

1996/4. New directions for the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa as adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958 and amended in its resolutions 974 D I (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling also the various resolutions that have implications for the mandate and operations of the Commission, in particular General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, and Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989,

Noting its endorsement of Economic Commission for Africa resolution 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁷ as well as Commission resolutions 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s⁸ and 779 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 on strengthening the operational capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁹

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to implement proposed restructuring measures whereby, *inter alia*, the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the Assembly and the Council and, in particular, those regional commissions located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization process,

Having examined in depth the document entitled "Serving Africa better: strategic directions for the Economic Commission for Africa"¹⁰ and the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,¹¹

1. *Expresses its appreciation* for the process of reform and renewal of the Commission initiated by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. *Endorses* the new orientations of the Commission, as outlined in the document "Serving Africa better: strategic directions for the Economic Commission for Africa";

3. *Also endorses* the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, bearing in mind that in its implementation due emphasis will be given to the need for greater selectivity and impact;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Secretary to continue to strengthen the process of renewal and reform of the Commission in consultation with member States;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the Bureau of the Commission, to carry out a revision of the work programme for the period 1996-1997, which has become necessary to reflect the new orientation of the Commission's work and to ensure a smooth transition in 1997 to the next medium-term plan, bearing in mind that the revision must be within resources already approved for the Commission by the General Assembly and must pay due regard to the efficiency measures required to implement the relevant decisions of the Assembly regarding the budget for the period 1996-1997;

6. *Appeals* to the Secretary-General to request the General Assembly to consider the revised work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa in conjunction with its review of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

*40th plenary meeting
18 July 1996*

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 16 (E/1991/37)*, chap. IV.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 1992, *Supplement No. 13 (E/1992/33)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 1994, *Supplement No. 20 (E/1994/40)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁰ E/ECA/CM.22/2.

¹¹ E/ECA/CM.22/3.