angola and Seychelles to the list of member countries, by adopting resolution 2091(LXIII). The draft resolution, as proposed by the Council President, was adopted without objection. (For text

of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

On 29 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council approved the text of a resolution for adoption by the General Assembly which would have the Assembly endorse ECAS proclamation of a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during 1978-1988.

This action was embodied in Council resolution 2097(LXIII), adopted by 40 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions. It was sponsored by Yugoslavia, on behalf of the Council members belonging to the "Group of 77." (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

On 19 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted without vote the recommended text as its resolution 32/160. The text, orally amended by Jamaica on behalf of States Members belonging to the Group of 77, was approved without a vote by the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee on 30 November.

By this resolution, the Assembly proclaimed a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988, with a view to giving active support to a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa. It requested the Secretary-General to help in the preparation of a detailed plan of action for the Decade and to co-ordinate mobilization of the required technical and financial resources. It also asked him to propose, in consultation with ITU, one year as a World Communications Year and to submit a detailed programme for that Year to the Economic and Social Council. (For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

On 21 December 1977, the General Assembly noted a report of the Secretary-General and the observations of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning the statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and requested the Economic and Social Council to return the statute to the Conference of Ministers of ECA for certain revisions. This action was taken by decision 32/428 B, adopted without objection. The Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee had approved the text without vote on 15 December 1977, on an oral suggestion by its Chairman.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2071, 2072, 2076-2079.

E/5941 and Add.1. Annual report of ECA (1 March 1976-3 March 1977), Vols. I and II. (Vol. I, Part I A: Matters that require action by, or are brought to attention of, Economic and Social Council; Part III: Resolutions (288 (XIII)-329 (XIII)) and decision adopted by Conference of Ministers at its 4th meeting (13th session of ECA), Kinshasa, Zaire, 24 February-3 March 1977; Annex I: Publications and principal documents issued during period under review.)

E/5997. Report of Secretary-General on meetings of Executive Secretaries of regional commissions: Headquarters, New York, 19-21 January 1977; Geneva, 29 June-1 July 1977.

E/6033. Financial implications of decisions adopted at 13th session of ECA (4th meeting of Conference of Ministers). Statement by Secretary-General.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft decision V. E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 249 (LXIII)).

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft resolution I.

Resolution 2091 (LXIII), as recommended by Council President, E/L.1779, adopted without objection by Council on 25 July 1977, meeting 2079.

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that Angola and Seychelles have become Members of the United Nations since the Economic Commission for Africa last submitted its annual report to the Council,

Decides to add Angola and Seychelles to the list of member countries contained in paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2077-2079, 2083.

E/5941 and Add.1. Annual report of ECA (1 March 1976-3 March 1977), Vols. I and II. (Vol. I, Part III: Resolutions adopted at 13th session (4th meeting of Conference of Ministers) of ECA (resolution 291 (XIII)).)

E/L.1774. Report of Conference on International Economic Co-operation (Paris, 20 May-2 June 1977). Note by Secretary-General (covering note).

E/L.1776 and Rev.1. Yugoslavia (on behalf of States members of Economic and Social Council belonging to "Group of 77"): draft resolution and revision.

Resolution 2097 (LXIII), as submitted by Yugoslavia, E/L.1776/Rev.1, as further orally amended by sponsor, adopted by Council on 29 July 1977, meeting 2083, by 40 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions.

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 on the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 on the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-

operation, and in particular the need to narrow the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries,

Recognizing the urgent need to improve substantially the transport and communications infrastructure in Africa in particular,

Noting with satisfaction the initiative of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in the establishment of an integrated African road network and the rationalization of Africa's railway systems and other transport systems in order to facilitate the promotion of multinational economic co-operation in Africa, intra-African trade and the political, social and economic integration of Africa,

Commending resolution 291 (XIII) of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa," adopted at its thirteenth session (fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers) (E/5941, part III),

Noting section III, subsection D, of the annex to the report of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (E/L.1774) on infrastructure, and in particular paragraph 8 of that subsection dealing with Africa,

Convinced that effective support is required from the international community in order to promote the principle of collective self-reliance for the purpose of solving African problems in these sectors,

Convinced further of the need to adopt an integrated approach in the formulation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, taking into account all the problems facing the continent in this field,

Noting further with appreciation the progress made in the development of a Pan-African telecommunication network, which is jointly sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, the International Telecommunication Union and the Economic Commission for Africa,

Welcoming the continuing interest of the specialized agencies in the application of communications technologies and services, in particular that of the International Telecommunication Union, which, as the lead agency, has the responsibility for the regulation, co-ordination and harmonization of activities in this field,

1. Endorses the recommendation made in paragraph 1 of resolution 291 (XIII) of the Economic Commission for Africa adopted at its thirteenth session (fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers) and proclaims a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988, with a view to:

(a) Giving active support to the preparation and implementation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, for the purpose of solving the problems of the continent in this field;

(b) Mobilizing the technical and financial resources required for this purpose;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the executive heads of the agencies concerned, to provide all possible assistance to the African States in the preparation of a detailed plan of action for the Decade and to co-ordinate the mobilization of the necessary technical and financial resources required to make the Decade a success;

3. Calls upon all Member States, in particular the developed countries and others in a position to do so, to participate effectively in the implementation of programmes for achieving the objectives of the Decade;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union and other specialized agencies concerned, to propose for consideration, as appropriate, one year during the Decade as a World Communications Year, in view of the importance of transport and communications to other regions of the world, and to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session containing a detailed programme of measures and activities to be carried out during such a Year;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, and to submit thereafter annual progress reports.

General Assembly—32nd session
Second Committee, meetings 51, 52.
Fifth Committee, meeting 61.
Plenary meeting 107.

A/31/478 and Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. Development and international economic co-operation: implementation of decisions adopted by General Assembly at its 7th special session. Report of Conference on International Economic Co-operation. Note by Secretary-General. (Add.1. Annex: Issues and measures referred to in report of Conference, Chapter III D.)

A/C.2/32/L.3. Note by Secretariat (reproducing text of draft resolution recommended for adoption in Economic and Social Council resolution 2097(LXIII) of 29 July 1977): draft resolution, as orally amended by Jamaica on behalf of States Members belonging to "Group of 77" (A/C.2/32/L.45), approved without vote by Second Committee on 30 November 1977, meeting 52.

A/C.2/32/L.45. Jamaica (on behalf of States Members belonging to "Group of 77"): amendments to draft resolution recommended by Economic and Social Council in A/C.2/32/L.3.

A/C.2/32/L.33, A/C.5/32/63. Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution recommended by Economic and Social Council in A/C.2/32/L.3. Statements by Secretary-General.

A/32/452. Administrative and financial implications of, inter alia, draft resolution V recommended by Second Committee in A/32/265/Add.3. Report of Fifth Committee.

A/32/265/Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.1. Report of Second Committee (part IV) (on report of Economic and Social Council), draft resolution V.

Resolution 32/160, as recommended by Second Committee, A/32/265/Add.3 and Add.3/Corr.1, adopted without vote by Assembly on 19 December 1977, meeting 107.

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 3202(S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and in particular the need to narrow the gap between the industrialized and the developing countries,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recognizing the urgent need to improve substantially the transport and communications infrastructure in Africa in particular,

Noting with satisfaction the initiative of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa in the establishment of an integrated African road network and the rationalization of Africa's railway systems and other transport systems in order to facilitate the promotion of multinational economic co-operation in Africa, intra-African trade and the political, social and economic integration of Africa,

Commending resolution 291 (XIII) entitled "Transport and Communications Decade in Africa" adopted on 26 February 1977 by the Economic Commission for Africa at its thirteenth session and fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers,

Noting section III D of the annex to the report of the Con-

ference on International Economic Co-operation on infrastructure, in particular paragraph 8 thereof dealing with Africa,

Convinced that effective support is required from the international community in order to promote the principle of collective self-reliance for the purpose of solving African problems in these sectors,

Convinced further of the need to adopt an integrated approach in the formulation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, taking into account all the problems facing the continent in this field,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the development of a pan-African telecommunication network, which is jointly sponsored by the Organization of African Unity, the International Telecommunication Union and the Economic Commission for Africa,

Welcoming the continuing interest of the specialized agencies in the application of communications technologies and services, in particular that of the International Telecommunication Union, which, as the lead agency, has the responsibility for the regulation, co-ordination and harmonization of activities in this field,

1. Endorses the recommendation made in paragraph 1 of resolution 291 (XIII) of the Economic Commission for Africa and proclaims a Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the years 1978-1988, with a view to:

(a) Giving active support to the preparation and implementation of a global strategy for the development of transport and communications in Africa, for the purpose of solving the problems of the continent in this field;

(b) Mobilizing the technical and financial resources required for this purpose;

2. Decides that, in accordance with its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the mobilization of the necessary financial and technical resources required to make the Decade a success constitutes a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the executive heads of the agencies concerned, to provide all possible assistance to the African States in the preparation of a detailed plan of action for the Decade and to co-ordinate the mobilization of the necessary technical and financial resources required to make the Decade a success;

4. Calls upon all Member States, in particular the developed countries and others in a position to do so, to participate effectively in the implementation of programmes for achieving the objectives of the Decade;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union and other specialized agencies concerned, to propose for consideration, as appropriate, one year during the Decade as a World Communications Year, in view of the importance of transport and communications to other regions of the world, and to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session containing a detailed programme of measures and activities to be carried out during such a Year;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fifth session, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit thereafter annual progress reports.

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

General Assembly—32nd session
Fifth Committee, meeting 64.
Plenary meeting 111.

A/C.5/32/62. Regional co-operation and development. Statute of African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

A/32/397/Add.2. Report of Fifth Committee (part III) (on report of Economic and Social Council).

A/32/45. Resolutions and decisions adopted by General As-

sembly during its 32nd session, 20 September-21 December 1977 (decision 32/428 B).

Other documents

African Economic Indicators.

African Statistical Yearbook, 1976. Part 1: North Africa; Part 2: West Africa; Part 3: East Africa; Part 4: Central Africa and Others in Africa.

Investment Africa, Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2 (April and June 1977); Nos. 3 and 4 (December 1977 and April 1978).

Statistical and Economic Information Bulletin for Africa, No. 9.

Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa, No. 11.

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 51 and 52 (May and November 1977).

Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa. Series A: Direction of Trade, No. 25. U.N.P. Sales No.: E/F.77.II.K.2. Series B: Trade by Commodity, No. 27. U.N.P. Sales No.: E/F.75.II.K.8; Wo. 28. U.N.P. Sales No.: E/F.76.II.K.4; No. 29. U.N.P. Sales No.: E/F.77.II.K.5.

E/5937/Add.3. Long-term trends in economic development of regions of world. Report of Secretary-General, Annex III: Preliminary assessment of long-term development trends and prospects in developing Africa. Prepared by secretariat of ECA.

E/5976. Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1976 (Summary).

E/6021. Letter of 21 June from Permanent Observer of Holy See.

E/6051. Summary of programme budget implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by Economic and Social Council during its 62nd and 63rd sessions. Report of Secretary-General.

E/6061. Reports of JIU. Africa and Western Asia: report on technical co-operation provided by United Nations system to regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements. Note by Secretary-General.

E/1978/83. Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1977 (Summary).

The Economic Commission for Western Asia

During 1977, there continued to be interruptions in the work of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) in consequence of the hostilities in Lebanon. However, the secretariat was able to implement the greater part of its work programme and to meet requests for assistance by member countries. The fourth session of the Commission was held at Amman, Jordan, from 24 to 29 April 1977.

The Commission adopted resolutions requesting the Economic and Social Council to approve the membership applications of Egypt and of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It approved a programme of action in favour of the least developed countries of the region, dealing particularly with the financing of the United Nations regional project for public finance and administration. It also called for regional co-operation in a number of areas, including water resources development, and assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

By other decisions, the Commission approved a programme of work and priorities for 1978-1979, gave priority to the work programme relating to the practices of transnational corporations in the oil industry in the region, and dealt with matters relating to an economic survey of member countries, statistics and data needed for the implementation of the work programme, and the possibility of establishing a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology.

Activities in 1977

Development planning

Work continued on the preparation of studies on long-term trends in and forecasts of eco-

nomics development in the ECWA region. A series of studies dealt with: development trends and prospects in selected ECWA countries; an evaluation of government budgetary systems and their role in development planning in selected countries of Western Asia; and liberalization of non-tariff barriers.

In support of the region's participation in the multilateral trade negotiations being conducted under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a regional seminar was held in September in Beirut, Lebanon, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Working papers prepared by the ECWA secretariat concerned the generalized system of preferences and ECWA countries, special preferences for ECWA countries and the advantage to ECWA countries of accession to GATT. Work continued on an inventory of trade barriers facing products of export interest to ECWA countries. Also, a project was begun to establish a comprehensive information system on the operations of transnational corporations in the region.

The Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration conducted training programmes, both centrally and country based, for officials at decision-making levels from Democratic Yemen, Oman and Yemen, and project experts made field trips to those countries.

Food and agriculture

Activities under the agriculture programme were concerned, inter alia, with establishment of a reliable data system and improvement of agricultural planning. Planning assistance in the form of studies or critiques was provided for the following projects: the technology of

food-crop production in the East Jordan Valley; post-war livestock development in Lebanon; the five-year development plan of Yemen; and the establishment of a livestock research centre for Democratic Yemen.

Activities initiated included: preparation of a project on the development of livestock statistics in Lebanon; agricultural sector studies on Democratic Yemen and Yemen, particularly involving the development of a macro-economic framework and domestic demand projections; and a study on integrated livestock planning in selected countries of the ECWA region.

Additional studies dealt with enhancing food security (food security implications of Arab trade in agricultural commodities and food security planning in the Syrian Arab Republic). The Commission also made a subregional study of agricultural plan harmonization and integration covering Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Industrial development

Projects in the field of industrial development included: the collection of data and information relating to industrial plans, programmes and policies in countries of the ECWA region; identification of areas that had the potential for development on a regional basis of components, parts and equipment for telecommunications; identification of electrical equipment for manufacturing on a regional basis; and identification of construction equipment manufacturing on a regional basis.

Work continued on country papers relating to the chemical industry. Covered was the state of the chemical industry in Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

A study was initiated to investigate, analyse and determine the basis for a policy guideline and criteria to be applied in formulating an optimal production and investment strategy for petrochemical industry in the Arab world.

Among the advisory services and assistance extended to countries in the region were the following: establishment of a chemical complex based on Dead Sea brine in Jordan; evaluation of a report on the industrialization prospects of the United Arab Emirates; valorization of dates and the formulation of a vegetable-oil processing plant in Oman; preparation of a questionnaire for use in an industrial census in Lebanon; and assessment of operational problems of Syrian metal industries.

Natural resources, science and technology

A detailed report was prepared on the water demand of each country in the ECWA region by the year 2000 in the municipal, industrial and agricultural sectors, and another on projections of water supply was expected to be completed during 1978. In connexion with a project to study manpower training needs and problems, a preliminary survey was made of existing training facilities and needs.

The first version of a survey pertaining to the development of mineral resources in countries of the ECWA region was completed, and projects were begun to collect and process mineral economic information with regard to supply and demand and to estimate skilled manpower requirements in the mineral resources sector.

Another report completed dealt with medium- and long-term projections of the demand for and supply of energy in the ECWA region.

A report was prepared setting forth basic guidelines for the establishment of a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology. It made recommendations concerning management, staffing, budget, location, functions and services.

A seminar on technology transfer and change in the Arab Middle East was held in Beirut in October 1977. The three main subjects were: the system of science and technology; agriculture and water in the region; and industry and transport. The technical papers and proceedings of the seminar were considered to be a significant addition to the meagre literature of relevance to the region in the field of transfer of technology.

The first regional preparatory meeting for the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development was convened in Beirut in December 1977. The meeting reviewed progress in the preparation of national papers, considered plans for follow-up and agreed on the following five subject areas for the Conference: food and agriculture; transport and communications; natural resources (rational management and utilization, development and conservation, renewable, non-renewable and non-conventional sources of energy); industrialization; and human settlements (health, social services, housing and environment).

Another study made recommendations on the establishment of a regional network of technological information exchange, within the context of an international network.

Population

The work programme in the field of population continued to emphasize data collection

and demographic analyses. Among the projects were: a demographic socio-economic survey of nine new towns in Oman; an expert group meeting on a census of the Palestinian Arab people held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, in June 1977; an expert group meeting on census techniques held in December and attended by technical representatives of countries of the region; and advisory missions to Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. A major project was undertaken by the Government of Lebanon with the assistance of ECWA to secure urgently needed population and housing information.

Work on the first population country profiles neared completion. These country profiles contained information on population data collection activities, a brief analysis of the most recent population and related socio-economic data available, a general view of prospective trends of population variables, a review of population policies undertaken by the country in question and a bibliography on population research and other relevant publications relating to that country.

A population library and reference centre at Beirut, financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, was expanded during the year both in terms of activities and library resources.

The Population Bulletin of ECWA was redesigned to emphasize its role as the major scientific journal dealing with population questions of the region. Two issues were produced in Arabic and English.

Transport and communications

The development of an integrated transport and communications network in the ECWA region continued, and work was completed in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

At the request of Yemen, two experts visited the country to advise the Government on a \$20 million project for the development of a deep-water port at Mocha.

The Regional Adviser on Transport and Communications advised Bahrain on maintenance and expansion of its public transportation system. Jordan was assisted in two projects: a study of the cost of moving bulk grain from Aqaba to Amman by rail; and proposals for a traffic study for the Amman region. Lebanon received advice on its programme for the rehabilitation and maintenance of highways.

Social development and human settlements

A regional survey on planning for youth was completed, with special reference to na-

tional development plans, statistics and machinery. Also, work continued on the collection of quantitative data depicting women's social, educational, legal and employment status in the region. Other reports and studies dealt with social welfare planning and programming in Lebanon, regional facilities and personnel for rehabilitation of the disabled, and popular participation in decision-making in the ECWA countries. A preliminary project was prepared for drug control in Lebanon.

Advisory services were also provided on: establishment and/or improvement of women's organizations in Oman and the United Arab Emirates; establishment of a work plan for a newly created Department of Women's Affairs in Jordan; a pilot programme of community development in Oman; social development planning and social reconstruction in Lebanon; social aspects of integrated rural development projects in Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, and the Syrian Arab Republic; programmes for youth in Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Qatar and Yemen; and design and implementation of projects for social development and family welfare in Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic.

An assessment report of the human settlements situation in the region was prepared, as was a study evaluating housing finance in the ECWA region, with particular reference to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Advisory services were provided to Governments in the field of low-cost urban housing, housing finance institutions, human settlements technology and reconstruction activities in the field of housing, building and planning.

Statistics

Statistical activities included the collection of economic statistics with special emphasis on the preparation and development of national accounts, and collection of prices, index numbers and purchasing-power parity for international comparison.

Assistance was given to Yemen in preparing and publishing in June 1977, jointly with ECWA, the "National accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic for the years 1969/1970-1975/1976."

Also, assistance was given to Jordan in setting up its national accounts within the framework of the new United Nations System of National Accounts.

Substantial assistance was given during the year by the Regional Adviser on National Accounts and Economic Statistics to several regional training institutes and to Bahrain, Demo-

cratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The first bulletin of the National Accounts Studies entitled "Economic growth of the ECWA countries throughout the period 1960-1972" was published in May 1977.

Technical co-operation

There was an increase during the year in the technical assistance and supporting services to the countries of the region and to the projects decentralized to ECWA.

The Commission was designated as the executing agency for United Nations Development Programme assistance to the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. A number of smaller projects were also assigned to ECWA for execution and management.

Also, during the year there was significant progress in the recruitment of regional advisers and in the provision of their services to the countries of the region.

Decisions by the Economic and Social Council

On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council adopted decision 248(LXIII) by which it noted with satisfaction the report of ECWA on its fourth session, the Commission's resolutions relating to its work programme, and the Commission's programme of work. Decision 248(LXIII) was adopted, without objection, on the proposal of the Council President.

On 22 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions by which it decided to admit Egypt to membership in ECWA and to amend its terms of reference so as to admit the Palestine Liberation Organization.

These actions were embodied in resolutions 2088(LXIII) (Egypt) and 2089(LXIII) (PLO).

By resolution 2089(LXIII), the Council considered that the full participation of PLO in ECWA would contribute to the purposes and aims of the Commission, and amended the terms of reference of the Commission to provide that its members were to consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia which used to call on services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and of PLO.

Resolution 2088(LXIII) was sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Greece, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire. It was adopted without vote.

Resolution 2089(LXIII) was sponsored by Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen and Yugoslavia. It was adopted by a roll-call vote of 27 to 11, with 12 abstentions.

(For texts of resolutions and voting details, See DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

A number of Council members, including Canada, Ethiopia, Iran, Peru and the Philippines, said that they could not support the resolution on the admission of PLO for legal reasons and reasons of principle, namely that the participation of bodies not States in the work of the regional commissions was counter to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning participation of States in the United Nations.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2071, 2072, 2075-2079.

E/5969 and Add.1. Report of ECWA on its 4th session, Amman, Jordan, 24-29 April 1977. (Chapter I: Issues that require action by Economic and Social Council; Chapter III: Resolutions (36 (IV)-51 (IV)) adopted by ECWA; Annex III: List of documents submitted to ECWA at its 4th session.)

E/5969, Chapter I, para. 3. Draft resolution recommended by ECWA for adoption by Economic and Social Council.

E/5997. Report of Secretary-General on meetings of Executive Secretaries of regional commissions: Headquarters, New York, 19-21 January 1977; Geneva, 29 June-1 July 1977.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft decision VI.

E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 248 (LXIII)).

E/5969. Report of ECWA on its 4th session, Chapter I, para. 2, and Chapter III (resolution 37 (IV)).

E/L.1777. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Greece, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire: draft resolution.

Resolution 2088 (LXIII), as proposed by 17 powers, E/L.1777, adopted without vote by Council on 22 July 1977, meeting 2078.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered resolution 37 (IV) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia concerning the application of the Arab Republic of Egypt for admission to membership of that Commission,

Bearing in mind paragraph 2 of the Commission's terms of reference as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1818(LV) of 9 August 1973,

1. Decides to admit the Arab Republic of Egypt as a member of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of the present resolution.

E/5969. Report of ECWA on its 4th session, Chapter I, para. 1, and Chapter III (resolution 36 (IV)).

E/L.1778. Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

Resolution 2089(LXIII), as proposed by 18 powers, E/L.1778, adopted by Council on 22 July 1977, meeting 2078, by roll-call vote of 27 to 11, with 12 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, United States

Abstaining: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Venezuela.

The Economic and Social Council,
Recalling its resolution 2026(LXI) of 4 August 1976, on assistance to the Palestinian people,

Considering that the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Economic Commission for Western Asia would contribute to the purposes and aims of the Commission,

Taking into consideration resolution 36(IV) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia,

1. Decides to amend paragraph 2 of the terms of refer-

ence of the Economic Commission for Western Asia as contained in Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 to read:

2. The members of the Commission shall consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia which used to call on the services of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Future applications for membership by Member States shall be decided on by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission.

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary measures for the early implementation of the present resolution.

Other documents

Population Bulletin of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia, No. 8, 9 (January, July 1975); Nos. 10 and 11, Special Issue: Proceedings of the Regional Seminar on Techniques of Collecting, Evaluating and Estimating Demographic Parameters, Amman, Jordan, 27-31 January 1976 (January-July 1976); No. 12, 13 (January, July 1977).

E/5979. Reports of JIU. Review of economic and social conditions in ECWA region, 1975 and 1976.

E/6021. Letter of 21 June from Permanent Observer of Holy See.

E/6061. Africa and Western Asia: report on technical co-operation provided by United Nations system to regional and subregional integration and co-operation movements. Note by Secretary-General (transmitting JIU report).

Long-term trends in economic development of regions

The Secretary-General submitted to the July/August 1977 session of the Economic and Social Council a report on long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world, prepared at the request of the General Assembly.³ The first part of the report contained a generalized picture of global economic trends and projections, including a discussion of methodology. It examined actual trends in the past two decades, bearing in mind possible discontinuities in future trends, both in the short-term (the remainder of the 1970s) and in the medium-term outlook for the decade of the 1980s. It also considered the long-term perspective until 2000 in the light of these trends. In conclusion, it stated that the comprehensive analysis within the United Nations of future global and regional economic trends was only in the initial stages and was continuing in the United Nations Secretariat both at Headquarters and in the regional commissions.

Annexed to the report were regional studies on long-term trends and forecasts prepared by regional commissions.

The changing economic structure in relation to growth in the region was described in the study of the Economic Commission for Europe

(ECE). Aspects included were future growth patterns, technological change and problems of international co-operation of the region. Among other things, the report stated that the ECE region had undergone rapid structural changes over the past 25 years, in particular a marked decrease in employment in agriculture, important compositional shifts within the manufacturing sector, in terms of both output and employment, and a steady rise in output and employment shares of public and private services. It concluded, *inter alia*, that the unprecedented economic growth of the region would continue in the next generation.

The study by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific analysed recent trends in employment, agriculture, industry, government services and other sectors of the economies of the region, and offered preliminary comment on long-term regional forecasts. It stated that of the 33 developing countries and territories of the region, three of them—Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Singapore—probably would not share the fundamental problems of development that

³ See Y.U.N., 1975, pp. 539-40, text of resolution 3508(XXX) of 15 December 1975.

would be common to the others in the 1980s. Five others—the centrally planned economies of China, Democratic Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam—organized their economic and social life in a different manner. The remaining 25 countries had in common the basic problem of development in the 1980s. The report noted the special problems of the five land-locked and 10 island countries of the region. It also noted that in comparison with the 1950s and 1960s, the current development objective of most of the countries of the region was to raise the levels of living of the lower-income groups.

The study of the Economic Commission for Africa examined development trends in the region in the period 1960-1975 and offered a preliminary assessment of long-term prospects and forecasts based on past policies and the current policy mix. It cited a number of salient features of the 1960s and the first half of the 1970s. Income growth in the developing African countries, it said, was substantially affected by the cyclical fluctuations in the economies of member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, their major export market. African developing countries as a whole maintained the long-term trend of about 5 per cent average annual growth of their gross domestic product (GDP). Inflation accelerated substantially in the latter part of the 1960s and first half of the 1970s. A most serious feature, it noted, was slow growth in agricultural production, on which about 80 per cent of the total population depended directly. The report concluded, *inter alia*, that over-all, on the basis of current and emergent policies, there might be grounds for believing that the GDP growth rate in the 1980s could reach or exceed 6 per cent a year.

The study of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was issued as an ECLA document under the title "Long-term trends and projections of Latin American economic development" and was not annexed to the Secretary-General's report.

On 25 July 1977, the Economic and Social Council, with the adoption of resolution 2090(LXIII), noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's report and recommended that the regional commissions should continue and further expand their studies of long-term economic trends in their respective regions, designed to reach practical conclusions regarding the expansion of economic co-operation both on a regional and on an international scale.

The Council affirmed the need to bear in

mind long-term prospects for the economic development of the regions of the world during the elaboration of the new international development strategy. It then asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee for Development Planning, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the heads of other interested bodies of the United Nations system, to start, on the basis of the regional studies under way, preparations for the elaboration of an over-all socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the years up to 1990, taking due account of social and economic factors within development projections, interregional economic relationships and sectoral forecasts and including methodological guidelines appropriate for the further examination of long-term economic trends. The Council asked for a progress report in 1978.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Resolution 2090(LXIII) was adopted, without objection, on the proposal of Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece, Iraq, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, the USSR, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

On 8 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (32/57) by which it also noted the Secretary-General's report. It endorsed the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July and in particular the Council's recommendation that preparations be started for elaborating an over-all socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000. The Assembly reaffirmed the necessity to take into account long-term prospects when elaborating the new international development strategy. The Assembly then decided to consider the matter again at its regular 1979 session.

(For text of resolution, see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

Resolution 32/57 was adopted, without vote, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, which had approved the text without vote on 22 November. The sponsors were Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Greece, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Surinam, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda and the USSR. Amendments proposed by Mexico were accepted by the sponsors.

Documentary references

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2071, 2073, 2075-2079.

E/5937 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1,2 and Add.2-4 and Add.4/Corr.1. Long-term trends in economic development of regions of world. Report of Secretary-General.

E/5997. Report of Secretary-General on meetings of Executive Secretaries of regional commissions: Headquarters, New York, 19-21 January 1977; Geneva, 29 June-1 July 1977.

E/L.1780. Algeria, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Greece, Iraq, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, USSR, Venezuela, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

E/L.1780/Rev.1. Revised draft resolution, sponsored by above 17 powers and Uganda.

Resolution 2090 (LXIII), as proposed by 18 powers, E/L.1780/Rev.1, and as further orally amended by sponsors, adopted without objection by Council on 25 July 1977, meeting 2079.

The Economic and Social Council,
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, General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation.

Considering that the United Nations activities initiated by General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 entitled "Examination of long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world" should contribute to providing an adequate basis for international economic negotiations relating to international trade, primary commodity and food problems, industrialization, monetary problems and other issues of primordial importance for economic and social development on the global scale,

1. Notes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the various regions of the world and their mutual relationship, prepared in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX);

2. Recommends that the regional commissions should continue and further expand their studies of long-term economic trends in their respective regions, designed to reach practical conclusions regarding the expansion of economic co-operation both on a regional and on an international scale;

3. Affirms the need to bear in mind long-term prospects for the economic development of the regions of the world during the elaboration of the new international development strategy;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee for Development Planning, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the heads of other interested bodies of the United Nations system, to start, on the basis of the regional studies under way, preparations for the elaboration of an overall socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the years up to 1990, taking due account of social and economic factors within development projections, interregional economic relationships and sectoral forecasts and including methodological guidelines appropriate for the further examination of long-term economic trends;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its sixty-fifth session a progress report on the action taken to implement the provisions of the present resolution.

General Assembly—32nd session
Second Committee, meetings 50, 51.
Plenary meeting 98.

A/C.2/32/L.36. Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Greece, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Surinam, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, USSR: draft resolution, as orally amended by Mexico and by sponsors, approved without vote by Second Committee on 22 November 1977, meeting 51.

A/32/385. Report of Second Committee.

Resolution 32/57, as recommended by Second Committee, A/32/385, adopted without vote by Assembly on 8 December 1977, meeting 98.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its 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, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Recognizing that the United Nations activities initiated by General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, entitled "Examination of long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world," to be continued and expanded on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolution 2090 (LXIII) of 25 July 1977, should contribute to the establishment of the new international economic order and, in this context, to the process of international economic negotiations relating, inter alia, to trade, primary commodities, food problems, industrialization, monetary problems and other issues of primordial importance for economic and social development on a global scale,

Bearing in mind that the regional studies involved should be so designed as to reach practical conclusions regarding the expansion of economic co-operation on both a regional and an international scale,

Bearing also in mind the need to study long-term prospects for the social and economic development of the various regions of the world and on a global scale, inter alia, in order to utilize, as appropriate, the results achieved in the work on the new international development strategy,

Noting that studies and projections of long-term trends and their implications for development policies will be considered by the Committee for Development Planning at its fourteenth session,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the various regions of the world and their mutual relationship and studies of the regional commissions annexed thereto, prepared in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3508 (XXX);

2. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 2090 (LXIII), in particular paragraph 4 thereof, which contains the recommendation to start, on the basis of the regional studies under way, preparations for the elaboration of an overall socio-economic perspective of the development of the world economy up to the year 2000, with special emphasis on the years up to 1990 and on the problems of developing countries;

3. Reaffirms the necessity to take into account, as appropriate, regional and global long-term prospects for economic and social development during the preparatory pro-

cess for, and in the elaboration of, the new international development strategy;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, the progress report referred to in Council resolution 2090 (LXIII);

5. Decides to consider the status of the examination of

long-term economic trends at its thirty-fourth session as a separate agenda item;

6. Invites all States, as well as the concerned organizations, organs and bodies within the United Nations system, to reply to requests for information which may be made in the course of the implementation of the present resolution.

Other matters concerning regional economic and social activities

Regional economic co-operation

In a report to the July/August 1977 session of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General described the action taken to strengthen the secretariats of the regional commissions to enable them to promote effectively co-operation among developing countries at the regional and interregional levels. He also described proposals and arrangements for intersecretariat co-operation and for the co-ordination of existing and future activities for the promotion of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries. The Secretary-General concluded that these arrangements would eventually require additional resources for the regional commissions.

On 25 July 1977, the Council, with the adoption of decision 251 (LXIII), took note of the report of the Secretary-General. The decision was adopted, without objection, on the proposal of the Council President.

Invitation to the Holy See

At its July/August 1977 session, the Economic and Social Council considered a letter dated 21 June 1977 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, requesting

that the Holy See be invited to attend sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in a consultative capacity.

On 22 July 1977, the Council adopted decision 244 (LXIII), by which it recommended that those commissions invite the Holy See to attend their sessions on a basis similar to that provided for in the relevant terms of reference applicable to States Members of the United Nations not members of the commissions. Decision 244 (LXIII) was adopted, without vote, on the proposal of Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Philippines and Togo.

Meetings of Executive Secretaries

Following consideration of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions, held in January and June/July 1977 at Geneva, the Economic and Social Council, on 25 July 1977, adopted decision 250 (LXIII), taking note of the report. The Council adopted the decision, without objection, on the proposal of its President.

Documentary references

Regional economic co-operation

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2081, 2072, 2075-2079.

E/5997. Report of Secretary-General on meetings of Executive Secretaries of regional commissions: Headquarters, New York, 19-21 January 1977; Geneva, 29 June-1 July 1977.

E/5998. Strengthening of regional commissions for regional and interregional co-operation. Report of Secretary-General.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft decision VI.

E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 251 (LXIII)).

Invitation to the Holy See

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2077, 2078.

E/6021. Letter of 21 June from Permanent Observer of Holy See.

E/L.1775. Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Togo: draft decision.

E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 244 (LXIII)).

Meetings of Executive Secretaries

Economic and Social Council—63rd session
Plenary meetings 2075-2079.

E/5997. Report of Secretary-General on meetings of Executive Secretaries of regional commissions: Headquarters, New York, 19-21 January 1977; Geneva, 29 June-1 July 1977.

E/L.1779. Draft proposals by Council President, draft decision VI.

E/6020. Resolutions and decisions of Economic and Social Council, 63rd session (decision 250 (LXIII)).

Other documents

A/32/3. Report of Economic and Social Council on work of its organizational session for 1977, of its 3rd special session and of its 62nd and 63rd sessions, Chapter III H.