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**Economic Commission for Africa
Commission économique pour l'Afrique**

ECA/ACW/MR/BURK/98

**Rapport de Mission
de
Joséphine Ouédraogo**

**15-18 Décembre 1998
Ouagadougou , Burkina Faso**

Participation à:

- la première réunion du Bureau du Comité des Femmes Africaines pour la Paix et le Développement (15-16 Dec 1998)
- la quatrième Session ordinaire de l'Organe central du mécanisme de l'OUA pour la prévention, la gestion et le règlement des conflits au niveau des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement (17-18 Dec 1998)

Février 1999

958

18.07.02

1- Cadre de la Mission

Le Comité des femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement a été officiellement lancé le 11 Novembre 1998 à Addis-Abeba à l'issue de sa première réunion constitutive.

Le Comité a été mis en place à la suite de la pression soutenue des femmes africaines fortement actives dans le domaine de la paix et du règlement des conflits. Leur revendication a été prise en compte par les recommandations de la Conférence régionale sur Femmes, Paix et Développement tenue à Kampala en 1993.

Le Plan d'action de Kampala adoptée par la Cinquième Conférence régionale africaine de Dakar en 1994 a été intégrée dans la Plateforme d'action africaine. Le African Women Leadership Forum on Peace organisé conjointement par la CEA et l'OUA à Johannesburg en Novembre 1996 a proposé dans le cadre de la Plateforme africaine, la création du Comité comme mécanisme opérationnel qui faciliterait la participation des femmes aux instances de gestion, de prévention et de règlement des conflits en Afrique.

L'OUA et la CEA ont travaillé ensemble pour la mobilisation des membres du Comité ainsi que pour son lancement officiellement en novembre dernier.

Ces deux institutions continuent d'apporter au Comité des Femmes africaines pour la Paix et le Développement l'appui technique et administratif indispensables jusqu'à ce qu'il puisse fonctionner de manière totalement autonome.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Secrétariat du Comité a sollicité ma participation à la première réunion du Bureau dans le cadre de la tenue de la quatrième session ordinaire de l'Organe Central du mécanisme de l'OUA pour la prévention, la gestion et le règlement des conflits au niveau des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement.

2-Résultats de la première réunion du Bureau du Comité des femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement (15-16 Décembre 1998)

Les participants:

Sur les cinq membres du Bureau, trois(3) membres ont pu participer à la réunion.

Le quorum était donc atteint.

Il s'agissait de:

- Mme Ruth Sando Perry, première vice-présidente
- Mme Fatoumata Diallo-Da, troisième vice-présidente
- Mme Binta Diop, Coordonateur

En plus des membres du Bureau du Comité, trois autres personnes ont participé à la réunion:

- Mme Hiroute Guebre-Sellassie, Consultante, Secrétaire par intérim du Comité,
- M. Sam Ibok, Chief of the Center for prevention, management and resolution of Conflict of the OAU
- Mme Joséphine Ouédraogo, directeur du centre africain pour la femme, CEA

L'ordre du jour comprenait sept(7) points:

- i. Etat des documents adoptés par le Comité lors de sa session inaugurale
- ii. Organisation administrative du secrétariat:
 - Locaux et équipements
 - Personnel
 - Finances
 - Strategie de Communication
- iii. Répartition des responsabilités entre les membres du Bureau
- iv. Activités a entreprendre dans le cadre des conflits en cours
- v. Mobilisation des ressources
- vi. Modalités de travail entre le Comité et l'OUA et la CEA
- vii. Questions diverses

Les résultats détaillés de la réunion du Bureau du Comité sont consignés dans le Rapport officiel écrit par Mme Hiroute Guebre-Sellassie, joint en annexe.

Les requêtes spécifiques ci-après ont été adressées à la CEA par le Bureau du Comité:

- -Installation d'une ligne téléphonique directe et d'un Fax
- -Connexion du secretariat du Comité avec Internet
- -Ouverture d'un Site-Web pour le Comité
- -Confirmation de la contribution financière de la CEA pour les honoraires du Secrétaire intérimaire
- -Estimation globale de la contribution de la CEA au Secrétariat du Comité

Ma participation à la réunion du Bureau me permet en outre de faire les observations suivantes:

Afin de préparer les réunions du Comité et de mettre immédiatement en oeuvre les décisions qui y sont prises , le Comité a besoin d'un Secrétariat fort, autonome et responsable, à cause de la dispersion géographique de ses membres.

- "Fort" signifie, un Secrétariat dont le statut lui permet d'entrer en contact avec les autorités politiques et les responsables des institutions intergouvernementales au nom du Comité. La personne qui agit comme Secrétaire intérimaire continue d'avoir le statut de consultant recruté par le Centre africain pour la femme. A cet égard, les prérogatives d'un Consultant sont relativement limitées.
- "autonome" signifie un Secrétariat qui dispose des moyens humains, logistiques et financiers indispensables pour mener les activités d'information, de communication, de représentation et de liaison que requiert la mise en oeuvre des décisions du Comité.
- "responsable" signifie que le Secrétariat permanent du comité devrait pouvoir entreprendre des activités de sensibilisation et de mobilisation de partenaires. Le secrétariat du Comité en est la cheville ouvrière et de ce fait doit devenir un espace d'information. Le secrétariat doit être le lieu d'enregistrement et de diffusion des progrès accomplis sur le terrain grâce à la mobilisation des femmes africaines.

Le développement du Secrétariat exige donc la mise en place urgente d'une équipe professionnelle régulièrement recrutée par le Bureau du Comité.

3- Participation du Bureau du Comité à la quatrième session ordinaire de l'Organe central du mécanisme de l'OUA, tenue le 18 Décembre 1998.

A la demande de Madame Ruth Perry, j'ai dû prolonger ma mission afin d'appuyer la participation du Comité à ladite session.

Mme Perry a obtenu du Président du Sommet des Chefs d'Etat de l'Organe central l'autorisation de prendre la parole avant la cloture de la session pour lire le Communiqué de Presse rédigé par le Bureau (voir le Communiqué en annexe).

Dans cette démarche, le Comité a pour objectif de pouvoir s'intégrer formellement dans les mécanismes de préparation des dossiers inscrits à l'ordre du jour des sessions régulières de l'Organe central, structure politique chargée des questions de conflits sur le continent.

A cet égard, le Secrétariat du Comité devra créer des mécanismes de liaison entre les membres compétents du Comité et les services de l'OUA chargés de la préparation des réunions de l'Organe central.

Dans le cadre de l'appui qui m'a été demandé par le Comité, j'ai participé aux audiences qui ont été accordées à Mme Ruth Perry par:

- Son Excellence Monsieur Pierre BUYOYA, Président du Burundi.
- Son Excellence Monsieur Abdul Salami Abubakar, Président de la République fédérale du Nigéria
- Monsieur Ibrahima Fall, Sous-Secrétaire Général des Nations-Unies, chargé des affaires politiques

Ces rencontres avaient pour objectif de sensibiliser ces différentes personnalités sur le rôle du Comité et demander leurs conseils et leur appui politique.

ANNEXE I

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

Ouagadougou, 16/12/98

La mise en place du Comité de femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement par l'OUA et la CEA en avril 1998, suivie par son lancement officiel le 11 novembre 1998, marque l'aboutissement des efforts conjugués de femmes militantes africaines.

Profondément préoccupées par la prolifération de violents conflits en Afrique, les femmes africaines sont conscientes que leur implication dans les efforts de prévention et de règlement des conflits ajoutera une dimension considérable aux processus de paix et de développement de tout le continent.

Le Bureau du Comité de femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement a tenu sa première réunion à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, peu avant la Réunion du sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Organe Central de l'OUA qui aura lieu les 17 et 18 décembre 1998.

La tenue de la réunion du Bureau à ce moment précis offre à ses membres l'opportunité de :

- s'entretenir avec les dirigeants africains sur des questions relatives à la situation qui prévaut dans la République Démocratique du Congo, au Burundi, en Angola, en Guinée Bissau, aux Comores, en Ethiopie et en Erythrée;
- Elaborer des stratégies pour l'implication des femmes aux négociations de paix en cours à tous les niveaux;
- S'assurer de la prise en compte des suggestions des femmes en matière de prévention, la gestion et le règlement des conflit

Parce que le Comité s'oppose catégoriquement à la guerre en tant que solution dans la résolution des conflits, les membres du Bureau mettront l'accent, dans leurs délibérations, sur le développement et l'élaboration de stratégies et d'activités concrètes visant à promouvoir la culture de la paix et de la tolérance.

Le Comité a décidé d'entreprendre immédiatement des projets concrets dans les zones déchirées par la guerre, de sensibiliser et de persuader tous les acteurs de la nécessité du dialogue et du règlement pacifique de leurs conflits en collaborant avec la société civile et les organisations de masses dans la recherche de solutions.

En outre, le Comité a décidé de jouer le rôle de mécanisme d'alerte rapide pour le Centre de prévention, de gestion et de règlement des conflits de l'OUA en impliquant les femmes à tous les niveaux.

Les membres du Bureau du Comité des femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement sont les suivants :

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. S.E. Dr. Specioza Kazibwe | - Présidente |
| 2. S.E. Mme Ruth Sando Perry | - 1 ^{ère} Vice-présidente |
| 3. Mme Gertrude Mongella | - 2 ^{ème} Vice-présidente |
| 4. Mme Fatimatou Diallo-Dah | - 3 ^{ème} Vice-présidente |
| 5. Mme Bineta Diop | - Secrétaire |

Adresse de contact :

Secrétariat du Comité de femmes africaines pour la paix et le développement

c/o OUA
B.P. 3243

Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

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Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

PRESS RELEASE

Ouagadougou , 16/12/98

The Establishment of the African Women Committee on Peace and Development by OAU and ECA in April , 1998 followed by its formal launching on November 11 , 1998 marks the culmination of co-ordinated efforts of African women activists .

These women are deeply concerned with the proliferation of violent conflicts in Africa and are aware that the involvement of women in conflict prevention and resolution efforts will add a valuable dimension to the peace and development processes of the continent .

The Board of the African Women Committee on Peace and Development held its first meeting, in Ouagadougou, prior to the Meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU , at the level of Heads of State and Government which will take place from the 17th to the 18th December 1998.

This particular timing of the Board Meeting will give its members the opportunity:

- to consult with African Leaders on the issue of the ongoing Peace processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo , Burundi ,Angola ,Guinea Bissau, Comoros , Ethiopia and Erythrea.
- to strategize for the involvement of women from all levels in the current peace negotiations .
- to ensure the inclusion of women's agenda in Mechanisms for the Prevention Management and Resolution of conflicts .

Because the Committee is totally rejecting war as an option for conflict resolution, the Board members will , during their deliberations, focus on the

development and elaboration of concrete strategies and activities aimed at promoting a culture of peace and tolerance .

The Committee has decided to immediately undertake concrete projects in war torn areas and to sensitize and persuade all actors on the need to dialogue and resolve their conflicts peacefully by cooperating with civil societies and grass root organizations in the search for solutions.

The Committee has further decided to operate as an early warning mechanism for the OAU Center for Conflict Prevention , Management and Resolution .

Cooy involving women at all levels.

Board members of the African Women Committee on Peace and Development are :

1. H.E. Dr. Specioza Kazibwe -Chairperson
2. H.E. Madam Ruth Sando Perry -1st Vice-Chairperson
3. Madam Gertrude Mongella -2nd Vice-Chairperson
4. Madam Fatimata Diallo-Dah -3rd Vice-Chairperson
5. Madam Bineta Diop - Secretary

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Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia

Addis Ababa ,Ethiopia

The African Women Committee on Peace and Development

ANNEXE II

REPORT

AFRICAN WOMEN COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

**1st MEETING OF THE BOARD
15 – 16 DECEMBER 1998
OUAGADOUGOU – BURKINA FASO**



COMITE AFRICAIN DES FEMMES POUR LA PAIX ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT



REPORT

AFRICAN WOMEN COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

1ST MEETING OF THE BOARD

15 – 16 DECEMBER 1998

OUAGADOUGOU – BURKINA FASO

REPORT

AFRICAN WOMEN COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT 1ST MEETING OF THE BOARD

15 – 16 DECEMBER 1998

OUAGADOUGOU – BURKINA FASO

I. INTRODUCTION

The first Meeting of the Board of the African Women Committee on Peace and Development was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from -15 – 16 December 1998, prior to the meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU.

The following Board Members were present :

- S.E. Madam Ruth Sando Perry, 1st Vice-Chairperson of the Board
- Madam Fatimata Diallo-Dah, 3rd Vice-Chairperson of the Board
- Madam Bineta Diop, Secretary of the Board

Also present at the meeting were :

- Mrs Joséphine Ouédraogo, Director of the African Center for Women of the ECA
- Mr. Sam Ibok, Chief of the Center for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflict of the OAU
- Mrs. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, the Consultant co-ordinating the AWCPD Secretariat.

As the 1st Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Madam Ruth Sando Perry chaired the meeting. Out of the five members of the Board, three being present, the quorum was attained and therefore the meeting proceeded as planned.

Madam Diallo-Dah welcomed the members and expressed the pleasure of the Government of Burkina Faso to host this meeting despite the fact that this feeling had not been expressed in more formal ways. She said that the tasks awaiting the Board now is the finalization of what was started in Addis Ababa during the Inaugural Session.

Madam Ruth Sando Perry then expressed her gratitude for the hospitality extended to the Board of AWCPD by the Government of Burkina Faso. She pointed out that the tasks entrusted to them are delicate ones and that the results of their deliberations are awaited by many.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAM OF THE MEETING

2.1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Board adopted the following Agenda :

- i) Status of the documents pertaining to the Inaugural Meeting of the Committee
- ii) Administrative Organization of the Secretariat
 - Offices and equipment
 - Staff
 - Finance
 - Communication strategy
- iii) Allocation of responsibilities between Board Members
- iv) Activities to undertake in relation to current conflicts
- v) Resources Mobilization
- vi) Working Modalities of the Committee with OAU and ECA
- vii) Any other business.

2.2. Work Program

The Board also decided that the 15 and the 16 of December 1998 will be dedicated to the discussions of the Agenda items and that it will thereafter attend the meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU scheduled for the 17 and 18 of December 1998.

The Board also agreed on the usefulness of :

- Giving a press release at the end of its meeting
- Securing appointments with decision making personalities attending the meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU
- And if possible addressing the Central Organ of the OAU.

III. STATUS OF THE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairperson requested Mrs. Bineta Diop, Secretary of the AWCPD, to report on the work of the Secretariat since its launching in Addis Ababa.

The Executive Officer of the Secretariat informed the members that the working documents (Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, the Report of the Inaugural Session and Framework for Program of Activities and Budget) which revised version had been reviewed and agreed upon by the Secretary of the Board have been dispatched to all members of the Committee, to the Diplomatic Corps in Addis Ababa, the UN Agencies, the OAU and ECA as per the instructions given to the Executive Officer of the Secretariat by the secretary of the Board. Copies of these documents were also distributed to the Board members present. A French version will be distributed as soon as finalized.

The Board then discussed the fate of the Background documents presented at the Inaugural Session, held in Addis Ababa from 10 – 11 November 1998, and agreed on the need to finalize them as per the comments made by AWCPD members during their respective presentations.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION OF THE THE SECRETARIAT

4.1 Office and Equipment.

The meeting was informed that ECA had provided 2 temporary offices together with the related office furnitures and computers.

Members agreed on :

- the immediate need of buying one fax machine and one photocopier
- the necessity to secure permanent office arrangement with ECA
- the need to obtain a direct telephone line with the support of ECA.

3.2. Staff

The Secretary of the Board, Mr. Bineta Diop, informed the meeting that as promised during the Inaugural Session, ECA has retained Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie up to the end of the month of January, to assist AWCPD in setting up its interim Secretariat.

4.3 Secretariat

Ms. Hiroute G. Sellassié then informed the meeting that :

- The Secretariat had been run without even a Secretary to help with the typing of documents and letters.
- The Secretariat had received applications of candidates for the posts of Secretary, Finance and Administrative Assistant and Information Officer.
- The candidate for the post of Secretary who had also made an offer of free services had been requested to start working on voluntary basis without any commitment from the Secretariat clearly explaining that her application will be reviewed along with others.

The meeting deliberated on the necessity of making the Secretariat functional as soon as possible and decided to continue retaining the free services of the Secretary. At which point, the Director of ACW of ECA explained the need to regularize this situation and that such practices are not allowed in the premises of ECA. Ms Hiroute informed the meeting that she had submitted to the relevant Administrative Authorities the letter written by Ms Bineta Diop requesting ECA to provide the temporary staff with I.D. Card to allow her pass the security's checks at the gates of the premises. The request had been initially denied on the basis of the lack of a regular contract of employment. The denial was later on rectified temporarily because of the support letter written by ACW.

The members then decided :

- To establish Job Description for the various posts
- To establish clear recruitment procedures
- To present the above three to the next meeting of the Board for approval
- In the mean time to establish a temporary contract and start paying the Secretary if found to perform satisfactorily.
- To establish a temporary contract and start paying Ms. Hiroute at the end of ECA contract.

4.4 Finance

The Board deliberated on its short term program and revised its budget for one year as per its priorities :

- One fax machine	US\$ 750.00
- One photocopier	" 5,000.00
- Office supplies	" 5,000.00
- Salary of Executive Officer	" 48,000.00
- Salary of Secretary	" 18,000.00
- Local Telephone, Faxes, Internet	" 7,000.00
- Printing (letterhead & related)	" 2,500.00
- Networking	" 40,000.00
- Documentation (publishing)	" 12,500.00
- Three missions to attend OAU & ECA meetings	" 25,000.00
- One AWCPD Session	" 50,000.00
- Two Board Meetings	" 30,000.00
TOTAL	" 243,750.00

IV. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Board discussed the importance of having a good communication strategy between Committee members, between the Board and the Secretariat and between the Secretariat and all Committee members and decided to entrust the Secretariat with the following tasks :

- To avail all members the addresses of the remaining members after securing from each member her present address
- To send all relevant new documentation automatically to all Committee members
- To send on a regular basis a flash of information to all Committee members and to OAU and ECA on the activities of AWCPD
- To prepare a newsletter on a six monthly basis
- To send on a regular basis a circular letter asking for information of the member's activities during that period
- To send the minutes of the Board's meeting to all members of the Committee.
- To develop a Website with the support of ECA.

The Board also decided to request all Committee members to relay all information relevant to the Mandate of AWCPD to the Board through the Secretariat.

VI. ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN MEMBERS

It was decided to postpone the discussion on this issue to the next meeting of the Board where hopefully more members will be present.

VII. ACTIVITIES TO UNDERTAKE IN RELATION TO CURRENT CONFLICTS

- All major activities of the Committee in relation to conflicts should be undertaken by its members in consultation and agreement of the Board.
- Short and medium term activities of the Committee to be prepared by the Executive Officer of AWCPD Secretariat in close cooperation with the Secretary of the Board.

Mrs. Bineta Diop was asked to prepare letters informing members of their responsibilities in their region including the collection of information and feeding back the Committee.

7.1 Burundi

AWCPD should ask and lobby for the participation of women in the Burundi peace negotiations.

AWCPD should also ask and lobby for the inclusion of AWCPD members in the Burundian negotiation process.

The follow up of the Burundian case to be entrusted to : H. E. Mrs Speciosa Kazibwe and Hon. Madam Gertrude Mongella.

A letter should be addressed to the Burundian Government as well as to the mediator requesting them to include the women in the peace process.

7.2 Congo

The Members agreed :

- On the need to know the root causes of the conflicts, the external interests and their implications on the conflict.
- On the importance of lobbying for the participation of women at all levels of the conflict resolution efforts and for the cease fire.
- To charge H. E. Madam Paulette Missambo, Dr Gadzama Elizabeth and Madam Sara Letty Kachingwe with the follow up of the Congo conflict

7.3 . Guinea Bissau

The Board here too decided to advocate for the inclusion of women in the conflict resolution process and entrusted the follow up of this conflict to : Madam Saida Agrebi and Madam Fatimata Diallo-Dah.

It also convened to focus on the humanitarian actions, the issue of refugees and displaced persons. The women groups at national level need therefore to be contacted.

7.4. Ethiopia – Eritrea

The Board agreed to ask Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika who had been involved in the follow up of this conflict to forward to it any information she may have on the issue and will entrust her with the responsibility of following this issue also on behalf of AWCPD at this initial stage.

7.5. Somalia

The 25,000.00 US dollars pledge to AWCPD by UNHCR for a mission to Somalia should be confirmed in writing by UNHCR with the conditions pertaining to it. The Board asked the Executive Officer of the Secretariat to send a letter to UNHCR requesting same.

7.6. UNESCO

UNESCO's request of cooperation in the preparation and follow up of the Pan-African Women's Conference on a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence which is to be held in Zanzibar from the 17th to 20th May 1999 was presented to the Board by Ms. Bineta Diop.

It was decided to acknowledge receipt of the invitation, and inquire about the level of participation sought and the funding situation ; bring the issue to the attention of the OAU and discuss it at the next meeting of the Board.

7.7. UNDP

UNDP Senior Regional Gender Advisor's invitation letter to a meeting to discuss possible partnership was also presented to the Board by Ms. Bineta Diop.

The Board decided to acknowledge receipt of the invitation and to send in return the program of activities of the Committee for support . The Committee further decided to ask for more clarifications on the extent and nature of the Committee's participation. Discussions on this issue should also be held with the OAU and at the next meeting of the Board.

VIII. RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

The Board discussed the urgency of mobilizing funds and decided :

- To retain a professional consultant to prepare short, medium, long term project based on the approved program of activities together with budgets proposals to be submitted to donors.
- To undertake as soon as possible fund raising activities : dinner, etc...
- To organize in conjunction with the 2nd meeting of the Board a Donor's meeting.
- To undertaken fund raising trips to Europe & America with prior preparations.
- To solicit contribution from the private sector.
- To ask the OAU to finalize the document prepared for funding purposes.

IX. WORKING MODALITIES OF THE COMMITTEE WITH OAU AND ECA

9.1. Mandate of the Committee

The Chief of the Center for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflict of the OAU presented OAU's standpoint on the Committee's particular mandate and explained that the Committee :

- Has to get concretely involved in the prevention and resolution of conflicts
- Is expected to bring tangible support to those who suffer the most because of conflicts, namely children and women who have been up to now unfortunately neglected in the conflict resolution efforts of the OAU.
- May propose practical projects to be implemented in war town areas.
- Should assume a coordinating role amongst all women organizations engaged in peace building efforts.
- Should contribute to the involvement of women in all mediation efforts by establishing a data base of qualified and competent women whom OAU could refer as special envoys for mediation or monitoring purposes whenever the need arises.
- Has to get involved in the disarmament campaign in Africa.
- Is counted upon to make substantial contribution to the issues on the Agenda of the OAU Central organ and to this end study the items in depth and prepare a report to the Secretary General of the OAU to be presented to the Central organ of the OAU.
- May operate in collaboration and coordination with regional organization involved : SADC, ECOWAS and IGAD
- Should study its point of entry in the conflict prevention effort by positioning itself in the early warning mechanism.

H. E. Madam Ruth S. Perry then raised the questions of "Why the OAU recognizes unconstitutional governments ?" and "Why OAU does not pressurize leaders

to take into consideration the views of civil societies before getting into violent conflicts, in their respective countries ?

On the first question, Mr. Ibok then informed the gathering that OAU has set up a Committee to study the issue of unconstitutional (forceful) power taking which has already produced a draft on the issue. This Committee could even request to supplement its point of view on the matter.

On the second point, he told the Board that both OAU and ECA have worked towards the strengthening of civil societies on the continent and that a workshop is presently being prepared.

Madam Joséphine Ouédraogo, Director of the African Center for Women on her part informed the meeting that she had been requested by the Association of United Nations Women to make a presentation on the issue of AWCPD last November in Addis Ababa.

She said that she attended the meeting together with Ms. Hiroute G. Sellassié and that the issues raised at the meeting questioned mainly the willingness and the ability of the Committee to effectively connect with grass root organizations and communities ; stressing the fact that often conflicts remain unnoticed for several months before they are acknowledged by mainstream organizations.

The Director of the African Center for Women therefore stressed the importance of being able to strengthen information and warning networks more efficiently than those presently existing.

She then said that this meeting has demonstrated the magnitude of the Committee's possible contribution to the peace making instances in view of the total lack of women's contribution or perspectives in their deliberations and particularly considering the physical absence of women in all these mechanisms.

Mrs. Ouédraogo concluded by congratulating Mrs. Ruth S. Perry for her readiness and availability towards the Committee and praised the members present for having been able to meet within such a short time following the Inaugural Session considering the tremendous work load involved and for having decided to hold their meeting despite the fact that only three participants were able to attend it which clearly demonstrates their determination.

9.2. Exchange of Information

It was agreed upon that :

- Letters should be sent to both OAU and ECA asking them to provide the Committee with their respective calendar of events and activities and a list of all available publications.
- To send a flash of information on a regular basis on the activities of AWCPD to OAU and ECA

9.3. Privileges and Immunities

Mr. Ibok, Chief of the OAU Center for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflict, informed the board that the issue of issuing laissez-passer to AWCPD members and to the professional staff of the Secretariat had been referred to the Legal Department of the OUA.

Mr. Ibok further explained that the issuance of a joint ECA/OUA letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting privileges and immunities for AWCPD Secretariat could be done at any time.

AWCPD nonetheless will write letters to both OAU and ECA asking them to extend to AWCPD members and its professional staff adequate privileges and immunities enabling them to perform their duties and enhancing their performing capacity.

9.4 Utilization of Funds

Mr. Ibok informed the meeting that arrangements have been made to open an account which will be in New York and which shall be operated by OAU. Two other accounts, one in foreign currency and the other one in local currency need also to be opened in Addis Ababa. These two local accounts could be operated by the tied signatures of the Executive Officer together with the Finance Officer of AWCPD Secretariat.

The signature of the Head of finance Department of OAU as a third signature was also presented as an option to be considered.

All agreed that there should be an audit control at the end of every month and that any expenditure above US\$ 5,000.00 needs to have the prior approval of the Board.

A letter will therefore be addressed to the Chief of the OAU Center for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts to allow the operationalization of

local Bank Accounts by the joint signatures of the Executive Officer and the Secretary with the Finance Officer of OAU.

9.5 Participation of AWCPD Members in Statutory Meetings of OAU/ECA

The Board agreed to write letters to this effect to both ECA and OAU.

X. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. Logo of AWCPD

The Board has decided to keep the two logos of OAU and ECA on its letterhead until the adoption of a new logo at the next meeting of the Committee. ECA has been requested to help AWCPD Secretariat with the formulation of a new logo.

10.2 Press Release (attached)

The Board decided to issue a Press Release at the end of its deliberations to give the Press Background information on the Committee, its Framework of Activities and the outcome of the Board's deliberation during the present session.

10.3. Next Meeting of the Board

The next meeting of the Board to be decided in consultation with the Chairperson. It was also suggested that the next meeting would preferably be arranged together with a donor's meeting as much as possible.

The next meeting of the Board is also to be held prior to the next regular session of the Committee which is normally scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 1999 preferably few days before the OAU Ministerial meeting in February.

The Secretary of the Board have been entrusted to coordinate with the Chairperson of the Board for the follow up of this issue.

10.4 Participation in the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at the level of Heads of State and Government – 17 December 1998 – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

All members present participated in the Meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU as invited guests.

The Agenda of the meeting was :

1. Consideration of the Report of the OAU high level Delegation on the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.
2. Consideration of the Report on the Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
3. Consideration of the Report on the Situation in Burundi
4. Consideration of the Report on the Situation in Angola
5. Consideration of the Report on the Situation in Guinea Bissau
6. Consideration of the Report on the Situation in Comoros.

The Session was chaired by H. E. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso and current chairman of the OAU.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ issued a communiqué on all the issues of its deliberations. The communiqué is herewith attached.

H. E. Blaise Compaoré introduced AWCPD to the Central organ and invited Madam Ruth S. Perry to address the gathering.

Madam Ruth S. Perry read to the meeting the press release referred to in paragraph 10.2 above.

10.4. Meeting with Heads of Delegations

The Board took advantage of the opportunity offered to it and met among others with the following personalities :

- H. E. Mr Pierre Buyoya, President of Burundi
- H. E. Mr Abdul Salami Abubakar, President of Nigeria
- H. E. Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs of the United Nations.



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

To: Mr. Samba Jack, Director
A: Programme Planning, Finance and
Evaluation Division

Date: 25 February 1999
Ref. COES/ACW/174

From: Josephine Ouedraogo, Director
De: African Centre for Women

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Ouedraogo'.

/yj

Subject: **Mission Report**
Objet:

Please find attached the Report of my mission to Ouagadougou undertaken between 15 – 18 December 19998.

cc: Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary
cc: Mrs. Mamou Ehui, SAES