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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
NINTH ORDINARY SESSION  
KINSHASA - SEPTEMBER 1967.

CM/168 (Part 7)

**R E P O R T  
ON THE PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMANDATIONS  
OF THE MEETING OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**IN CAIRO**



Report on the Conference of  
The African Ministers of Social Affairs  
Cairo 10 - 15 April 1967

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PART I

Introduction

1. It would be recalled that during the meetings of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and the Third Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity which took place in Addis Ababa from the 31st of October until the 9th of November, 1966, the U.A.R. delegation brought to the attention of other delegates that the U.A.R. Government is planning to hold a conference in Cairo of the African Ministers responsible for Social Welfare and Community Development, some time during the first half of 1967.
2. The objectives of the conference as indicated by the U.A.R. delegation were as follows:-
  - A) To study the objectives and policies of Social Welfare, its programmes, organization and methods.
  - B) To study the Ways and means of popular participation in Social Development in the African States.
  - C) To strengthen the cooperation among all agencies concerned with the planning for welfare policies and community development and training including the consolidation of the potentialities of the exchange of experience in planning for social development and training of a cadre of community development and community welfare workers.
3. The U.A.R. delegation also stated that the Social Committee of the United Nations at its Seventeenth Session on April 1966 has decided to hold a world conference in 1968 to which the authorities responsible for social welfare in all the state members of the United Nations, will be invited to discuss matters related to programmes of social development and training of personnel working in the field of social welfare.
4. The U.A.R. delegation further stated that the proposed African conference could serve as a media where Social programmes in African countries could be discussed with a view of defining the actual needs of Africa and the methods which would suit the existing conditions in the continent. This, they added, would help the African delegations go to the world conference with unified views on the continent 's needs, and unified platform on action required.

5. On the twenty first of December 1966, the General Secretariat of the O.A.U. received a note from the U.A.R. Embassy in Addis Ababa (122/5/3 part 4 (817)) enclosing a note from the U.A.R. Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo, requesting the General Secretariat to extend invitation in the name of the U.A.R. to all member states, to participate in the conference of African Ministers responsible for Social Affairs which is to be held in Cairo from 10th to 13th April, 1967.
6. On December 25th, 1966, an invitation to that effect was dispatched by the General Secretariat to all Member States who were requested to direct their replies to Cairo directly.
7. On March 15th, 1967, the General Secretariat received a note (122/5/3) from the U.A.R. Embassy in Addis Ababa enclosing a letter from the U.A.R. Under-Secretary of State for Social Affairs, informing the General Secretariat that most of the African States that were invited to attend the conference have accepted to participate; and that the invitation is also extended to the Organization of African Unity, to the Arab League, and to all the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations.
8. Immediately after receiving the U.A.R. note the General Secretariat informed the U.A.R. Ministry of Social Affairs of its acceptance to participate in the Conference, and that it will be represented by Dr. H.A. Dawood, Director of the Economic & Social Department. This was further confirmed to the U.A.R. Embassy in Addis Ababa by the General Secretariat's Note SOC 10 GEN dated April 5th, 1967.

## PART II

### Organization, Attendance, and Opening Session

#### A - Organization

9. The conference of the African Ministers of Social Affairs was held at El-Zahara Hall, Cairo, U.A.R. from 10 - 15 April, 1967. The host Government has made arrangements to the effect that the conference included study tours to the different development projects of the U.A.R. along side with discussions and deliberations. Three days (namely 10th, 12th and 13th of April) were spent in discussion and three days

(namely 11th, 14th and 15th of April) were reserved for study tours which covered the Aswan area, Alexandria, Tahrir Province, as well as metropolitan Cairo itself. The meetings took the form of a round table comprising all the attendants and no sub-committees were established. The conference held morning, afternoon and evening sessions and the languages used were Arabic, French and English with simultaneous interpretation. Documents were issued in Arabic, French and English.

B - Attendance

10. Twenty six African states attended the conference as members and were represented by Seventy three delegates. These are: Algeria, Burundi, Chad, Congo Braz., Congo -Kinshasa, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Republic, Upper Volta and Zambia. One African State (Cameroon) attended the conference as an observer, and ten International and Regional Organizations attended the conference and were represented by twelve observers these are:- The Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, The F.A.O., the UNICEF, the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs, the ECA, the ILO the UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme and the Demographic Centre for North Africa.

C - Opening Session

11. Dr. Ahmed M. Khalifa, U.A.R. Minister of Social Affairs addressed the conference in his capacity as the head of the delegation of the host country. The full text of his speech is included in Annex II. Then Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa addressed the conference as representative of the United Nations. The full text of his speech appears in Annex III. He was followed by Dr. H.A. Dawood, Director of the Economic & Social Department of the General Secretariat of the O.A.U. who represented the Organization in the Conference. The full text of his speech appears in Annex IV. Mr. Mohamed Sidky Saliman, U.A.R. Prime Minister and representative of the President of the United Arab Republic formally opened the conference. He gave a speech the full text of which appears in Annex I.

12. At its first meeting, on April 10, 1967, the conference elected the following officers.

<u>Chairman</u>	-	Dr. Ahmed M. Khalifa	(U.A.R)
Vice -Chairman	-	Mrs. Lihan Kanza	(Congo-Kinshasa)
"	"	- Mr. R.G. Ngala	(Kenya)
"	"	- Mr. Tsiebo Calvin	(Madagascar)
"	"	- Mr. Sow Oumar	(Mali)
<u>Rapporteur</u>	-	Mr. Hyden Dingiswayo Banda	(Zambia)

13. The provisional agenda was discussed and a final agenda was adopted. (The text of both the provisional and the final agendas appear in Annex V.).

### PART III

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

14. The first item of the adopted Agenda consumed most of the conference's time. The deliberations took the form of country statements regarding "Social Welfare Services and Community Development in the participating countries rather than general discussion." It was not until the second item of the Agenda was taken up, "African cooperation in the fields of Social Services and Community Development" that some discussions was entered in.
15. Each participating country submitted to the Secretariat of the conference at least two papers one dealing with social welfare services and the other with community development. They were reproduced and distributed among the participants before they were read before the conference by each country's delegation.
16. During the deliberations it was noted that the strength and power of Africa do not only rest in its natural resources but are inherent in the African man. Therefore Africa has to bestow great importance on social action with a view to community development and social welfare. It was recognized that the task of community development in Africa has to be carried out with the full and free utilization of its natural wealth and resources, and ensuring an equitable position with respect to international trade particularly as regards primary products,

17. It was emphasized that social development and economic progress are two integrated elements constituting one whole. This, it was felt, constitutes a challenge which has to be taken up in order to plan an adequate economic policy in keeping with, and likely to lead towards, maximum social development and to create a favourable atmosphere conducive to cooperation between peoples for the sake of the common welfare and brotherhood of mankind.
18. It was stated that social development in Africa should emanate from a context of its conditions, history, traditions, values and actual being both in terms of place and time.
19. It was stressed that economic social development would be meaningless if it takes place in a society dominated by exploitation and social injustice. Furthermore, it was made clear that any Ministry of Social Affairs would have no justification unless it were a Ministry for the masses and popular action. Popular action is the fuel generating social development, and social justice is the stimulus to popular action.
20. It was emphasized that social change which is desired for Africa cannot be attained through legislation alone.
21. Some delegates classified the objectives of Social Welfare Services and community developments as follows:
  - A. Eradication of illiteracy, extension and improvement of general and vocational education and training at all levels, and provision of education and cultural facilities for all sectors of the population.
  - B. Ensuring the right of everyone to work, the elimination of unemployment, raising the levels of employment in both rural and urban areas, and ensuring just and favourable conditions of work.
  - C. Improvement of standards of health, extension of adequate health services to meet the needs of the whole population.
  - D. Elimination of hunger and raising the levels of nutrition.
  - E. Improvement of housing conditions and community services especially among low-income groups.



- F. Provision of social welfare services and comprehensive social security schemes to maintain and improve the standard of living of the whole population.
- G. Elimination of conditions leading to crime and juvenile delinquency.
- H. Encouraging the rapid expansion of industrialization with adequate provision for the social aspects and elimination of social obstacles to rapid economic development.
- I. Helping individuals and groups meet their changing needs and aspirations in order to undertake their inevitable role in the struggle for development.

22. It was outlined that the principles of Social Welfare Services and community development should encompass the following:-

- A. The government has a primary role in planning social welfare and social development and integrating all national efforts towards this end. It has also the ultimate responsibility for ensuring social progress and the well-being of the people.
- B. The process of development is an overall process of change and growth. Social development requires an integrated and balanced approach to all aspects of the well-being of members of society together with the necessary changes to be introduced in the social structure to reach this end.
- C. Social development should ensure an improvement in the existing social situation as a whole, the growth of the social well-being of each individual and of his spiritual and cultural development.
- D. Social development requires better utilization and mobilization of human resources; it further calls for encouraging creative initiative and full participation of all peoples in a joint endeavour to strive for common goals.
- E. Promotion of social progress and better standards of living on the basis of mutual action and cooperation.

- F. Social development is no longer a simultaneous process, it combines, science, politics, art, and faith to provide the strongest guarantees for clarity of vision and for creative interaction in all aspects of life.
- G. Social development is not considered fruitful without the provision of intellectual exchange, cooperation and confidence on the part of both citizens and state.
- H. Social development provides for economic development a driving force through which it could be pursued effectively.
- I. The basic elements which should guide social development are the awareness of people's needs and adoption of scientific methods both in planning and implementation.
- J. Popular organizations play a basic role in the leading activities of social development. The participation of citizens in the process of social development is essential.

23. In the implementation of social welfare services and community development programmes the following points were emphasized:-

- A. Planning of social development in conjunction with economic development is conducive to balanced and integrated economic and social development.
- B. Training of national cadres for social development, including administrative, professional and technical personnel.
- C. Mobilization of human resources through cooperative and governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as through popular councils, people's committees and planned regional development programmes.
- D. The formulation and implementation of programmes in the field of population problems, consistent with the economic, social and cultural circumstances of the respective countries.
- E. Promotion of social reform basic to the achievement of high levels of living and economic and social progress, particularly agrarian reform, equitable distribution of the national income and social advancement of certain groups of individuals requiring social protection.

F. Encouraging the full and organized participation of all elements of society as a means of promoting social development.

24. It was stated that obstacles hampering the release and full utilization of human energies in social development should be recognized and eliminated. The major obstacles to the progress of social development were outlined as follows:-

- A. Racial discrimination, social development cannot be achieved unless racial discrimination in Africa and throughout the world is fully eliminated.
- B. Sex nequalities, Discrimination based on sex is unjustified.
- C. Illitracy, This constitutes a sworn enemy to social development, considered as a viel hiding human energies. Further, illitracy is against democracy and consequently against social development.
- D. Population growth, The tremendous increase in the growth of population in several parts of the world devours all the gains derived from social and economic development.
- E. Capital concentration, The concentration of capital in the hands of a minority constitutes an obstacle to social development and should be limited through the various activities in the fields of agriculture, commerce and industry, etc.

25. During the debate reference was made to a United Nations reports "Social work situation 1966," and the following quotations from the report were read:-

"Many governments have become sharply aware of the widespread of social and economic inequalities which exist in their midst and current commitments call for the extension of public social action in a more equitable fashion to the whole population including the rural masses and the Urban marginal stratas." the report goes on to say "If progress had been less than might be desired, it should not be a matter of too great a surprise, for what, in effect, is involved in some countries is the requirement that the people possessed of the major wealth, land and political power should pass and enforce laws that would appear to

deminish their own power and influence; and this is not readily done. Restoration of sovereignty over natural resources, land reform and redistribution of wealth are among the principle structural reforms cited as necessary not only to greater social equality but also to increased economic output." The report went on further "The concentration of wealth in relatively few hands is not regarded to day even as an effective means of security a high level of domestic private investment, in view of the prevalence of luxury consumption, transfer of funds abroad, and investment in ways that contribute little or nothing to growth of production."

26. During the short discussion on African cooperation in the fields of social welfare services and community development some delegations called for the establishment of an expert committee whose task should be the harmonization of African views regarding social welfare and community development and the preparation of a unified platform for the African countries which they can follow when they attend the world conference scheduled for the first part of next year.
27. The representative of the Organization of African Unity stated at this junction that the Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U. is scheduled to meet in Addis Ababa on the eighth of May 1967, and it might serve the purpose of the delegations, concerned with African cooperation, best if some of the member states ask the general Secretariat of the O.A.U. to put this item on the Agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Economic and Social Commission. This way, the matter could be dealt with more effectively and could be given the attention and care it deserves.
28. The representative of the O.A.U. further stressed the importance of African cooperation in the areas of training of leaders for social work and technical assistance. He stated that African experts have a thorough understanding of African circumstances, resources, history, traditions and values and, thus are better equipped than foreign experts to deal with the social problems of Africa. He suggested that the African countries should give them priority over foreign experts and that the United Nations and all other international organizations extending technical assistance to African countries, should make it a point

to use the services of African experts first before they engage foreign experts to work in Africa. The full text of the intervention of the O.A.U. representative can be seen in Annex VII.

29. It was generally felt that more African cooperation is needed in the fields of community development and social services. Several phases of this cooperation were suggested; regional training centres, exchange of experts, study tours, cooperation with international bodies and specialized agencies of the U.N. were stressed by many delegates.
30. Research was stressed by many delegates as a prerequisite for social planning and it was emphasized that existing research centres should launch extensive surveys and conduct research relevant to the social development with the help of regional and international bodies.

#### PART IV

##### Recommendation of the Conference

31. The conference agreed not to issue any recommendations. Rather it was decided that a summary of the points raised by the different delegations as well as the principles of social welfare services and community development, the objectives of social welfare services and community development, points to be emphasized in the implementation of social welfare services and community development, and major obstacles to the progress of social development should be presented to the conference in a report to be discussed and approved by the conference. This was done in the last meeting of the conference.

It was however suggested and approved unanimously that the conference should recommend that one African state or some African states should get in touch with the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and ask for the inclusion in the Agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa on the eighth of May, 1967, of an item relating to the establishment of a small committee of experts to harmonize the African views regarding social welfare and community development and prepare an African platform on that matter to be adhered to in the forthcoming world conference.

PART V

The General Secretariat's Observations and  
Recommendations

32. The administrative side was perfectly arranged. The U.A.R. Government is to be commended for the great effort they have done in arranging all kinds of facilities for all the delegations. The Chairman, Dr. Ahmed M. Khalifa the U.A.R. Minister of Wakfs and Social Affairs has ably guided the deliberations in a constructive way. It is because of his wise guidance that the conference went on in a smooth and cordial atmosphere.
33. The inclusion of some field trips in the programme was a good thing, but the time allotted for discussions was by all means very short, particularly in view of the fact that the conference did not establish any sessional committees, and that each delegation was inclined to give a long country statement which consumed most of the time leaving very little of it for such an important item like African cooperation in the field of social welfare and community development.
34. Since, one of the objectives of the organizers of the conference had in mind when they decided on holding it is to harmonize African view regarding social welfare and community development in preparation for the world conference which will be held by the U.N. next year, there is an urgent need for some follow up work to be done between now and April of next year when the world conference is most likely to be held. The General Secretariat of the O.A.U. was hoping that this matter would be fully discussed by the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU in its third Ordinary Session which was supposed to take place on May 8th, 1967, in Addis Ababa. That was why the representative of the General Secretariat had suggested that the conference recommends that one or more member states of the OAU should contact the General Secretariat for the inclusion of this matter in the agenda of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission; which was done.

35. Now that the third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U. has been postponed it is the opinion of the Economic and Social Department that this matter should be put before the next meeting of the Council of Ministers with a view of getting its approval that the General Secretariat may go ahead and establish a small expert group composed of the representatives of the six countries which were elected to the Bureau of the Conference and call a meeting for this small expert group to be held in Addis Ababa at a time convenient to them, which should be well ahead of the world conference, during which the task of harmonizing African views vis-a-vis Social Welfare and community development, and of preparing an African platform on those matters, may be fulfilled.
36. The General Secretariat requests the Council to approve of the General Secretariat's participation in the proposed world conference and to appropriate the funds needed for that participation in the budget of 1967/1968.

ANNEX I

Speech by

Mr. MOHAMMED SIDKY SOLIMAN

Prime Minister

and

Delegate of the President of the  
United Arab Republic



Brothers and Friends;

The 10th of April shall be marked in the history of Africa as a day in which the people responsible for the African Community have met for the first time to review and discuss the experience they have acquired while endeavouring to ensure the development of this community to study ways and means of changing, promoting and defining its future incited by vigorous hopes and genuine civilizations.

This adds to my pleasure in being today with you to inaugurate on behalf of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, this Conference of the Ministers of Social Affairs the first of its kind in the history of Africa.

I hardly need to refer to the relationship existing between economy and society and the link between social progress and economic development. The existence of such a relationship has become undebatable. Society does not grow in a vacuum but it develops on an economic basis which constitutes its deep roots. A society with no roots cannot grow and its members can have no hope in a better life.

Brothers and Friends,

By virtue of conquest, the coloniser became an investor thanks to his experience and wealth. However, the objective remained the same, namely the absorption of national resources to raise the standard of living in a country to the detriment of another.

Africa, the Continent of wealth and abundance, has remained over-charged and overwhelmed, colonised and exploited to the benefit of others.

Henceforth, we come to the conclusion that two factors have led to the underdevelopment we suffered from, and which are the very basis of any progress we aspire to.

The first factor is the control over the natural resources of our countries. In this respect, many points arise especially those related to foreign investments, technical aid, and the degree of freedom enjoyed by the country; above all, in taking the appropriate political decisions safeguarding national resources and consolidating its sovereignty thereover.

The second factor is the development of human resources in our countries.

As a matter of fact, the strength and power of Africa do not only rest in its natural resources but are inherent in the African man. If colonialism sought exploiting our natural resources, it endeavored at the same time to bury human capabilities in Africa and to prevent the Africans from acquiring knowledge and experience and from acquainting themselves with science and thought.

The decisive reaction of Africa could be the development of the African Community and the liberation of the gigantic intellectual potentialities of the African man.

Although social development rests on an economic basis that endeavors to increase financial resources, its ultimate goal is to enrich knowledge and experience and to fully exploit human gifts.

Allow me to add that without this human edifice, economic foundation alone would fail to achieve social development. The increase of per capita income is not sufficient for the development of the community as long as it is not accompanied by a rise in the level of its members.

In consider social development and economic progress as two integrated elements constituting one real whole. Economic development is necessary for any further social betterment and similarly social progress is essential to any further economic advance; irrespective of how little this might be.

Education, culture, technical research, training, public services in the field of security, justice, health, housing and social welfare, are very costly and impose a heavy burden on countries whose resources are being plundered by colonialists and foreign investors.

However, the efforts of the developing countries who have embarked upon economic development are seriously hampered by their inability at the present stage to finance social development schemes in the form of services, as investments in production projects absorb the largest part of funds available for investment.

The situation becomes more critical as their efforts are exerted amidst a blockade imposed by foreign interests that do not wish them to achieve any success likely to consolidate their independence and give them the strength to resist economic imperialism.

It was therefore, our imperative duty at this stage, to draw up priorities for social action. I can well imagine that most of your efforts shall be dedicated to throw further light on such priorities. Without going into details, it seems to me, that social development schemes with their economic content, and being considered as a foothold for social betterment, comes in the fore-ground at the present stage. However, we should not, at the same time ignore programmes aiming at protecting the community against the problems arising from social change; nor can we neglect social welfare plans designed for citizens in need of different kinds of care and assistance. The state is duty-bound to put into practice such programmes that can in no way be considered as a favour granted to the citizens.

Brothers and Friends,

The industrial society characterising our modern era, does not only imply the predominance of industry, but it means the existence of a society adapted to industry. Consequently social change affecting the community and the basis of its social and economic life, is inevitable.

In this respect the question is: Do we entirely reject our civilization while embarking on the path of progress?

It would be wrong to believe that the experiment of advanced countries is unique and has no alternative and that we have to follow its example in order not to be misled. The progress achieved by countries who preceded us in the path of development is neither a pattern that cannot be altered, nor the only path likely to lead us to progress.

We do not want social change in our countries to be a mere imitation, nor do we wish to see it accomplished haphazardly. We do not want it - through imitation - to obliterate the landmarks of our civilization, and transform us to a blurred image of communities submerged by their own problems. We do not want it to happen haphazardly against our will and understanding.

We must draw benefit from the experience of those who preceded us on the path of development, avoid as much as possible what they have suffered from and accelerate our march towards progress.

We cannot afford to spend as much time as they did to create a better society, otherwise we would be doomed to backwardness for ever.

Your task, I believe, is planning to achieve social change in Africa in order to create the social structure we aspire to.

I consider that social planning has no starting point and no end, it is an endeavour with no limits, a link between the past and a hopeful future, through present realities; it is an ever renewed intellectual attitude.

If there is a basic guide line in such a social planning, I believe it is the establishment of a society free from exploitation.

Economic and social development would be meaningless if it takes place in a society dominated by exploitation and social injustice, a society in which the efforts of workers benefit only the exploiters and speculators.

Social justice and equal opportunities represent the real significance of any social planning, otherwise such a planning would tantamount to planning for injustice and exploitation. I would go further to say, that without social justice there can definitely be no social development. Community does not grow through pressure but through self generated action. Popular masses never move unless convinced that it is for their own good.

Popular masses may move by fear, or by hypocrisy, but only faith and conviction make them use all their potentialities.

Popular action is the fuel generating social development; and social justice is the stimulus to popular action. In any case, the final objective of social development is to ensure comprehensive prosperity.

Brothers, you are the pioneers of prosperity in our dear continent. We set great hopes on your meeting - which I hope, shall reconvene in many other African capitals - I, together with millions of Africans wish you every success.

It gives me pleasure, on behalf of the U.A.R. to thank all the countries who have accepted our invitation, as well as the U.N. and the O.A.U., expressing the U.A.R. pride to have this Conference held on its territory.

God be with you.

ANNEX II

Speech by

DR. AHMAD M. KHALIFA

Minister of Wakfs and Social Affairs

U.A.R.

The Deputy of President Gamal Abdel Nasser,  
Sir,

The First Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs feels as from this very moment strength and optimism at having the President of the U.A.R. kindly delegate you to inaugurate its session.

This meeting entrusts you with the task of expressing to His Excellency our gratitude and deep appreciation for his splendid gesture. On behalf of the distinguished members of this Conference, I beg you to convey to H.E. the President of the U.A.R. our wish and earnest hope that he may honour us by accepting the honorary chairmanship of this Conference as well as by having it held under his patronage.

Dear brothers and friends,

While addressing you, in my capacity as representative of the host country, and before the distinguished representative of the U.A.R. formally declares this meeting open, I can only express at first my thanks to all those countries attending. Their encouraging response to our invitation has made it possible to hold this meeting in that honourable manner.

The fact that twenty six African States have participated in this Conference of Social Affairs' Ministers can only mean that African peoples, who are now able to voice their free will, have felt the paramount importance of this meeting and have therefore almost unanimously decided to attend it.

I believe that this initiative has sprung from a sincere feeling of Africa's responsibility towards its peoples, towards developing and protecting African society as well as raising the standard of living of the citizens of Africa.

We may well ask ourselves;

Why is this invitation to hold this meeting amply justified?

Why has it been deemed necessary not to hold it later than this particular moment?

Why has it become incumbent on African Ministers of Social Affairs to rally their energies for the launching off stage of African social action, for which the time has now come?

We have deployed sincere efforts and made noble sacrifices, Africans have struggled and fought for a better society. We are not disputing or trying to minimize such laudable endeavours. Yet we have to admit in all fairness that in spite of all this, the development rate we have been striving for has not yet been attained; several factors and passive attitudes have been responsible for this.

World economy has finally settled in such a way as to serve the interests of the wealthy only. Whoever dreams of a better life must strive for it in the shadow of giant interest that view with unavowable displeasure new ones that would spring forth beside them.

The task of development on our continent has to be carried out in the face of contrary and tempestuous winds. Industry, export, marketing, transport, the price of raw materials, international trade, all that affect the economic structure of developing countries and raise their foreign currency earnings, are beset by considerable difficulties, I might almost say by considerable opposition.

Our Conference is held in the shadows of those circumstances that have become more severe during the past few years in view of the very obvious fact that the wealthy nations are becoming daily more hesitant to provide developing countries with assistance, while attaching to it unacceptable excuses and conditions.

Such is our starting point, as Ministers of Social Affairs. Our responsibility in respect of social development is not in any way lessened by the fact that world economy would never willingly extend the field of the economies of developing nations, quite the contrary. This attitude constitutes a challenge which has to be taken up and which should drive us to plan an adequate economic policy in keeping with, and likely to lead towards, maximum social development at this critical stage of the struggle for social justice among peoples and in order to put an end to the present trends of international exploitation and to create a favourable atmosphere conducive to cooperation between peoples for the sake of the common welfare and brotherhood of mankind.

Africa has to bestow more importance on social action with a view to social development. We, at this Conference, should strive to define the aspects of social action and its methods. We believe that there are two elements that contribute to maximum productivity in social action: the first is the scientific character and the second, the popular character of social action.

As regards the first, although social action cannot, at every step, wait in order to keep pace with science, yet unceasing research with a view to help social action is an imperative that befalls every self respecting community.

As for popularity, the very existence of any Minister of Social Affairs would have no justification unless it were a ministry for the masses and popular action. It is a ministry that would be incapable of advancing a single step if it did not enjoy the full confidence of the masses and if the latter did not believe in it. Therefore the first task of a ministry of Social Affairs should be to act in conjunction with the popular masses and to seek to move them and to move with them, thereby helping them to enjoy the maximum benefits of social services.

I should not like, in this introductory address, to dwell at any length on our Egyptian experiment that aims at social action through an extensive use of scientific and popular means. The U.A.R. delegation will be pleased, however, to submit this experiment in the course of the Conference's discussions.

I shall, however, be content to take up the following points in that respect:

First: The social change which we strive for cannot be attained through legislation only; the influence of law and status can only be felt through social action that paves the way for them and turns them into living facts.

Second: Social action requires a trained higher staff that is able to provide for its requirements and shoulder its responsibilities, both technically and ideologically, and yet social action is no more a holy privilege limited to a certain category of experts; it has become a national duty that every citizen has to shoulder within the limites of his possibilities and the available time at his disposal.

Third: Social action is part and parcel of the character of civilization and therefore it does not constitute an exclusive world wide art or an unadulterated expertness. In the face of an evolutionary African civilization we must proceed to a mutual exchange of experience.



We believe that several social experiments that have taken place on this continent have been successful and have added to the general fund of experience.

There is no doubt that such a meeting could be instrumental in bringing quite a lot to light, in order to enrich and orient African social action.

Fourth: Social action, in order to be launched on its way, may require radical reforms that would be akin to setting rails over which the wheels of progress turn. We hope that due importance will be attached to the concepts of the measures to be taken, whether they concern demographic problems or town-planning, as well as problems related to the organization of the various sectors of economic activity in the State..

Dear brothers,

We have great hopes that before we conclude this meeting we would have prepared the draft of an African pact for social action. We hope to discover a unified African concept for social development and assistance in Africa. We are all aware that what may be adequate, as far as social policies are concerned, in economically advanced countries, may not be convenient to us, and that therefore we should devise for ourselves a philosophy that is founded on facing realities and taking into account social reality, however bitter; this would be more gratifying than trying to indulge in fanciful dreams, foreign to us, that could never be achieved.

Through such a development could an African nucleus in the World Conference of Ministers of Social Affairs, due to be held next year by the U.N., thus be established. This Conference we view with great interest and would not have it pass uselessly by; it should, on the contrary, realize the responsibilities of the U.N. in respect of all humanity and this, on the basis of a clear awareness of the glaring inequalities between the peoples of this world.

Dear Brothers,

I believe, first and last, that the greatest power in Africa is the freedom of Africa. Africa loves freedom to the same extent that she has been deprived of it, suffered and struggled for it.

Those who love freedom, those who have set alight the revolution for freedom in Africa, those only are capable of realizing our common hoe and of initiating her social revolution.

Long live Africa,

May you always remain, my brothers, the servants of our great African society,

ANNEX III

Statement by

Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner,

Executive Secretary of the E.C.A.,

at the Inaugural meeting

of the

Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs,

Monday, April 10, 1967.

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be here in the capacity of an observer on behalf of E.C.A. to see, observe and note the work of this meeting. The U.N. has its own program for social work and there is this world-wide program into which your activities are intended to fit. It is very welcome and encouraging indeed that the initiative of this meeting has been taken by Africa herself. We have the mandate as I have already indicated to make sure that we supplement and enrich but do not duplicate, and so by participating in the capacity of an observer we will be able to find out the gaps to be filled in social work in African action. I came here with some very serious misgivings. I have these misgivings because I think that the social aspect of the developments which are now taking place in Africa today present us with the most difficult challenges.

We have been talking of social change and yet, some people observed, that we may have some deteriorations in our condition, but nothing which can be described as change, fundamental change, which will imply also a change or changes in attitude as well.

The social aspect of the dynamic development as I have already indicated present us with a most formidable challenge. Some people thinking in terms of the totality of the changes which should take place now, describe the whole process as a process of modernization. The emphasis in discussing modernization is this: that you cannot even develop or modernize your economy without modernizing the entire society which that economy should fit; and yet we approach social work with a tradition which at best can be described as negative.

In the pre-independence days, both voluntary organizations and administrations had installed or established hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and schools to which our people went. In some few instances the communities themselves took an interest in establishing these services, but we never really developed the sense of responsibility for encouraging the establishment, expansion and development of these services for our own communities.

When we sent our children to schools, we did so because we felt that they would acquire skills which would give them a place in the modern sectors of our economy; even when we trained as doctors, we came back to participate in lucrative practices, not as dedicated persons whose responsibility was to serve the sick and suffering.

I have been considerably impressed by what is now known as the Arusha Declaration of Tanzania. This is taking place only very recently, but it seems to me that that Declaration constitutes a significant attempt in an African state to emphasize the social, economic and political implications of education. Against the backgrounds which I have just described, I am driven to wonder whether ministers and ministries of Social Welfare services in African countries know why they exist and what they are expected to do.

The answer to these doubts goes beyond a mere listing of the attributions of ministries. The amount of confusion that exists is illustrated by the title which we give to ministries of Social Services in African countries. You have social welfare and community development labour, cooperatives, land reform, youth and sports, and even in some one country you have a ministry of Middle Class and varying combinations of these titles. Each Ministry may be able to state in a bureaucratic and mechanical way what functions it is expected to perform, but I doubt whether it can explain why the functions are necessary and how they fit into a pattern of overall national effort.

I would like to submit that social services are meaningful only when they are understood as a means of satisfying the needs of people as people, and consequent upon this understanding it seems preferable to use the term, "social welfare services" rather than "social services", but this also raises a basic problem. What is the national conception of welfare? Not just a governmental or ideological conception of welfare, but the society's own conception of Welfare. Where a society has no conception of welfare, that is, human welfare, a ministry of Social Welfare is a mockery, or at best, a slavish copy of an exotic institution, and already we have been told that we have to develop these services to fit into the recognized needs of our community.

This has been the basis of the commencement of social services in other parts of the world.

I think this is the point that we should start with, i.e., to examine the purposes of this meeting to know what is our conception of human welfare, why do we have ministries of social services, and why is it necessary for African ministries of Social Services, as we have already been told, why is it necessary for them to meet at this time. I think we have to look at the backgrounds from which we have come. Some of us come from feudalistic societies, some come from countries where disease, misfortune, destitution are attributed to the will of God. Some of our societies hold the view that the Church, the Mosque and the faithful ~~can~~ and should take care of the poor by their charity. Others argue that tribal systems provide a form of indigenous social security. Even if these claims are valid, why then are we here?

A glib answer is often given that African countries and ministries of social services meet the need of these social services in order to cope with the problems of rapidly changing social conditions. This answer is not satisfactory. It is too vague; we need to define the problems of change in relation to our conception of human welfare. This amounts to our conception of our society as we would like it to be, not only of the political unit known as the nation. I could by using this approach draw up a list of categories or persons to be served, types of services to be provided, and perhaps percentages of public funds to be expended on social services. We have for instance in our rural areas persons who are under-employed and who will become redundant if we were to step up the productivity of the subsistence farmer.

What are we to do about this problem? We have millions of school-children whose parents now wish to give them some form of education. Do we have any ideas about the structure of education, the provision of guidance, the types of training which can make these children productive and law-abiding citizens, in order to meet the rising aspirations of the citizens of our new states; we need to create a new outlook which accepts habits of industry and discipline. That is the challenge of modernization. Have we any plans to meet that challenge? Thousands of our own people contract unavoidably debilitating diseases; have we any schemes for mitigating the incidence of these diseases so that the entire population

can contribute in a full measure to the national reconstruction effort. Even more important, the conception of welfare cannot be determined by a handful of people or a small sector of the population.

Have we any plans and strategy to make our populations aware of the goals towards which the society in which they live are moving? They should be more than aware, there should be active participance in the communal, social and national effort. We could approach these problems in terms of status of women, in terms of age groups, what to do for children and mothers, especially in the reduction of infant mortality rates; what to do for the adolescents, in terms of equipping for work and citizenship, what to do for the aged who may be no longer self-reliant, what to do for the working age group in terms of industrial welfare, housing and environmental services, in terms of social security, that is, protection against involuntary unemployment, accidents and disabilities; what to do for the entire society, in terms of social protection against delinquents, and remedial services for the handicapped.

I have only mentioned these problems because any attempt just to import institutions will serve no useful purpose; as I have already indicated, social services in other countries were developed in response to recognized and felt needs. Somehow I have a feeling that many of us in Africa, nowadays, attend meetings simply because we think we are needed to be present. The papers I received before leaving Addis Ababa gave the impression that there would be country contributions, review of social services activities in all the countries taking part in this meeting. I have not seen those documents yet. I would like humbly to submit, that without adequate preparations even a meeting of this kind can be a total waste of time. I believe the time has come for African countries to grow out of ceremonial and ritualistic conferences and to face the problems which their peoples expect them to tackle from a realistic point of view. We are in fact, in our social welfare work in most African countries, expected to undertake some form of social engineering to bring about purposeful changes, otherwise events will carry us beyond the vague hopes we had before independence into very serious difficulties.

Already some people are predicting that we are getting out of the revolution of rising expectation and entering the revolution of rising

frustration. Some of us do not like to read the books or publications which tell us some of the unpleasant facts about our countries. The first of such publications I encountered, and in my conversations with some members of the Commission I have tried to discuss this book with, it appeared that it is not a very popular one. This is the book by Rene Dumont, and I think that every minister of Social Welfare, whether he likes it or not, should look at some of the facts which are set out in "Africa makes a false start". I think the French title is "L'Afrique est mal partie".

A similar publication by Meister puts the question: can Africa start at all in economic and social development, "Can Africa make a start", "L'Afrique peut-elle Partir?"; then there is another publication, which is not very complimentary but which we should know, by Sanaye on "The Challenge of Modernization". Ballouy of Oxford has also published one: "The Economics of Poverty".

These are the facts which confront us, and the social services are not only a hand made of change, they constitute the engine of change because unless the attitudes of our peoples change, I am afraid that most of the hopes that we are putting on economics will not be realized.

I would like to emphasize only one more point, because here we have ministers of Social Services. There is now this tendency to transmit inequality, not the inherited inequality which come from our traditional institutions, but the inequality which we have imposed upon ourselves.

Rene Dumont pointed this out and now there is another publication by Seyes on "The Transmission of Inequality". First of all a good, a senior civil servant or a minister in Africa, nowadays, earns in about three months what a farmer earns in his life-time.

We talk about equality. We are not bringing it about this way. Also, you will find out that our technicians and professional people have their salaries determined by the international market. If you do not pay them that, they will not come home; but if you pay these rates, you are creating at least two communities; one that looks outside, that is your professional people and most of the people in our category; and those who are working inside, for whom we are supposed to be making sacrifices; they will never catch up with us.



We are very fond of ~~talking about cutting~~ off with the rest of the world, but we are not making any provision for our own people to cut off with us in our own countries.

These are fundamental issues and I have raised them because I do not confess to waste our time, talking about a series of institutions or practices which may not have any immediate relevance to the problems of our country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



Annex IV

Speech delivered  
by Dr. Hassan A. Dawood  
on behalf of

the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity

Your Excellencies  
Honourable Delegates.

It gives me great pleasure and honour to represent the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity who due to some very pressing obligations was unable to be out of Addis Ababa at this time in this Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs, and to be able to speak to such a distinguished audience expressing the views of the General Secretariat of the OAU regarding Social Welfare and Community Development in our Continent.

Before addressing myself to the topic which will be the subject of Your Excellencies deliberations for the next four days I would like to express on behalf of the Secretary-General and the whole Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity our immense gratitude and sincere thanks to the host government the United Arab Republic Government for the initiative they took in convening this Conference for the thoughtfulness in inviting the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity, and for all the courtesies they are extending to all the participants.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, it remains to assure the planners of this Conference, as well as the distinguished Ministers and Delegates attending, that the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity is giving the matter of Social Development in the African Continent its utmost attention, not only because it was one of the basic reasons for which the leaders of Africa had come together in May 1963 and signed the birth certificate of African Unity, not only because the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU in its first and second Ordinary meetings in Niamey and Cairo respectively had emphasized the need to develop our Continent economically as well as socially, and

had adopted resolutions designed to ameliorate conditions in Africa vis a vis Youth, Labour, Trade Unions, Vocational and Technical training, Sports and Social planning but also because it is universally recognized that Social Development conducive to the betterment of life conditions is the cornerstone of any everlasting stability and peace.

In Africa we have chased the imperialists out of the major part of our continent. We have won the battle for self-determination and gained our political independence. This, however, a cherishable achievement in itself, should not introduce any laxity into our efforts for progress and should not distract our minds from the great battle we have to fight against the inhuman and fierce enemies namely; poverty, ignorance and disease.

Although, during the last decade there has been a lot of social change in the Continent, yet progress has been slow and uneven. While the efforts of African Governments have been fruitful in defeating many diseases and in providing educational and training facilities to greater numbers, conditions of health and sanitation remained poor and literacy rates did not rise as high as it is desired to. Incomes which are in general very low and unevenly distributed did not rise enough. As a matter of fact in many countries real income has been static or even declining in recent years and the differences between income groups seem to be widening.

The major problem facing us in Africa has been how to transform the economy of African countries and provide adequate social services in tradition - bound rural communities under conditions of mass poverty and accelerated population growth. This is not an easy job at all. Rather, it is a tedious one which is hampered by many obstacles. To overcome those obstacles a searching examination of the pre-requisites of development and the problems of priorities, balanced integration and timing of action must be undertaken with a view of avoiding incompatibilities of Social and economic goals.

In its attempt to study the Social Development problems in Africa with a view of finding solutions for them, the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity has taken inventory of what is prevailing in the continent at the present time. It would be useful to put this inventory before this Conference, so that we may all think together and look for feasible solutions acceptable to all of us.

In this opening session it would be fitting to refer briefly to those prevailing social conditions and trends, reserving detailed deliberation to the working session of the Conference.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I am going to follow this procedure.

In the general front of social welfare in the African continent account must be taken of the social structure with its many aspects and trends out of which I can mention here alone one namely the emergence in the face of the complexity and diversity of African social and cultural systems, and the political divisions brought about by tribal and colonial factors, of a new consciousness of unity which is magnificently manifested in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity.

Population trends is another topic which is worthy of the attention of this conference. There is an upward trend in population growth a growth which is expected according to all indications to rise even sharper entailing several problems in the African scene.

Food production and nutrition, health and sanitation, education are all fields invested with problems peculiar to Africa.

In the African rural front which is the predominant one, problems relating to land tenure systems, credit, cooperative movement, extension services, the constant exodus from rural to urban areas, the gap between the urban sector of the economy and the rural one and the emphasis placed by the African Governments on rural reconstruction which is far less than that placed on urban, are all very significant points to be examined by this August house.

The African urban front has also its own problems, to mention just few:

We have the problem of rapid rate of urban growth, with all the Social problems related to it, the housing problem the social security and urban social welfare schemes, town planning, unemployment and discriminatory wages and the problems of youth and juvenile delinquents.

All these problems; general, rural, or urban have their repercussions on the economic as well as social development of the African countries and the African continent as a whole.

With this brief account of ~~the prevailing~~ social and economic conditions and trends in the African continent, the magnitude of the complexity and inter relatedness of the development problems can be easily visualized. In order to achieve their desires of improving living conditions of their people through the pursuit of a policy of social equality, of opportunity and elimination of poverty, ignorance and disease, African countries must persist in their determination to overcome socio-economic development problems such as, constant exodus from rural areas, rapid urbanization, population growth, food production, modernization of agriculture, poor sanitary and housing conditions, malnutrition, unemployment and under-employment, and balancing development between rural and urban sectors. A piecemeal approach in dealing with such problems has proven in most cases to be an ineffective as well as a costly process. A more effective and sound approach is the adoption of Social and economic plans as integral parts of national development plan. It is only through this approach that a thorough examination of the prerequisites of development and the problems of priorities, balance, integration and timing of action could be undertaken with a view of avoiding incompatibilities of social and economic goals. Fortunately, this is what was realized by many of the African countries of late. In recent years most of them tend to accept and apply the concept of comprehensive planning. One of the obstacles standing in the way of this trend is the lack of trained personnel and planning machinery in some of them who inspite of their intentions were not able to carry out comprehensive planning on a national scale. Inter-African technical assistance schemes would come very handy in this respect. It would enable those who do not as yet have the required trained planning personnel to be benefited by the services of qualified ones from sister African countries who have gained skill and experience in their own countries and who have worked in conditions very similar to those prevailing in the other African countries and who, unlike foreign experts, have a thorough understanding of the traditions and values of other sister African countries.

In planning any development programmes it is of prime importance to take in consideration not only the interest of the people concerned, but also their active participation as well. It is important that the

programmes be directed towards increasing productivity, thus contributing to the capacity of the individual and enabling him, in turn, to contribute to the economy. This is essential, particularly, in African countries whose economies can not comfortably provide for the financial requirements of comprehensive social and economic development plans. Governments, normally set up priorities in allocating public funds among the different projects of their plans. There is a tendency to give priority to productive programmes rather than to services. Active participation of the people in social programmes, besides being a key point in the success or failure of the programme, helps reduce the cost. Self help projects especially in the construction of school buildings, community centres and recreational play grounds have proven very successful in many African countries. This participation of the people in voluntary self help projects should be encouraged.

There are some of the views that the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity have, concerning social welfare and Social Development in Africa. In its programme of work which will be discussed by the Economic & Social Commission in its Third Ordinary Session scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa from the 8th to the 13th of May, 1967, the Secretariat has indicated the steps taken towards the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. in its past three sessions. One of these resolutions has to do with gathering data concerning all social development in Africa. In spite of the repeated requests of the Secretariat to the Member States to be kind enough as to furnish the Secretariat with the needed data, the response of Member States is very slow. This August Conference would help the cause of African Unity a lot by recommending that authorities responsible for Social and economic development in Member States should give the requests of the Secretariat of the OAU a little bit more consideration. This would go a long way towards facilitating the work of the Secretariat of the OAU and achieving the aims of the Organization which are no doubt dear to the hearts of African people.

I hope I did not take much of your valuable time and I sincerely wish this Conference the maximum success in finding ways and means for ameliorating social conditions in Africa and bringing about a happier and more prosperous life for the peoples of our mother land.

Thank you.

Provisional & Final Agendas

A - The Provisional Agenda

- 1 - Opening Session
- 2 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 3 - Social welfare services in Africa
- 4 - Community development in Africa
- 5 - Training related to Social Welfare and Community Development
- 6 - African cooperation in the fields of social welfare and community development.
- 7 - Adoption of the Final Report.

B - The Adopted Agenda

- 1 - Opening session
- 2 - Adoption of the Agenda
- 3 - Social Welfare services and Community development in Africa  
(including training)
- 4 - African cooperation in the fields of Social welfare services and community development
- 5 - Adoption of the Final Report.

Annex VI

Social Conditions and Social Trends in Africa

1. Social Structure

Although Family and kinship lineage, clan, tribe and other traditional affiliations are still important features in the ordering of social life in Africa, yet these ties and the obligations related to them are being modified in varying degrees through social and spatial mobility.

The extended family in Africa is undergoing a process of disintegration especially under urban conditions and kinship structures are giving way in towns. The indications are that nuclear family system is gaining ground in urban areas. But inspite of this kinship groupings still play an important role in our continent.

Another aspect of our traditional life which has shown some change is the tendency to put authority in the hands of younger and more educated men.

A third and very important aspect of the African life of today is the emergence, in the face of the complexity and diversity of African social and cultural systems, and the political divisions brought about by tribal and colonial factors, of a new consciousness of unity which is magnificantly manifested in the establishment of the Organization of African Unity.

2. Population Trends

A trend of far-reaching significance for African Social as well as economic development programmes is that of an upward trend in population growth, a growth which is expected according to all indications, to rise even sharper. This population growth has the following three main features:-

A - A fairly high over-all rate of natural increase for the continent as a whole.



- B - A rapid rate of urban growth resulting from constant exodus from the countryside.
- C - The African population is relatively young with 95 percent of the total under 60 years of age.

It is estimated that the annual rate of population growth for Africa as a whole during 1956 - 60 was about 2.2 percent, the average crude birth rate in most African countries is about 47 per thousand, the average crude death rate among the indigenous African population is 25 per thousand, while expectancy of life at birth ranges between 20 and 40 years.

There trends and features of African population entails the following:-

- A - Larger sums have to be invested in educational facilities, in health programmes and in agricultural and industrial growth to meet the high fertility and sharp increase of the population.
- B - The high ratio of dependants in the African population (the young plus the aged) requires the special attention of the African Governments.
- C - The constant exodus from the countryside and the rapid growth of towns all over Africa pose some acute economic and social problems for the governments in both their rural as well as their urban development programmes.

### 3. Food Production and Nutrition

Surveys on food supply and caloric intake in Africa show that while it is just sufficient for the population as a whole, it may be inadequate in drier areas in certain seasons. It also shows that the supply of total calories is derived mainly from starchy foods and cereals and that there are qualitative defects, particularly the low consumption of animal protein.

Increasing demands from urban centres for food stuffs calls for measure to stimulate increased productivity per farmer as well as making use of practicable but inexpensive storage devises to preserve what has been produced for a more even distribution of supplies throughout the year. Storage methods in most African rural areas are still primitive resulting in heavy seasonal losses in farm yields.

Cultural factors affect the levels of nutritional health in any community. Research and education in preparation of food and diet composition is as important as it is in food production and storage.

#### 4. Health

The planning of long-term programmes for health improvement is becoming more and more a feature of African Governments policies. As a result of programmes such as development of health centres, campaigns against various diseases and education in preventive measures there has been a marked health improvement in Africa in recent years. These improvements are reflected in the decrease of mortality rates and an even rapid growth of population. But despite these gains, health and sanitary conditions are still generally poor. Average life expectancy is low and the mortality rate, especially among children is still very high.

#### 5. Education

Although education is now a major factor shaping African Governments policies, and a comparatively high proportion of the national income of African countries is being devoted to educational programmes, yet the proportion of school age children receiving even primary education is still low. This is the main reason responsible for the high illiteracy rate among the indigenous population of Africa. Other important problems of education in Africa which merit the serious considerations of this conference are the following:-

- A - the western type of education is the more prevalent in African countries. In spite of its merits it tends to neglect much of the African environment and development of African personality.
- B - Education of girls in almost all of the African countries lags far behind that of boys.
- C - There is a need to take measure to prevent regression to illiteracy.
- D - African education is handicapped by the shortage of qualified teachers which could meet the rapid school enrollment.

E - And last but not least, the difficulty of finding a role in the economic and social system of African societies for the rapidly growing number of school leavers, especially those from elementary schools.

These are some of the conditions and problems prevailing in the general social front in Africa. If we move to a more specific front, the rural front which is predominant in Africa will soon recognize that the emphasis placed by many of the African Governments on rural development does not seem to be sufficiently strong. In the current development plans of most African Governments, the importance attached to the Agricultural sector varies enormously. Only very few countries are devoting sizable source of their public expenditure to the development of their rural areas. Moreover, the emphasis is by and large on increasing agricultural production without much basic change in the existing institutional framework.

The gap between the urban sector of the economy and the rural one is becoming great. This would certainly constitute a major impediment to economic growth and social development. If this gap is to be closed more emphasis should be placed on the development of rural areas, and the involvement of rural population in the national development efforts encouraged.

In some countries agricultural development is impeded by traditional systems of land tenure and land utilization. However, the customary systems of land holding in Africa are passing through a transitional stage. Let us all hope that African governments will give this matter its due attention and that land tenure arrangements conducive to the increase in agricultural productivity, and well suited to the local conditions and not copied from other countries with different conditions may be introduced.

Another major problem of rural development in Africa has to do with Extension programmes. Although most African Governments are aware of the need for providing advisory services to farmers and for strengthening the efficiency of extension work, the fact is that they are not able to train or recruit qualified personnel fast enough for their purposes. In extension work is not enough to use audio-visual aids, radio programmes, documentary films and agricultural shows at the village level; rather it is the personality and the training of the extension persons that makes all the difference.

Credit facilities open to most of the African farmers, are not adequate. The situation is worsened by the low level of education and technology on the part of the farmers and the traditional type of land tenure system prevailing.

Cooperative societies have important role to play in this respect. If they are established on sound managerial basis, they could help the farmers a lot in overcoming the problem of agricultural credit. It is with great satisfaction that it is noted that cooperative movement at the moment is much favoured by African governments.

So much for the rural sector of our societies, as to the urban one, its most striking feature is the rapid rate of urban growth in Africa. Although the effects of rapid urban growth have not all been bad, yet it is felt that to most Africans, the cost of establishing themselves in towns is high and rising. The net result of this is that the urban workers are often far less privileged than is realized by those who set out to seek a better life in the towns.

Employment situation in the urban areas of Africa is not adequately figured out. Detailed analysis on the subject is very scanty. Available figures show, however that rural urban migration is continuing faster than employment opportunities and that employment market in urban areas has become over crowded. In spite of this over crowdedness there exists in the majority of African countries a shortage of skilled manpower and high-grade personnel. The need for technical and vocational training is thus very obvious.

Housing situation in African cities is getting difficult everyday. If present trends continue, African cities will double in population about every fifteen years. Some cities have even doubled in size in the last ten years. Sub-standard housing and lack of proper sanitation are characteristic of many of these overcrowded towns. Although most governments are assuming some degree of responsibility for the provision of more urban housing, yet they are finding the responsibility difficult and burdensome. The solution might be found in governments concentrating on constructing public housing to meet the needs of different types of low-income groups while stimulating cooperative and self-help schemes to cater for the demands of other economic groups. Institutional arrangements

for savings and low-interest loans would assist Africans who receive regular income to build low-cost housing.

As to social security and social welfare schemes in our urban communities it is evident that social security in the traditional African context has been a family or kinship obligation, and that the major responsibility for organizing and financing various aspects of welfare services rests on voluntary organizations. However, in recent times there is an evidence of increasing involvement of African Governments in providing welfare services as well as social security schemes.

The present trend is for closer cooperation between public and private bodies.

Urban social welfare services has been directed towards meeting the more urgent problems of urban life such as first aid, homeless children, idle youths, training of invalids and so forth, but generally at the planning level, only few countries have established a national body responsible for the development of coordinated plans and policies in relation to social services.

Statement by Dr. Hassan A. Dawood,  
O.A.U. representative to the Conference of African  
Ministers of Social Affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

With your permission Sir, I would like to begin this statement by explaining very briefly the functions of the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity and its role in the realization of the Unity of our continent, the unity which has passed the stage of being a mere dream and has become a substantive fact since May 1963.

The Charter of the Organization of African Unity provides for the creation of different Organs entrusted with specific functions. One of these Organs is the General Secretariat whose function is inter alia to enable the other Organs whether political such as the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers, or technical such as the different technical Commissions of which the Economic and Social Commission is an important one, of performing satisfactorily their prime aim of bringing about African co-operation and African Unity.

The General Secretariat has the duty of supervising the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the decision making bodies of the Organization. It has also the duty of preparing for submission to the Council a report of the activities carried out by the specialized commissions.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn to the discussion and state that I am very happy to note that your expectations regarding the gradual focusing of the discussion on substantive and constructive suggestions, has been realized.

The distinguished leader of the Malagasy delegation together with some other distinguished delegates have raised the point of establishing a technical committee to be entrusted with the task of harmonizing African views regarding social welfare and community development, so that African countries may be able to go to the forthcoming international conference on social work and community development with a common platform. This is a constructive suggestion which springs from a strong feeling of African unity.

The General Secretariat will be happy to assist in this harmonization, if this conference decides so.

On May 8th, 1967, the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the O.A.U. is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa where Economic and Social problems of the continent will be discussed with a view of accelerating their development. It would be appropriate, if the conference so decides, that one or more of the member states would ask the General Secretariat to inscribe on the agenda of the Third Ordinary Session of the Economic & Social Commission, the matter of establishing a technical committee to pursue the work of this conference and harmonize all the views expressed during its deliberations.

I have no doubt that if this is done, the matter will receive the consideration of the Commission, which could recommend the establishment of the desired committee and the appropriation of the required funds that enable it of achieving its aim.

Mr. Chairman,

Before closing my short statement I would like to refer to what I have said in my opening speech concerning African cooperation in the field of social welfare, and to reiterate that there is an urgent need to emphasize African cooperation, particularly in the fields of technical assistance and Training. This august house might like to confirm this. It also might recommend that African countries when selecting foreign experts to help in social fields should give the priority to African ones, and that International bodies particularly the U.N. and its Specialized Agencies, when sending experts to Africa should select African experts as much as possible. This is because African experts undoubtedly have a better understanding of the continent's conditions, traditional values, a matter which is of the greatest importance especially in social work.

I would like also to voice here the appeal of all of us in the General Secretariat to Member States to give the inquiries of the General Secretariat a little bit more attention and to be kind enough to answer them with the rapidity required to enable the General Secretariat of performing its functions in a manner conducive to the realization of African unity which is the cherished aim of us all.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity and may your efforts be crowned with success.

ANNEX VIII

LIST OF DELEGATES





M E M B E R S

1. 1. . . . .

1. Algeria

H.E. Mr. Abdel Aziz Zaradany  
Minister of Social Affairs and Labour.

Mr. Mohammed Kadery  
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Hussein Kenz  
Director of Social Affairs - Ministry of Social Affairs.

Mr. A. Bou-Hara  
Director of Labour - Ministry of Social Affairs.

Mr. M. Nabi  
Director of Professional Training -  
Ministry of Social Affairs.

Mr. Belkassem Boudouh  
Commercial Secretary, Algerian Embassy, Cairo.

2. Burundi

H.E. Mr. Bandybona Jens Cheys  
Minister of Social Affairs.

Mr. M. Kirahuzi Al'is  
Director of Labour Department

3. Chad

Mr. Aly Keke  
Ministry of Labour Youth and Sports

Miss Bourkoy Louise  
Deputy of the National Assembly

4. Congo - Brazzaville

Mr. M. Adolphe Otse-Mawandza  
Director of National Fund for Social Welfare

Miss Gomez Yvette  
Director of the Department of Social Affairs.

5. Congo - Kinshasa

H.E. Mrs. Lihan-Kanza  
Minister of Social Affairs

Mr. Kaha Leopold  
Director Training of Personal Division  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Mutruna Dominique  
Head Office of Social Services Division  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Miss Kissimba Charlotte  
Social Worker, Private Secretary to  
H.E. The Minister.

6. Dahomey

7. Gabon

Mr. Benjamin Nagaubou  
Medical Doctor (Surgeon)

Mr. Martin Rekangalt  
Employee

8. Ghana

H.E. Alhaji Abu Wemah  
Ghana Ambassador to the U.A.R.

Mr. A.I.K. Quainoo  
Chief Community Development Officer,  
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Mr. S.A. Obuobi  
Chief Welfare Officer, Ministry of Labour  
and Social Welfare.

9. Guinea

H.E. Mrs. Hadja Camora, Loffo  
Minister of Social Affairs

Miss Faber, Madeleine  
Director of Social Affairs

Mr. M. Traoré Sidi Bamba  
Inspector of Labour and Social Laws.

10. Kenya

H.E. Mr. P.S. Ngala M.P.  
Minister for Cooperative & Social Services

Mr. J.G. Njenga  
Director of Community Development &  
Social Services.

Mr. O. Adola  
Cultural Attache, Kenya Embassy, Cairo.

11. Liberia

H.E. Mr. Alexander B. Cummings  
Under Secretary of Education

Mr. S. Augustu P. Hortou  
Director, Liberia National Youth Organization.

12. Madagascar

H.E. Mr. Tsiebo Calvin  
Vice President of Madagascar Government

Mr. Ranjeva Pierre Desire  
Director of Labour Services and Social Laws.

Mr. Ratisbonne Auguste  
Cabinet Attache and Private Secretary

Mr. Zahatsy Jean De Dieu  
Private Physician of H.E. the Vice President

13. Mali

Mr. Sow Oumor  
Director of Labourer Development

Mr. Traore Amadov  
Director of Social Affairs Department

14. Mauritania

H.E. Mr. Hamdy Ben Meknas  
Minister of Youth and Social Affairs

Mr. Abdallah Ben Bah  
Physician

Mr. Ibrahim Ould Daddah  
Judge.

15. Morocco

H.E. Mr. Abdelhafid Boutaleb  
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

Mr. Mohammed Lazrak  
Director of Cabinet

16. Niger

H.E. Mr. Elhadji Issa Ibrahim  
Minister of Health and Social Affairs

Dr. Wright  
Physician, Ministry of Health.

17. Nigeria

Mr. S.O. Kokou  
Permanent Undersecretary of State  
Ministry of Social Affairs.

Mr. Tanko Soba  
Principal Social Welfare Officer

18. Rwanda

H.E. Mr. Augustia Romoso  
Minister of Family

Mr. Jean Ntigura  
Director of Development Service at the Presidency

19. Senegal

Dr. Papa Gaye  
Technical Counsellor, Ministry of Health  
and Social Affairs.

Dr. Simon Senghor  
Director of Social Affairs

20. Somalia

H.E. Mr. Elhadj Beshir Sheikh Ismail  
Minister of Health and Labour

Dr. Mahmoud Gama Ahmed  
Director of Labour, Ministry of Health and Labour.

21. Sudan

H.E. Mr. A.A. El Mahdy  
Minister of Information and Social Affairs  
and Minister of Defence

Mr. A.H. Khalil  
Under Secretary of the Ministry of Information  
and Social Affairs.

Mr. A. Yossef  
Director of the Department of Social Affairs  
Ministry of Information and Social Affairs

Mr. M.O. Ahmed  
Director of Social Services, Gezira Project.

Mr. A. Moussa  
Senior Inspector, Ministry of Education

Mr. S.A. Mohamed  
First Sec. Sudan Embassy, Cairo.

22. Tanzania

H.E. Mr. Hassnu Makame  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Mr. T.E.J. Mwangosi  
Principal Welfare Officer

Mr. A.S. Njelekela  
Assistant Commissioner for Community Development

23. Togo

Mr. M. Nanamalf Gbegbeni  
Director of the Cabinet of the Minister  
of Labour, Social Affairs and Public Function

Mr. M. Kate Georges  
Director of Social Affairs Services

24. Uganda

H.E. Mr. C.B. Katiti  
Minister of Culture and Community Development

Mr. E.K. Mukibi  
Senior Community Development Officer,  
Ministry of Culture and Community Development.

25. United Arab Republic

Dr. Ahmad M. Khalifa  
Minister of Wakfs and Social Affairs

Mr. Yehia H. Darwish  
Under Secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs

Dr. Mouktar Hamza  
Under Secretary of the Ministry of  
Social Affairs

Dr. Mohammed F. Badrawy  
Director General, Training Department,  
Ministry of Social Affairs

Dr. Mohsen A.E. Ahmed  
Director, Social Planning Department,  
Ministry of Social Affairs

26. Upper Volta

H.E. Mr. M. Kabore Dominique  
Minister of Labour

Mr. M. Zakkarie  
Director,

27. Zambia

H.E. Mr. Hyden Dingiswayo  
Minister of Cooperation and Social Development

Mr. Katumbwa Nyalugwe  
Permanent Secretary of the Minister

Dr. Limbada (Ahmed Ismail)  
Medical Practitioner.

O B S E R V E R S

1. Cameroon

Mr. Engel Bert Atangana  
Counsellor Cameroon Embassy, Cairo.

2. United Nations

Mr. R.K.A. Gardiner  
Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa.

Mr. John Illović  
Director Social Welfare Department  
Bureau of Social Affairs.

3. Organization of African Unity

Dr. Hassan A. Dawood  
Director of Economic & Social Affairs Department

4. Arab League

Mr. El Derdivi Ahmed Ismail  
Assistant Secretary General

Dr. Abdel Wahab El Ashmawi  
Counsellor and Assistant Director  
of Social Affairs.

5. Food and Agricultural Organization

Dr. A.R. Sidky  
Assistant Director General for near East Affairs

Mr. A. Soliman

6. International Labour Office

Mr. Hussein Kamel, Director

7. United Nations Educational Scientific  
Cultural Organization.

Mr. Jan Smid  
Chief of Mission

8. United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Vojks Vpavicic  
Resident Representative in the U.A.R.

9. United Nations Children Fund

Dr. Olga Mackjeva  
Regional Representative

10. Demographic Centre for North Africa

Dr. Abdel Moneim El Shafei  
Director.

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