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CEPAL

Economic Commission for Latin America



REPORT ON THE JOINT MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FROM AFRICA  
AND LATIN AMERICA ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION \*/

(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1-4 June 1982)

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\*/ Prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FROM AFRICA  
AND LATIN AMERICA ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 1-4 JUNE 1982

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, on Tuesday, 1 June 1982 at 11.00 a.m. The Officers of the Bureau were then elected, as follows:

Chairman:	Africa -	Mr. Shiferaw Jamo Socialist Ethiopia
Vice Chairman:	Latin America -	Mr. Fernando Petrella Argentina
Rapporteurs:	Africa -	Mr. Thomas Curtis Peoples' Revolutionary Republic of Guinea
	Latin America -	Mrs. Ifigenia Martinez Mexico

2. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Technical and economic co-operation between Africa and Latin America
  - (i) Consideration of priority areas for economic and technical co-operation in the fields of manpower development and utilization, science and technology, and international trade:
  - (ii) Mechanisms for promoting ECDC and TCDC at the interregional level:
  - (iii) Interregional co-operation at the sectoral level:
5. Future follow-up action
6. Any other business
7. Adoption of the report
8. Closing of the meeting.

3. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary explained the background to the joint project on the promotion of economic and technical co-operation between African and Latin American countries which had given rise to the joint meeting of governmental experts from the two regions. He stated that both ECA and CEPAL had had firm mandates from their respective legislative organs, in pursuit of which the two regional commission secretariats had jointly initiated the project as far back as 1977, focusing on three priority fields of interregional co-operation, namely, development and utilization of human resources, interregional trade, and science and technology for development. Due largely to lack of adequate financial support, the project did not materialize till November 1980, when the Special Unit for TCDC of UNDP agreed to provide partial funding for it while the ECA and CEPAL secretariats themselves decided to augment it with substantial funds and technical inputs of their own. Even then, the resources available fell short of requirements, and it was therefore necessary to restrict the subject matter as well as the geographical coverage of the project to much narrower limits than had originally been envisaged. Thus, the consultants who worked on the studies covering the three sections were only able to visit a small number of selected countries in Africa and Latin America, and they had to work

separately in each region rather than jointly in both regions. Another unfortunate result of the limitation of funds was the impossibility of paying the travel expenses for all the participants who had wanted to attend the meeting but could not afford to do so.

4. Mr. Adedeji said that despite these difficulties, and perhaps because of them, the ECA and CEPAL secretariats had worked hand in hand from the time the project was conceived to its final implementation. That was why the meeting in progress was a joint meeting which was being hosted by ECA on behalf of both secretariats. The result of the joint consultations between the two secretariats was the working document entitled "Promotion of Economic and Technical Co-operation between Africa and Latin America" (Document ECO/ETC/I/4-F/CEPAL/SEM.4/L.4) which contained a summary of their agreed conclusions and recommendations on ways of strengthening existing or of forging new co-operative links between the two regions in the priority fields indicated. These joint conclusions and recommendations were now being presented to the meeting of governmental experts from both regions for consideration with a view to making concrete action oriented proposals.

5. Mr. Adedeji stressed the importance of South-South co-operation which had come to be recognized as the only means of ushering in a new and equitable international economic order and said that the aim of interregional TCDC/ECDC between Africa and Latin America was not to create a new class of donors and recipients but to ensure that co-operating countries from both regions had something to give as well as something to take. He then underscored some of the recommendations contained in the joint working paper; particularly the one expressing the need for a permanent consultative machinery that would monitor interregional TCDC/ECDC and convene periodic joint meetings.

6. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, observed that ECA and CEPAL had been co-operating for a long time and hoped that the present meeting would further strengthen existing ties between the Latin American and African regions. The initiative which the two developing regions of Africa and Latin America were taking in the field of TCDC and ECDC was an example which the other developing regions could be expected to follow.

7. Mr. Iglesias stressed the need for a multilateral approach to economic and technical co-operation in addition to the bilateral approach. He said that the regional commissions were well placed to promote such co-operation at the multilateral level. An important feature of South-South co-operation was the fact that benefits were reciprocal. Unlike North-South co-operation of the traditional kind, one side was not a donor and the other side a recipient. TCDC and ECDC rested on the premise of mutuality of benefits.

8. Finally Mr. Iglesias referred to the role of the United Nations in promoting and cementing international peace and progress, and international co-operation for development, and stated that South-South co-operation was an important aspect of it. He pledged the continued co-operation of CEPAL in contributing to such efforts at co-operation.

9. The Chairman thanked the participants for the confidence they had shown in him and his country to preside over the deliberations of this joint meeting of experts. He said that geographically Africa and Latin America stood very far apart and yet the two developing regions faced similar problems and were at present confronting an international economic crisis of major proportions. This, he said, made the timing of this particular meeting which brought the countries of the two regions together particularly appropriate.

10. He lauded the ECA and CEPAL secretariats for their initiative in convening the meeting and expressed the hope that the meeting would come up with concrete recommendations for action.

11. At the closing session the meeting adopted a resolution entitled "Vote of Thanks to the Ethiopian Government" and another entitled "Appreciation to CEPAL and ECA".

#### SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

12. Most delegates commended the two regional commission secretariats for their initiative in convening this historic meeting, which was the first of its kind between the two developing regions held in the spirit of TCDC and ECDC. Although many expressed the wish that the preparatory background studies which had been carried out had been more comprehensive both in their geographical and sectoral coverage, it was nevertheless recognized that the inadequacy of resources had been a genuine restraint, and that the three fields which had been selected - namely, manpower, trade, and science and technology - were indeed of high priority for the governments of both regions.

13. In this respect, it was considered that there were two other fields which the studies touched on only lightly or not at all, and which were of considerable importance to both regions, namely food and agriculture, and energy. It was hoped that the meeting might devote some attention to these.

14. Frustration was aired at the failure of the North-South dialogue which it was felt had dispelled any lingering doubts about the significance, and indeed the necessity, of South-South co-operation. Member countries of the two developing regions, with the assistance of the regional commission secretariats and the international community, were called upon to put their co-operation on a sound footing and to establish a follow-up mechanism that would institutionalize joint meetings of experts of the two regions. Member states of both regions were urged to build on the pioneering efforts of the ECA and CEPAL secretariats to ensure that the present meeting would mark the beginning of enhanced inter-regional co-operation on an organized basis.

15. In the sphere of science and technology and manpower planning and development it was acknowledged that there was much that Africa could learn from Latin America which was not only more developed but had many years of accumulated experience. But Africa, too, had its own experience and various types of specialized research institutions, and there was certainly scope for mutually beneficial co-operation. While the problem of language was recognized, it was thought that it was not an insurmountable obstacle.

16. As far as trade was concerned, some participants felt that the future lay particularly with bilateral arrangements between countries of the two regions, while others placed more emphasis on various regional or subregional integration groupings in both Africa and Latin America through which many countries could be reached simultaneously and mutually beneficial trading and financial relations established on a multilateral basis. In this connection, it was noted that Africa was presently in process of creating or strengthening subregional integration groupings, such as ECOWAS and PTA (Preferential Trade Area) so as to increase intra-African trade. Latin America, which already had a long history of viable economic integration groupings, was exemplary in this respect. It was also felt that the growth and expansion of intra-regional trade in each of the two regions could, and should, be extended to become a healthy basis of inter-regional trade.

17. Two observers - from UNCTAD and ADB - also spoke in the general debate. The first stressed the close link between ECDC and ECDC and reminded the participants that UNCTAD was the focal point for the promotion of ECDC at the global level. He cited a number of economic integration studies carried out by UNCTAD and said that his organization was very interested in inter-regional economic and technical co-operation of the kind that was under discussion at the present meeting. The United Nations agencies should play an effective role in whatever follow-up measures were decided upon by the meeting.

18. The observer from the African Development Bank (ADB) informed the meeting that he was also attending the meeting as an observer for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) which seemed to him to symbolize the very spirit of interregional ECDC and ECDC between Africa and Latin America that the meeting was seeking to foster. He considered that projects which might emanate from co-operation between Africa and Latin America could be eligible for co-financing by ADB and IDB.

#### A. Co-operation in the field of trade<sup>1/</sup>

19. The secretariat introduced the subject by recalling the salient points of the general debates that took place the previous day based on the main working document of the meeting (ECA/ETC/I/4 - E/CEPAL/SEM.4/L.4) and highlighted the main issues brought out in the above paper as well as in the papers prepared by the ECA and CEPAL secretariats (ST/ECA/TP.1/2 and Suppl.1 - E/CEPAL/SEM.4/L.1).

20. In the debates which followed, the major point of interest was the consensus that economic and technical co-operation between Africa and Latin America was of vital importance to the future development of the two regions. And it is against this background that the trade studies had been carried out by a number of consultants from the two regions.

21. It was noted also that the studies revealed a strong imbalance in the trade between Africa and Latin America both product-wise and in terms of the balance of trade and that trade expansion should bring mutual benefits to the two regions and should increasingly involve manufactured and semi-manufactured products which were at present being imported from the industrialized countries. As regards the list of commodities given in the working documents which was intended to be examined by the meeting for purposes of shortlisting the number of products on which concrete proposals could be made in order to expand trade, it was thought that it would not be possible to do so.

22. Other general proposals concerned co-operation among State trading organizations which at the present time were not necessarily geared for participating in inter-regional trade. They should be restructured to provide the necessary impetus to trade expansion. Trade financing was mentioned as an important area to be examined in greater depth since the lack of trade credit facilities had constituted a serious obstacle to trade expansion. The observer representing both the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank was of the opinion that the ADB and the IDB could reinforce the links which already existed between them and consider the

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<sup>1/</sup> Action-oriented proposals in this field are given in Part II of the report.

co-financing of projects between African and Latin American countries. The existing transport and communications infrastructure was considered also as another serious drawback in economic relations between the two continents which would require certain concrete proposals to resolve:

23. In spite of the similarity in the patterns of economic development of countries of the two regions and the fact that they are both producers of generally the same types of raw materials, it was felt that there was great scope for industrial co-operation through the exploitation of complementarities and greater use of the more advanced level of technological development in some of the Latin American countries. Reference was made to the type of arrangements made by INTERPRAS, of Brazil, for the promotion of exports under a single brand name for products made by different manufacturers. Countries could explore the possibility of establishing similar arrangements to promote trade between the regions. Mention was made to the seasonal variables between Africa and Latin America, country deficit in certain products, buy-back arrangements as some of the areas which could be exploited for trade expansion.

24. During the debate there was a feeling that the meeting should come up with concrete proposals for future implementation although its modalities were not spelled out at this stage. Mention was made on the need to agree on some kind of financial arrangement for the promotion of trade and general economic co-operation between the two regions.

25. Concerning the various obstacles which presently existed to trade expansion between Africa and Latin America and the need for conscious efforts to remove such obstacles, it was felt that they needed to be studied in greater depth than it was done in the papers presented by the secretariats since they did not cover a large number of countries.

26. In the field of trade promotion, certain measures were proposed to mitigate the present lack of information, such as trade fairs organized in countries of the two regions which could be used as a medium for dissemination of trade information. Trade bulletins could be issued regionally by national trade institutions and trade links could be established between chambers of commerce and industry in the two regions and exchanges of information could also take place under bilateral country arrangements. The two regional commissions were also expected to assist member countries with obtaining trade information.

27. The observers from UNCTAD and ITC recalled some of the activities undertaken by their respective organizations with regard to trade information and economic co-operation. A Trade Information Service was being set up in UNCTAD which would be made use of by developing countries and Regional Commissions. Demand and supply studies were being undertaken by ITC for selected countries and products and would be given more extensive coverage over the years. The information was being computerized and would be available to potential users of the developing world.

28. The meeting strongly recommended that the establishment of bilateral agreements between individual countries in the two regions should be encouraged and that relations between economic groupings both in Africa and Latin America should be strengthened. It was recognized that certain tariff arrangements among member of individual economic groupings could raise some problems, but these were by no means insuperable and could be further harmonized. In discussing the coverage of economic co-operation as contained in the working document, it was proposed that trade should be extended to cover the promotion of goods and services, and training of cadres for trade promotion. Attention was also drawn to the fact that in discussing trade problems and potentials, there was need to bear fully in mind issues relating to food and agricultural production and possibilities of exploring complementarities in production.

29. Following on the above point, the establishment of joint ventures was strongly advocated. Some specific areas were mentioned such as cattle raising, production and research in pharmaceutical products, co-operation in the field of finance, insurance and marketing. Implied in such co-operation was an exchange of expertise and technology as well as manpower training which could be offered by those countries which had developed capabilities in these areas.

30. The limited transport and communications network between Africa and Latin America constituted a serious bottleneck to trade expansion. In the absence of adequate products for exchange between the two regions, it was considered that a viable transport system would be difficult to establish at the present time. It was therefore stressed that production of goods for export would need to be expanded to give the necessary impetus to the development of both maritime and air services. A multinational maritime transport enterprise could be jointly set up by both regions. Air freight would be used for high value goods but bulk products would require the use of maritime service.

31. The question of the establishment of an institutional mechanism to foster economic co-operation between the two regions was debated at length. While a standing committee composed of selected African and Latin American countries could be established to monitor the implementation of any recommendations or programme of action which may emerge from the meeting, it was also felt that for the time being use should be made of existing national and regional institutions concerned with trade promotion and bilateral arrangements. Links should be established between such institutions in the two regions. In countries where national or State trading organizations do not exist, institutions such as chambers of commerce could be used to establish the links between the two regions.

32. In conclusion, the meeting reached consensus on the following topics:

(a) Expansion of interregional trade should have as its main objective the increase of mutual benefits to the two regions within the context of general economic co-operation:

(b) The need for a gradual removal of obstacles to trade in the area of trade information, transport and communications, tariff barriers through:

- (i) organizing of trade fairs
- (ii) publicizing of trade bulletins
- (iii) bilateral exchanges of information
- (iv) co-operation among chambers of commerce and industry

(c) The need to strengthen co-operation among economic groupings in Africa and Latin America:

(d) The need to promote joint ventures and industrial co-operation;

(e) The need for co-operation in food and agricultural production;

(f) The desirability of establishing bilateral agreements for trade and co-operation;

(g) The need for countries in the two regions to consider expanding the activities of STOs to cover interregional trade;

(h) The need to establish links between national import and export enterprises in the two regions;

(i) The need to establish links between existing regional trade promotion institutions in the two regions;



(j) In-depth studies on transport problems and the possibility of establishing freight rates in order to develop maritime and air cargo services between Africa and Latin America should be carried out. It was also proposed that a multinational maritime service could be jointly set up by the two regions;

(k) Co-operation between ADB and IDB with a view in particular to making it possible for these institutions to jointly finance trade and economic co-operation projects between Africa and Latin America;

(l) Propose measures to establish co-operation in the technical field, as well as in field of services covering inter alia finance, insurance, research and consultants, etc.;

(m) The setting up of an institutional mechanism composed of African and Latin American countries to meet at regular intervals to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the periodic meetings of experts of the two regions. The institution would also have the objective of proposing trade development strategies and activities required for promoting trade between the two regions.

#### B. Co-operation in the field of Science and Technology<sup>2/</sup>

33. The secretariat presented chapter IV of document ECO/ETC/I/4 - E/CEPAL/SEM.4/L.4 which dealt with co-operation in the area of science and technology. During the debate, it was stressed that technology was a significant factor in techno-economic relations between nations. The studies which had been undertaken in preparation for the meeting had revealed that while there was limited experience in co-operation in science and technology between Africa and Latin America, the potential for co-operation was immense. Since the application of science and technology for development pervades all sectors of the economy, it was felt important to pursue their application having regard to the priority sectors identified by ECA and CEPAL within the framework of the principles of individual and collective self-reliant and self-sustaining economic growth and development as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Latin American Regional Programme of Action.

34. It was felt that the envisaged co-operation could cover trade in technology; training programmes; exchange of technological information; technical advisory services and consultancies; science and technology policy, plans and instruments; research and development. The meeting recognized that these were some of the most critical areas in the short-term while efforts would be intensified to build up the core capabilities necessary for a reasonable level of technological independence.

35. With regard to the modalities of co-operation, it was desirable to develop action programmes at the bilateral and multilateral levels, and in the case of the latter making use of existing multinational economic groupings such as the Andean Group in Latin America and ECO/WAS in Africa, as well as other regional institutions, the exact manner of their participation in such arrangements being subject to their own autonomous decisions. Fresh collaborative institutions and governmental arrangements in Africa and Latin America could be set up to undertake new or strengthen existing co-operative arrangements.

<sup>2/</sup> Action-oriented proposals in this field are given in Part II of the report.

36. In this regard, it was felt necessary to emphasize the importance of intensifying action on ongoing activities in areas such as energy, industry and agriculture which had a direct bearing on social and economic development goals. These would no doubt be treated in the short-term and deserved concentrated action in whatever programme of action was recommended.

37. On the question of institutional machinery for TCDC/ECDC arrangements, it was agreed that there was need to establish or strengthen existing mechanisms at the national level in both regions while ensuring that such machineries maintained appropriate linkages with relevant science and technology machineries at the national or regional levels.

38. Following these considerations, a number of fresh proposals were made relating to new areas for co-operation, to areas of special emphasis and to modalities for co-operation which needed to be taken into account in arriving at the final recommendations for future action. Specifically, they related to the following:

- (a) Identification of new areas for co-operation emphasizing policy making, institution building and manpower development;
- (b) The need to explore co-operation amongst the intergovernmental committees or groups in science and technology in the two regions;
- (c) Promotion of means of acquisition of intermediate technology for Africa from technologies available in Latin America;
- (d) Development of training fellowships and exchange programmes in research and development;
- (e) Exchange of scientific and technological information through:
  - (i) seminars and other meetings
  - (ii) expert missions
  - (iii) study tours
  - (iv) co-operative projects
- (f) Need to exchange capabilities between the regions and to stop the brain drain from one region to the other (the two regions to others);
- (g) Publication of inventories of capabilities and institutions in science and technology in both regions;
- (h) Promotion of TCDC/ECDC in technology from the global point of view using capabilities already available in existing subregional, regional interregional organizations, e.g. the Andean Group, ECOWAS, etc.;
- (i) Paying special attention to:
  - (i) food (production, storage, processing and marketing) self-sufficiency;
  - (ii) energy development and conservation;
  - (iii) pharmaceutical industries and medical sciences;
  - (iv) improvement of livestock, crops and other aspects of agriculture.

39. In making these proposals the meeting was aware of the need to take into account the important and pertinent recommendations and priorities already established by the global and regional TCDC/ECDC meetings which preceded the current consultations and the follow-up actions which were already being implemented by the pertinent United Nations agencies e.g. the UNDP in the area of information exchange. And the meeting took into account the following considerations:

- (a) The necessity to build a core of technological capability required for acquisition and dissemination of technology within the overall endeavour to attain increased level of technological independence.
- (b) The need to define the role of governments, the public and private sectors as suppliers and users of technology.
- (c) The importance of the rural areas and the informal sector in the national economic development and the need to mobilize their technology potential in order for them to contribute fully to the scientific and technological transformation of the two regions.

40. In concluding of the debate, the chairman stressed that there was agreement that the two regions should go ahead now to implement in a concrete manner the various suggestions made so far. These called for co-operation between R&D institutions and for the creation of new ones where they did not exist already, interregional co-operation for policy and planning, institution building and manpower development, co-operation through exchange of information on indigenous and adapted technologies, co-operation in the establishment of modalities for the mobilization of finance for science and technology development, promotion of informal mechanisms for interregional consultations in the implementation of the TCDC/ECDC action plans and in the formulation of any further recommendations, and the establishment of closer relationships including new bilateral arrangements for the use of existing technologies in such areas as:

- (a) Leather and leather products industries.
- (b) Improvements of livestock.
- (c) Forestry and forest industries.

### C. Co-operation in the field of Human Resources<sup>3/</sup>

41. A member of the Secretariat introduced Section II of document ECO/ETC/I/4. This Section dealt with co-operation between Africa and Latin America in the area of human resources.

42. In the introduction, certain priority skill areas were identified as holding great promise for a mutually beneficial co-operation in human resources development and utilization between Africa and Latin America. These included engineer and technician education and training for industry, agriculture and technology, training in development planning, in management and in trade, transport and finance-related areas. This training would assume forms ranging from formal and non-formal programmes to in-plant attachment and research and consultancy programmes. Development of local capabilities, and institution building and strengthening were also underlined as being priority areas for co-operation. In this, it was considered expedient that co-operation in the development of research and training programmes and in staff development between regional, subregional and national African and Latin American institutions should be promoted. The need to

<sup>3/</sup> Action-oriented proposals in this field are given in Part II of the report

develop co-operation in manpower planning was stressed so also was the need for language training. Finally the point was made that co-operation in the field of human resources would only be made possible if financial resources from both regions were made available for fellowships and other education and training inputs to be secured.

43. In the ensuing discussion, several delegations stressed the need for co-operation to be developed in the areas of primary, secondary, basic and non-formal education, in addition to co-operation in higher education for the preparation of high-level manpower. The point was emphasized that these areas were a critical link in the entire human resources development chain since the development of high-level skills must begin at the basic point of literacy. Further, emphasising the development of high-level skills would automatically bar the large number of children and youths, who constitute upwards of 50% of the populations of both regions, from being immediate beneficiaries of co-operation.

44. It was also felt that, in light of the needs in the various categories of manpower for development activities in the two regions, sufficient emphasis be placed on co-operation in education and training of middle-level cadres, and on the development of appropriate education and training programmes for women who constitute a substantial part of the potential stock of human resources in Africa and Latin America, but who, traditionally, have remained forgotten by action programmes designed for manpower development.

45. Co-operation in the area of training of trainers was looked into. It was felt that because of its potential multiplier effect, training of trainers as an area of co-operation should be accorded high priority.

46. The proposed priority areas for co-operation in manpower development had been:

- (a) Industry;
- (b) Science and technology;
- (c) Development planning;
- (d) Management;
- (e) Trade, transport and finance-related areas;
- (f) Language training.

47. The meeting decided that to these, should be added:

- (a) Agriculture (food, agro-and forest-based industries);
- (b) Energy;
- (c) Medicine.

48. It was further decided that co-operation should assume the following forms:

- (a) Staff and student exchange programmes;
- (b) Research, consultancy and advisory services in the priority areas mentioned above;
- (c) Formal and non-formal training programmes;
- (d) Study-tours;
- (e) Attachments for on-the-job training;
- (f) In-plant industrial training;

(g) Fellowships:

(h) Exchange of experts.

49. The meeting stressed, however, that the process of developing these forms of co-operation should result in the strengthening of institutional capabilities within each region, not at least for the moment, in the creation of new institutions.

50. On the question of the loss of skills from both regions to the developed, industrialized regions of the world, the meeting agreed that action should be taken to slow down or reverse this trend. In this regard, it was decided that the laudable action undertaken by the International Committee on Migration (ICM) in Latin America in organising the return of Latin American emigrants to their region, should be replicated in the African region. This would assist in counteracting the deleterious effects of the brain drain on the development of Africa.

51. At the end of the debate, the meeting agreed that priority action be taken to develop co-operation in the following ways:

- (a) The preparation, by both ECA and CEPAL of a directory of all national, subregional and regional education and training institutions and organizations concerned with human resources development:
- (b) The promotion of joint sponsorship and operation of regional and subregional research and training institutions and to this end, the secretariats of CEPAL and ECA were requested to provide the necessary assistance in close consultation with member states and the appropriate United Nations agencies:
- (c) The provision of more fellowships for training and research in science, technology, industry, agriculture and manpower planning; to this end, ECA and CEPAL were requested to initiate a joint fellowships programme and mobilize resources from their member states and the international community for this purpose:
- (d) ECA and CEPAL in collaboration with interested organisations, agencies of the United Nations System and member states should initiate measures for identifying skilled Africans and Latin Americans operating in industrialized countries with a view to assisting member states in their efforts to have these skills return to their respective regions for eventual utilization in priority development activities and for use of this expertise in technical assistance projects within the two regions:
- (e) Co-operation between the two regions should take cognizance of the need for the training and development of women in all human endeavours so as to make the fullest use of their potentials. More specifically, ECA and CEPAL should collaborate in the development and utilization of education and training programmes for women in the area of appropriate technology:
- (f) ECA and CEPAL should initiate co-operation activities in the development of, and effective sharing of experiences in mass literacy, basic and non-formal education programmes:

- (g) ECA and CEPAL were requested to collaborate in the development of manpower planning capabilities in the two regions, using both African and Latin American institutions for training of manpower planning personnel and for mutual assistance in manpower planning activities such as the conduct of surveys, the preparation of inventories and profiles, etc.;
- (h) ECA and CEPAL should promote the use of consultancy and advisory services and the development of research and development activities between the two regions in all fields relevant to priority needs for each region's development;
- (i) ECA and CEPAL, in collaboration with the appropriate United Nations agencies should initiate measures to develop glossaries and directories of occupational titles to enhance the training and more effective utilization of manpower within the two regions;
- (j) ECA and CEPAL should initiate action to stimulate the exchange of experiences of their member States, in human resources development at the pre-school, primary, secondary and higher educational levels, in respect of attempts made to link education and training to the requirements in skill and knowledge of the productive economic sectors.

## II. ACTION-ORIENTED PROPOSALS

### A. Preamble

52. The recognition that the structure of international economic relations has not been favourable for the balanced and harmonious growth of the developing countries has generated important initiatives at the United Nations, such as the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Declaration and programme of action for the establishment of a New International Economic Order and more recently the Third International Development Strategy. In view of the harmful effects that the current economic crisis has produced on the economies of the developing world and the statements in the global negotiations on international economic co-operation, the developing countries, with a strong political will, have undertaken a vast and ambitious programme aimed at reformulating the traditional North-South scheme for international co-operation. These initiatives had the purpose of promoting new concepts based on the principle of national and collective self-reliance in order to give a new configuration to the existing system and thus modify their style of development by the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

53. Interregional co-operation has been recognized to be an important aspect of both technical and economic co-operation among developing countries as laid down in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Lagos Plan of Action, the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Caracas, Venezuela in May 1981, the Latin American Regional Plan of Action for the 3rd United Nations Development Decade, the Nairobi Recommendations for a Programme of TCDC among African countries in June 1980 and the Arusha Plan of Action (February 1979).

54. CEPAL and ECA have actively been working on the promotion of TCDC and ECDC during recent years in pursuance of mandates received in this sphere as well as those emanating from their own legislative organs, as an expression of their strong will to put into practice programmes of co-operation between Africa and Latin America, at the interregional level, in those areas in which the diversity and originality of experiences and "know-how" could be of particular utility to the development process of the countries of the two regions.

55. Even for regions as diverse as Africa and Latin America, readier access to their development experience should produce a significant improvement in the range of available technologies and expertise and their styles of development. Moreover, there are many fields in which collaborative efforts may be most usefully undertaken by existing specialized institutions at the national, subregional and regional levels in both continents.

56. It is obvious that there exists obstacles to co-operation among countries of different geographic areas which may be more difficult to overcome than those affecting co-operation among countries within one region. Geographic distance, and differences in language, culture, and styles of development are among such inhibiting factors, as well as the absence of knowledge of specific needs and capabilities in both regions.

57. The countries participating at the joint meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical co-operation between the countries of the two regions in the areas of trade, science and technology and manpower development, have decided to adopt the following action-oriented proposals aimed at collectively developing capabilities and infrastructures essential for their economic and social development, in the three areas mentioned, which individually they may not be able to undertake.

## B. Co-operation in the field of Trade and Finance

### 1. Trade

- (a) Within the framework of trade promotion between the African and the Latin American continents, ECA and CEPAL and the other respective competent organizations should undertake, as soon as possible, studies on the supply and demand of the main products traded as well as products with potential for trade expansion between the two regions.
- (b) African and Latin American countries should consider the possibility of strengthening the capabilities of existing institutions and organizations specializing in the marketing and standardization of actual and potential export and import products between the two continents:
- (c) Periodic meetings should be planned between the chambers of commerce and trade promotion organizations of the African and Latin American continents in order to collect trade information and reduce the cost of foreign trade promotion activities. The exchange of trade information should also take place through the organization of trade fairs under the auspices of relevant institutions:
- (d) In order to promote the foreign trade of African and Latin American countries, the respective countries should set up data banks now. The data should be supplemented by the computerized services of ITC and UNCTAD:

- (e) African and Latin American countries should spare no effort to explore and exploit the bilateral or multilateral potential in the area of trade and economic co-operation on the basis of the principle of a global system of trade preferences among developing countries. In this respect due account should be taken of the proposals made by The Agreement of Montevideo and the conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Caracas (May 1981).
- (f) They should establish, in a spirit of mutuality of advantages, a new trade framework so that the preferential treatment accorded could develop and increase the volume of trade;
- (g) Trade among African and Latin American countries should be regulated in order to reduce obstacles with respect to regulations, finance, insurance and transport;
- (h) Possibilities should be examined of establishing multilateral agreements under the auspices of regional or subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, CEAO, the Economic Community of the Great Lake Countries in Africa and SELA and the Andean Group in Latin America;
- (i) Rather than establishing new institutions for trade promotion, existing ones should be helped to expand their activities to include the promotion by interregional trade;
- (j) Steps should be taken to establish co-operation in the field of technology and services including finance, insurance, research and consultancies;
- (k) Study should be undertaken of ways and means of improving the existing transport services between the two regions including feasibility studies on the establishment of multinational maritime enterprises and air cargo services among countries of the two regions. Consideration should be given to the establishment of tax free zones in the two regions which could serve as collection points for goods intended to be transported to the other region;

## 2. Finance

- (a) The monetary and financial institutions in Africa and Latin America respectively should be reoriented and restructured in order to design appropriate programmes and policies aimed at developing the capacity for executing and managing joint projects;
- (b) The necessary measures should be taken to establish an appropriate financial framework between the African and Latin American continents in order to support joint development efforts;
- (c) The African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank should increase their financial resources in order to provide the assistance necessary for the joint development of the two continents;
- (d) ECA and CEPAL should study the possibility of creating mechanisms and instruments for trade financing through mutual arrangements between regional payments systems and Commercial Clearing House in the two regions;



- (e) Industrialized countries and international financial institutions should be urged to initiate and strengthen the financial assistance and aid including the possibilities of guarantee schemes in order to facilitate joint projects of the African and Latin American countries;
- (f) Finally, progress made with respect to the implementation of the mutual agreements signed between African and Latin American countries should be reviewed regularly in order to provide the common development strategy taking into account their respective priorities.

### C. Co-operation in the field of Science and Technology

#### 1. General

- (a) Areas of co-operation among the countries, institutions etc. of Africa and Latin America should be identified with a view to strengthening efforts for achieving the effective application of science and technology to national, regional and interregional socio-economic development, with special reference to rural development and the production, processing and marketing of food stuffs and other related products;
- (b) Such co-operation should have as its underlying principle the need for African and Latin American countries to take practical steps in areas of mutual interest to achieve collective self-reliance in the South and self-sustaining economic and industrial development in the spirit of solidarity;
- (c) It should also take fully into account not only the governing principles of the joint ECA/CEPAL project but also the provision of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Lagos Plan of Action, the ECDC programme of Caracas, the Latin American Regional Programme of Action for the third UN Development Decade, the Nairobi recommendations for a programme of TCDC among African countries, and the Arusha Programme for Collective Self-Reliance;
- (d) Co-operation among the countries of Africa and Latin America in the field of science and technology as well as in other sectors should contribute to the strengthening of multinational co-operation which should be established through the existing African and Latin American groups and institutions at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;
- (e) In view of the relatively varied experience acquired by African and Latin American countries, emphasis should be placed on policies, planning, research and methods to be employed to promote the acquisition of the technological capabilities required and the dissemination of technology, particularly in the following fields:

2. Desirable areas of co-operation in the field of science and technology

(a) The meeting recommended that scientific and technological co-operation between Africa and Latin America should be promoted in the following fields which are not exhaustive and could be reviewed at a later stage if necessary:

- (i) energy
- (ii) technical resources
- (iii) water resources
- (iv) food resources
- (v) mineral resources and raw materials
- (vi) medical and biological sciences
- (vii) housing and basic services
- (viii) improved livestock and artificial pasture lands
- (ix) leather and leather products industries
- (x) integrated development of arid and semi-arid zones
- (xi) basic petrochemical industries
- (xii) communications
- (xiii) exchange of information.

3. Proposals for making scientific and technological co-operation between Africa and Latin America effective

- (a) Exchange of information, particularly in the priority areas, through:
- (i) the organization of seminars and expert missions, study tours, fairs and various exhibitions, etc.
  - (ii) the elaboration of directories of technological institutions and other possibilities in the countries of the two groups. Nevertheless, the collection of information for this purpose, should take into account the efforts already made by such bodies as UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, UNIDO etc. so as to avoid working on data that already exist.
- (b) Scientific and technological co-operation between Africa and Latin America should aim at strengthening existing subregional and regional institutions and establishing links among them through the provision of fellowships, exchange of experts, periodic meetings and joint research programmes. The creation, and hence the proliferation, of new structures which duplicate the work of existing ones should be avoided.
- (c) Resources should be provided by the African and Latin American countries and, as far as possible, by other international sources to ensure that such institutions become as active and as effective as possible.

(d) CEPAL and ECA should appeal to the following international bodies to contribute in this regard:

- (i) African Development Bank
- (ii) Inter-American Development Bank
- (iii) United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development

D. Co-operation in the field of Human Resources

1. The preparation, by both ECA and CEPAL of directory of all national, subregional and regional education and training institutions and organizations concerned with human resources development;
2. The promotion of joint sponsorship and operation of regional and subregional research and training institutions; and to this end, the secretariats of CEPAL and ECA are requested to provide the necessary assistance in close consultation with member states and appropriate United Nations agencies;
3. The provision of more fellowships for training and research in science, technology, industry, agriculture and manpower planning; to this end, ECA and CEPAL are requested to initiate a joint fellowships programme and mobilize resources from their member states and the international community for this purpose;
4. ECA and CEPAL in collaboration with interested organisations, agencies of the United Nations System and member states should initiate measures for identifying skilled Africans and Latin Americans operating in industrialized countries with a view to assisting member states in their efforts to have these skills return to their respective regions for eventual utilization on priority development activities and for use of this expertise in technical assistance projects within the two regions;
5. Co-operation between the two regions should take cognisance of the need for the training and development of women in all human endeavours so as to make the fullest use of their potentials. More specifically, ECA and CEPAL should collaborate in the development and utilization of education and training programmes for women in the area of science and technology;
6. ECA and CEPAL should initiate co-operation activities in the development of, and effective sharing of experiences in mass literacy, basic and non-formal education programmes;
7. ECA and CEPAL should collaborate in the development of manpower planning capabilities in the two regions, using both African and Latin American institutions for training of manpower planning personnel and for mutual assistance in manpower planning activities such as the conduct of surveys, the preparation of inventories and profiles, etc.;
8. ECA and CEPAL should promote the use of consultancy and advisory services and the development of research and development activities between the two regions in all fields relevant to priority needs for each region's development;

9. ECA and CEPAL, in collaboration with the appropriate United Nations agencies should initiate measures to develop glossaries and directories of occupational titles to enhance the training and more effective utilization of manpower within the two regions;
10. ECA and CEPAL should initiate action to stimulate the exchange of experiences of their member states, in human resources development at the pre-school, primary, secondary and higher educational levels, in respect of attempts made to link education and training to the requirements in skill and knowledge of the productive economic sectors.
11. ECA and CEPAL should initiate appropriate measures to promote language training programmes in Portuguese and Spanish for African countries, English and French for Latin American countries and Arabic for countries in both regions;
12. ECA and CEPAL should initiate necessary action to secure assistance for strengthening the specialized institutions in science, technology, trade and related areas within the two regions;
13. ECA and CEPAL in consultation with their respective Member States are requested to initiate action to promote linkages and coordination of training and research programmes in institutions of higher learning between the two regions;
14. ECA and CEPAL in consultation with their respective Member States should initiate action to promote the exchange of lecturers and other third level education teachers between institutions in Africa and institutions in Latin America;
15. The meeting stressed that co-operation activities embarked upon in the field of training for joint development projects should ensure that trainees are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to make them able to eventually take over the implementation of these projects;
16. Finally, ECA and CEPAL were requested to establish within their secretariats a permanent mechanism to implement these recommendations.

RESOLUTION I

Vote of Thanks to the Ethiopian Government

The Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation

Deeply grateful to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Ethiopia, and to the Government and People of Ethiopia for their generous hospitality which enabled this joint meeting to pursue its deliberations to a successful conclusion:

1. Expresses its gratitude to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army of Ethiopia, as well as to the Government and people of Ethiopia for the warm hospitality accorded to the participants;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Ethiopia.

RESOLUTION II

Appreciation to the Economic Commission for Latin America and  
the Economic Commission for Africa

The Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America  
on Economic and Technical Co-operation

Bearing in mind the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for the promotion and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries adopted in 1978,

Bearing in mind also the Plan of Action on economic co-operation among developing countries adopted by the Group of 77 in Mexico City in 1976,

Noting the failure of the North-South dialogue, and the significance attached to South-South Co-operation and to collective self-reliance by developing countries in general and by Latin America and Africa in particular,

1. Congratulates the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America on their initiative in organizing the Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Co-operation;

2. Expresses appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for financing the project which made the meeting possible;

3. Urges the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the meeting, and to that end,

(a) to establish an appropriate mechanism for consultation at the interregional level to follow specific actions and other activities proposed at the level of the two regions,

(b) to promote or strengthen national focal points to ensure better co-ordination of those TCDC/ECDC activities referred to in the approved recommendations.

4. Calls on the countries of Africa and Latin America to implement the current recommendations in the spirit of collective self-reliance and South-South co-operation;

5. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the two regional commissions to continue to get together and to assist in organizing future joint meetings of member countries or institutions of the African and Latin American regions, and to take any other follow-up action necessary to implement the agreed recommendations.

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