

1993/67. Strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and integration in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned about the wide North-South gap in the flow of vital information and in the acquisition and utilization of information technology,

Conscious of the importance of information in fostering African regional cooperation and integration, in particular through the strengthening of existing regional groupings and the establishment of the African Economic Community,

Bearing in mind the need to establish data networks and databases as specified in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community,¹⁷³ as well as the emphasis on information technology delineated in the Fourth Lomé Convention, signed at Lomé on 15 December 1989,

Recalling resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991¹⁶⁹ and 726 (XXVII) and 732 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992¹⁶⁶ of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa,

Appreciating the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre to the Pan-African Development Information System in order to carry out activities to strengthen the information capabilities of member States,

Appreciating also the support given by eleven member States for the submission of the project on information technology for Africa for further consideration by the Commission of the European Communities in the framework of the Fourth Lomé Convention,

Noting with satisfaction the performance of the Pan-African Development Information System of the Economic Commission for Africa in the delivery of technical assistance to member States,

Also noting with satisfaction the proposal of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to incorporate the activities of the System into the programme budget of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the subregional development information centres of the Commission as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with concern the decreasing availability of extra-budgetary resources for implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Also noting with concern the precarious financial situation of the Pan-African Development Information System and the need to end its reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

Welcoming the intention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide adequate resources for mandated programmes in Africa, with special attention to those programmes in science and technology for development,

in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

1. **Requests** the Pan-African Development Information System to build elements of cost recovery into its delivery of information services and products;

2. **Urges** member States, in order to receive further needed technical assistance in information systems development:

(a) To give priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme country indicative planning figures;

(b) To consider development information activities in their 1993 pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

(c) To use, where appropriate, the financial provision under the Fourth Lomé Convention for this purpose;

3. **Urgently appeals** to the donor community to support the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa to strengthen development information capabilities in the African region;

4. **Requests** the Commission to continue its leadership role in the coordination of development information and technology to respond to pressing development problems of Africa;

5. **Requests** the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to seek additional resources, through voluntary contributions, for the subregional development information centres of the Commission in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;

6. **Requests** the General Assembly to ensure the provision of adequate staffing and resources to permit the implementation of activities under the subprogramme of the Commission on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

46th plenary meeting
30 July 1993