

ECA/SRDC/SA/MR/2001/07

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
(ECA/SRDC-SA) LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

MISSION REPORT

Name: **Guillermo Mangué**

Purpose: **To Participate in the Botswana CCA/UNDAF Meeting**

Venue: **Gaborone, Botswana**

Dates: **31 May- 01 June 2001**

Program Element: **International Cooperation and Inter-Agency
Coordination and Liaison**

Lusaka, 4 June 2001

I. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the revised Medium-Term Plan for 1998-2001 and the 1998-1999 Program Budget, one of the activities of the Subregional Development Centre for Southern Africa (SRDC-SA) is to "establish close cooperation with the United Nations system organizations operating in the subregion to facilitate the implementation of system operational programs in the subregion in close collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator system at the national level."

Within this context, the UN Resident Coordinator of Botswana in his e-mail message dated 15th May 2001 requested all UN agencies non-resident in Botswana, including SRDC-SA, for support in the preparation of the Common Country Assessment for Botswana (CCA-Botswana). To this end, the Resident Coordinator forwarded a draft CCA-Botswana and invited UN agencies not resident in Botswana to the National Consultative Body meeting on 31 May 2001. The Director of SRDC-SA assigned me to participate on behalf of the Centre.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the mission was to review the draft CCA-Botswana and to adopt strategies and methodologies for its finalization. The mission was also intended to follow up on other issues with the Government of Botswana and SADC Secretariat.

III. OUTCOME

The National Consultation on the Common Country Assessment for Botswana Meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana on 31 May 2001. In addition to all the UN agencies in Botswana, the meeting was attended by the Government of Botswana and stakeholders.

At the invitation of the UN Resident Coordinator, I was directed to attend on behalf of UNECA/SRDC-SA. The following is the detail of the mission:

(a) NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE BODY MEETING

The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Wilfred J. Mandlebe, Acting Secretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Welcome remarks (Mr. Macharia Kamau, UN Resident Coordinator);
2. Presentation of Draft Chapter on Poverty (Mr. S. Obuseng, UNDP National Economist);
3. Discussions and Comments;
4. Presentation of Draft Chapter on HIV/AIDS (Dr. B. Khan, NACA Coordinator and Ms. Rosalind Saint-Victor, UNAIDS Country Program Adviser)
5. Discussions and Comments;
6. Presentation of Draft Chapter on Environment (Mr. E. Maloiso, NCSA Deputy Executive Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment);
7. Discussions and Comments
8. Presentation of Draft Chapter on Future Challenges and Opportunities (Mr. D. M. Gaseitsiwe, Director of Economic affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning);
9. Discussions and Comments;
10. Closing Remarks (Mr. Macharia Kamau).

In his welcoming remarks the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Macharia Kamau, acknowledged the present of and expressed appreciation to ECA participation at the meeting. He noted with satisfaction the comments provided by ECA Subregional office in Lusaka on the zero draft CCA for Botswana.

It was worth-noting that the Final Draft presented at the meeting incorporated the most of the comments we made on the zero draft submitted to us (i.e. incorporation of an introductory chapter, relationship between the thematic areas and some international conventions, the incorporation of a new section on Government Actions in the draft chapter on environment, etc.). The Final Draft presented at the meeting is available for consultations.

During the discussion of the different sections of the draft CCA I continue to suggest some structural aspects of the paper, which needed improvement (i.e.

the need to separate the introduction chapter into two sections. One section dealing with the purpose, objective and methodology of the paper and the other section dealing with the background of the country). Most of my suggestions were very much appreciated.

Most participants made valuable contributions towards improving the document and the UNCT undertook to finalize the paper.

It should be pointed out that the consultative process in Botswana was very participatory. Thus, as can be seen from the list of membership of the National Consultative Body herewith attached, the CCA document for Botswana can be considered as a "national document."

(b) FOLLOW UP ON OTHER ISSUES

1. Meeting with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

During the CCA meeting I discussed informally and requested appointment with Mr. Wilfred J. Mandlebe, Acting Secretary for Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Chairman of Botswana Telecommunication authority. Mr. Mandlebe agreed to meet me the following day.

The meeting took place in Mr. Mandlebe's Office at 09:00 on 01 June 2001. I presented to Mr. Mandlebe the latest Report on activities of the ECA/SRDC-SA in Southern Africa, the brochure on advisory services and the draft work program for the biennium 2002-2003 as presented to ICE in Lusaka, Zambia, in April 2001.

During our discussions Mr. Mandlebe expressed appreciation to the documents provided to him and requested ECA to continue providing information kits to member States in general and to Botswana in particular on services available at ECA. He indicated that in most cases member States do not know what type of services ECA can render to countries and what are the modalities and requirements for member States to qualify for those services.

Mr. Mandlebe indicated that a request from his government to ECA were still not attended to. The request was to provide short term advisory services to restructuring Botswana Telecommunication Authority (BTA).

The restructuring exercise would involve the following:

- Human resource inventory and management (skills);
- Internal Control (information, financial and billing control systems);
- Engineering (evaluation of equipment and technology available and required).

For ECA to take appropriate action Mr. Mandlebe forwarded to me a draft TOR for the above assistance (see attached).

Mr. Mandlebe also indicated that there was a miss-perception whereby some international organizations, including the UN, had the impression that Botswana did not need any assistance from such institutions. He pointed out that his country would appreciate any assistance ECA could provide to his country particularly in the following two areas:

(a) HIV/AIDS

- Behavior study on HIV/AIDS: The incidence of HIV/AIDS in Botswana is it related to lack of information, economic way of living or to some development programs?
- Trends on Human resource losses for HIV/AIDS and its implications on development and

(b) POVERTY

- Studies based on some good practices;
- Poverty and unemployment;
- Poverty and environment.

(c) Any other suggestion ECA may found necessary for Botswana's economic and social development.

In relation to the planned Ad Hoc Experts Group Meeting by ECA/SRDC-SA, Mr. Mandlebe indicated that the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning was in the process of setting up a unit "Development Cooperation Unit", which will be in charged of integration programs in Botswana. He indicated that Mr. Matila, Principal Economist in the ministry would be the Coordinator and that he was the most appropriate person ECA could contact for the Ad hoc Experts Group Meeting (Tel.: 350248 and Fax: 300379).

2. Meeting with SADC Secretariat

I visited SADC Secretariat on Friday, 01 June 2001 from 10:30-11 and met with Mr. A. E. Mondlane, Principal Economist, Acting Executive Secretary. Our discussions centered on the issue of SADC Annual Report 2000/2001. Mr. Mondlane indicated that SADC would still need ECA's assistance for the preparation of the above-mentioned document. In this respect, he indicated that a formal request for such assistance would be sent to ECA in due course.

Mr. Mondlane handed over to me three copies of the SADC Annual Report, 1999/2000, which was jointly prepared by ECA and SADC.

3. Meeting with UNDP Gaborone

I visited UNDP Gaborone on 01 June 2001 from 11:30 to 12:45 and met with Mr. Senny Obuseng, National Economist. During our discussions Mr. Obuseng indicated that an ECA mission visited Botswana during the second half of the year 2000 within the context of Statistical Development in Botswana and that the mission report is yet to be received.

Mr. Obuseng indicated that the Government of Botswana has requested UNDP to assist the Central Statistical Office in building national capacity for statistical development. Mr. Obuseng also indicated that UNDP is ready to assist Botswana's government, but would like to involve ECA and SADC in that exercise. For that reason the report of ECA's mission was necessary for them to see what can be done.

In my response, I indicated that I was not aware of that mission but will do everything possible to get the mission report and forward it to UNDP Gaborone. I also indicated that assistance to Botswana Government to build national capacity for data collection and analysis should be considered from a multi-dimensional approach for which ECA could play a leading role.

IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR ECA

My mission to Gaborone offered an important opportunity not only to share ECA's experience on CCA/UNDAF with the UNCT in Botswana, but also to make ECA's program of activities available to the Government of Botswana and UN agencies operating in the country, all of which seemed not to know much about ECA and its activities in the subregion.

It should be pointed out that ECA/SRDC-SA has an important coordinating role to play in the subregion, particularly in its relations with other UN agencies. UNDP Gaborone expressed the need to work hand-in-hand with ECA, particularly in terms of data collection and information sharing for the preparation of the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa. It would be useful for ECA, therefore, to explore how this collaboration could be established and extended to other UN offices in the subregion and what other aspects should be considered.

V. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

In addition to the Draft CCA/UNDAF for Botswana, which was presented and discussed at National Consultative Body Meeting, the following documents, were also made available to me during the mission and are available for further reference.

1. Republic of Botswana, Annual Economic Report, 2001
2. Republic of Botswana, Annual Economic Report, 1997
3. Botswana, Financial Statistics, June 2000
4. Policy on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises in Botswana, 1999
5. Quarterly Review of Recent Economic Developments in Botswana, June 2000

6. Long-Term Vision for Botswana
7. A Case Study of Economic Policy Prudence and Growth, 1999
8. SADC Annual Report, 1999/2000
9. SADC Regional Human Development Report, 2000
10. Botswana Human Development Report, 2000 (UNDP)