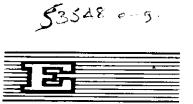


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# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

2-6 MAY 1991, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

# A. ORGANIZATION

1. The Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Inter-Governmental Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2 to 5 May 1991.

# B. ATTENDANCE

2. Representatives of following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa attended the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zaire.

The following specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations as well as the following the African Intergovernmental organizations listed below were also in attendance: United Nations Educational, Nations United Organization (UNESCO), Cultural Scientific and Development Programme (UNDP), Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Development Bank (ADB), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Communaute economique des Pays des Grands Lacks (CEPGL), the Egyptian National Civil Aviation Training Organization (NCATO), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), Association of African Maritime Training Institutions (AAMTI), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the Ministerial Conference of Western and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Port Management Association of Western and Central African States (PMAWCAS), Agence pour la securite de la navigation aerienne en Afrique et a Madagascar (ASECNA), Union douaniere des Etats de l'Afrique central the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations in (UDEAC), Africa (URTNA) and the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC).

The list of participants is provided at annex.

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened by the representative of Nigeria Chairman of the Meeting. After his introductory statement in which he recalled the aim of the meeting, he called on the Executive Secretary of the ECA to make his statement.

5. In his statement, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, started by thanking all representatives having travelled to attend

the meeting despite their heavy schedules in their respective countries or organizations.

He then recalled that during their eighth meeting held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 7 and 8 February 1991, the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning had clearly stated that without the projects, the second Decade programme would be incomplete. They had therefore, requested the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) to screen the projects submitted and to recommend a list of projects to be included in the programme. In that meeting, it was also decided to hold a meeting of inter-governmental experts since the Ministers did not agree with the proposal that the approval of the projects should be entrusted to an open ended bureau of the Conference.

He also underlined that the major objective of the meeting was to consider the projects selected by RMC and subsequently examined by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) for recommendation to the Ministers and inclusion in the second Decade programme.

Continuing, he spoke on the activities that had been undertaken since the Abuja meetings by the various parties involved in the project selection exercise, namely, the subregional organizations, ECA, the Technical Committee set up within RMC as well as RMC itself and the TACC.

He noted that the work had been very difficult especially in view of the delays in the submission of information as well as the inadequacies noticed in such information.

He then called the attention of participants to the proposals and recommendations made by IACC for an efficient implementation of the second Decade programme which was also to be reviewed by the meeting.

He concluded his statement by once again calling on all the Experts to collectively consider carefully the list of projects submitted by IACC and make appropriate recommendations on their inclusion in the programme.

# ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS D.

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (agenda item 2) The following agenda was adopted: 12.

- Opening of the meeting
- Adoption of the agenda and programme of work Consideration of the initial list of projects recommended for 1.
- 2.
- inclusion in the second DECADE programme Consideration of the recommendations on revitalization of a 3.
- single Bureau of Trans-African Highway Authorities 4.

5. Any other business

6. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

13. The following programme of work was adopted:

Morning: 9.00 hrs - 13.00 hrs Afternoon: 15.00 hrs - 18.00 hrs

Consideration of the initial list of projects recommended for inclusion in the second Decade programme (agenda item 3)

14. In introducing this agenda item, a member of the ECA secretariat recalled that in Abuja, it had been decided that the projects should not be discussed as a Technical Committee had been set up within RMC to review the projects submitted.

15. He indicated that the Technical Committee had met in Abidjan, at the headquarters of ADB, from 27 March to 19 April 1991 to select the projects. The Resource Mobilization Committee itself had met in Addis Ababa from 24 to 28 April 1991 to review the work done by the Technical Committee and had recommended a list of projects to IACC which had also met in Addis Ababa on 29 and 30 April 1991.

16. He stressed that a total of 1037 projects had been screened, out of which 460 had been recommended for inclusion in the second Decade programme, 475 placed on the waiting list pending receipt of additional information, while 102 had been rejected for not meeting the guidelines of the second Decade.

17. The representative of the secretariat then drew the attention of participants to the recommendations made by IACC and to the measures to be taken for the implementation of the programme.

18. He further emphasized that there should be no cause for unnecessary alarm if it was observed that a particular project or projects were on the waiting list. Since the second Decade programme was flexible the initiators of the projects involved were invited to provide the additional information requested and RMC should re-consider such projects for inclusion in the recommended list of projects if the information provided met the selection criteria established in Abuja. The same applied to those projects submitted late.

19. A debate then ensued as to whether it was needful to review in detail the list of projects as submitted and the best method to follow.

20. After long discussions, the meeting agreed that there was no need to repeat the work already done by RMC and IACC and decided that the

list of projects should be considered globally while appropriate recommendations should be made to the Ministers.

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21. The Meeting noted that a number of projects that had been submitted in the reports of the National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) or of the Subregional and Subsectoral Working Groups and formulated as project documents, did not appear in any of the three categories of recommended, pending or rejected projects. Accordingly, participants hoped that they would be given special consideration.

22. It was also agreed that each of the parties concerned should contact the secretariat for further explanations and should take all necessary steps to provide the important information that RMC would need in order to consider such projects on the same footing as those pending.

23. The meeting, moreover, agreed to classify the projects recommended under three categories:

- (i) Regional and subregional integration projects;
- (ii) National projects having an integrative scope;
- (iii) National projects whose integrative scope is not obvious.

24. The meeting then reviewed the future activities of RMC as approved by IACC, amending them to read as follows:

(a) Reconsideration of the pending and omitted projects in light of the additional information to be provided to the lead-agency by States and the agencies concerned. In this connection, RMC would hold an initial meeting in June/July to which heads of subregional and subsectoral working groups as well as the Chairman of the Experts Meeting would be invited. Consequently, information on the projects to be considered during this first meeting of RMC should be submitted to ECA the lead-agency, not later than the end of May 1991;

(b) RMC would meet regularly during the next two years to consider the new projects submitted in accordance with the guidelines approved in Abuja by the Conference of Ministers. The heads of subregional and subsectoral working groups as well as the Chairman of the Experts Meeting would be invited to these meetings;

(c) During the next six months, RMC would convene a technical meeting of donors which should not be a pledging conference, but which should aim at identifying the best means of obtaining financing for the projects;

(d) The lead-agency would organize, in cooperation with members of IACC and RMC, chairmen of Subregional and Sub-sectoral Working Groups, as well as Chairman of the Experts Meeting meetings and seminars aimed at better sensitizing African States and Inter-Governmental

Organizations to the objectives and strategies of the Decade and help them to realign their strategies to those of the working group. At the national level, such a sensitization exercise should get to the grassroots level in order to involve the rural people who are the most concerned.

(e) The RMC would commence its activities by arranging for the financing of projects already approved under the programme.

25. The meeting noted the offer of the National Civil Aviation Training Organization (NCATO) of Egypt to host one of such meetings or seminars;

26. The meeting also considered the recommendations of IACC, amending them to read as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of ECA should contact officials of the funding agencies members of RMC in order to discuss the specific involvement of those institutions in the implementation of the Decade programme;

(b) The projects selected for the Decade programme should be included in national sub-sectoral programmes worked out in pursuit of rational and realistic strategies;

(c) RMC's were requested to take all necessary measures so that the projects approved within the framework of the Decade receive the endorsement of funding agencies even if some of these projects were not considered during negotiations of the current structural adjustment programmes.

(d) The projects submitted by IACC members should be prepared in accordance with the strategies recommended by the subregional and subsectoral working groups and subsequently implemented in close cooperation with members of each working group.

27. The meeting agreed to recommend to the Ministers that RMC should be empowered to include in the Decade programme those projects pending or omitted but which met the selection criteria after additional information was received.

28. The meeting approved the idea that subregional and regional institutions and specialized agencies should meet before the next meeting of RMC, to harmonize and coordinate their programmes.

29. The insufficiency of industrialization projects was noted and a decision was made to draw the attention of the Ministers to this shortcoming so that ECA and UNIDO should be requested to step up their assistance to member States in the identification and preparation of investment projects to be submitted to RMC. A draft resolution on this subject was to be submitted to the Ministers for consideration.

Revitalisation of the Trans- African Highway Bureau (agenda item 4) A member of the secretariat introduced document TRANSCOM/494 on the He indicated that the document had been elaborated following a 30. above subject. request made to ECA by the eighth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning to formulate a more objective method of requesting contributions from member States and to report there on to the Meeting of the Extra-Ordinary Conference. He indicated that the document contained a programme of action and its various advantages to member States. A core programme covering the services that the Bureau would include: render to the Trans-African Highway Authorities; (b) An extended programme aimed at developing the roads and road transport sector in Africa taking into account the strategies, objectives of the second Decade. Contributions would be based on the benefits to be derived by member States from programmes implemented. He continued by presenting an indicative programme and the corresponding cost for the period 1991-1993 which totalled US\$991,000 as well as the scale of assessments indicating contributions that of each member State. Moreover, he stressed that to make the structure less cumbersome and more flexible, the Bureau should comprise a Coordinator, supported by a bilingual secretary, while additional staffing should be for the extended programme activities. The co-ordinator will be responsible to the Chief of TCTD 35. He specified that: (ECA) who will, in turn, report to the Authorities and co-ordinating committee on the activities of the Bureau on behalf of the Executive (b) Authorities and co-ordinating committees will meet every year secretary of ECA; under a combined session in order to consider their particular and collective problems and whose report and that on the activities of the Bureau will be rendered to the meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning The following major concerns were identified from the debates on 36. this agenda item:

(a) To include under the advantages to be derived by member States from the Bureau, an item on exchange of geotechnical information on low-cost construction materials;

(b) To include in the programme the establishment of a catalogue of African consultancy firms which should be used for studies on road construction in Africa;

(c) The need for consultation between the Bureau and subregional inter-governmental organizations for the formulation and implementation of its programme in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts;

(d) Given the fact that 1991 was fairly spent, the proposed work programme should be reviewed accordingly and based only on 1992-1993. The relevant costs and contributions should also be reviewed;

The relevant costs and contributions should also be retained, (e) The need to review the statutes and rules governing the functioning of the trans-African highway in order to adapt them to the new structure of the single Bureau;

(f) The need for the ECA to examine the legal existence of the single Bureau and to make proposals to member countries so that they pay their contributions to the budget.

37. The meeting then adopted the proposals contained in the document concerning the operational modalities of a single trans-African highways Bureau which will be based in the secretariat of ECA.

38. The scale of assessed contributions resulting from the revision of the bureau's programme, for the period 1992-1993 alone, is given below:

|      | CATEGORY           | CONTRIBUTIONS |  |
|------|--------------------|---------------|--|
|      |                    |               | 1993                                       |
| (ii) | Accoriate members: | US\$3,377     | - US\$7,394;<br>- US\$4,183<br>- US\$3,333 |

Any other business (agenda item 5)

39. The meeting accepted the recommendation that there should be a study on the harmonization of standards for roads and highways at the continental level.

40. The meeting also noted with concern that some countries had not yet set up their National Coordinating Committees (NCCs) and that, in some cases, the established NCCs were not receiving sufficient support from the governments, contrary to the spirit of Tangier when the Ministers undertook to be responsible for the establishment and functioning of the NCCs. In this regard, the meeting appealed to the Ministers not only to

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establish, but also to give them every support so as to enable them to perform the crucial tasks entrusted to them in the context of the bottom-up approach now adopted for the UNTACDA II programme.

# Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 6)

The meeting adopted its report after a few amendments.

The Chairman thanked all participants for their sincere cooperation which contributed to the success of the meeting . He then declared closed the deliberations of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Inter-Governmental Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning.

# ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Inter-governmental Experts on Transport, Communications and Planning

2 - 5 May, 1991 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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