

S 2770

ECA/SERPD/PPS/90/3

**Report of Mission to Participate in the Seminar**

**on**

**"Africa: Beyond Adjustment"**

**in**

**Maastricht, Netherlands**

**June 30, 1990**

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**by**

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## **Introduction**

As prelude to and in preparation for the Africa Conference, a one-day seminar on Africa: Beyond Adjustment was organized on June 30, 1990 in Maastricht, at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the Seminar was to have an open discussion on the desired form and substance of Dutch co-operation with Africa. It was conceived as another step forward in giving Africa and sub-Saharan Africa in particular its proper place in the international political arena and a new future.

## **Attendance**

The Seminar was intended for all persons who are interested in African development issues, such as the academic world, NGOs, development institutes, consultants, private sector, civil servants, journalists and people working in sub-Saharan African countries.

In the end, it was attended by over 600 participants.

## **Programme**

The programme for the Seminar consisted of three sessions as follows:

- (a) a plenary morning session (11.00 a.m. - 13.00 p.m.) during which introductory keynote speeches and statements were made by representatives of the ECA, World Bank and two NGOs (Association of African Women for Research and

Development and GOM -- on behalf of CEBEMO, HIVOS, ICCO and NOVIB.

- (b) An early afternoon session (14.00 p.m. - 15.45 p.m.) during which discussion was organized in thirteen study groups meeting in parallel to discuss a number of specific themes. The themes were as follows: Adjustment Policy and Sustainable Development in special cases of Sudan and Tanzania; Role of the State and Governance; Role of NGOs and Participation in Africa's Debt: Problem or Solution? Capacity building Limitative; Ecological Boundaries for Sustainable Agriculture; women: Motor for Agricultural Development; Food Security: Solution for Hunger Problem; Education and Training; Health Policy, Financing and Structural Adjustment; Market Economy: Role of Private Sector; Africa and Europe 1992; and, Image of Africa in Western Countries.
- (c) A late afternoon session (4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.) during which the keynote speakers in the morning session were constituted into a panel that took up aspects of the reports of the study groups to the full plenary.

#### **Contributions of the ECA Representative to the Seminar**

- Delivery of a keynote address to the Seminar (copy of statement is reproduced and attached as appendix I.
- Participation in the work and proceedings of the study group on Africa and Europe 1992 as a resource person.

- Serving as a member of the panel of resource persons at the late afternoon session.

### **Achievements of the Seminar**

The Seminar engendered open and frank discussions, following the keynote speeches and during the proceedings of the thirteen working groups dealing with a wide range of crucial elements for furthering Africa's development. Particularly significant was the concluding panel discussion which afforded participant to seek clarifications and share in the perspectives of the key speakers to several issues pertaining to Africa's development.

Through the Seminar, the Dutch NGOs were sensitized to the myriads of African problems and development perspectives. In particular the perspectives of the ECA African Alternative to Structural Adjustment and the World Bank's latest publication on Long-term Perspective Study were reviewed and contrasted to see meeting grounds and the way ahead for Africa's recovery and socio-economic transformation.

The report of the seminar and of its proceedings is attached as Appendix III to this report; while the programme is reproduced in Appendix II.