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MULFOC
Niamey

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

MULTILATERAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL
CENTRE FOR WEST AFRICA

MULFOC (NIAMEY)

CONAKRY-Guinea - FEBRUARY 5-9 1983

ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ECA AT THE
FORMAL OPENING OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE
SUB-REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF AFRICA FOR THE
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

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You Excellencys Members of Government,

- Ladies,
- Members of the Political Bureau, of the Central Committee and the Government of the People Revolutionary Republic of Guinea
- Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the Diplomatic and Corps
- The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme
- Ladies and Gentlemen Delegates,

Allow me, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Professor ADEBAYO ADEDEJI hunable to attend to greet your presence among us and thank you for having accepted to answer our invitation on the occasion of the holding of the third meeting of the Sub-Regional committee for the Integration of Women in the Development process.

The Sub-Regional Committee has been established following the Regional Conference of Nouakchott in September 1977 on the implementation of national plans, the Regional Plan and the World Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development. That Conference with its resolution n° 4 had called upon the Executive Secretary of ECA to take all necessary actions with the Conference of Ministers of ECA in order to establish at Sub-Regional level in the framework of MULPOCs (Multinational Programming and Project Execution Centre), then at regional level, some structures of intervention for Women so that their actions comply with and are included in national development programmes.

In application of that resolution n° 4 of the Nouakchott Conference, ECA, the Niamey Mulpoc and the Government of Niger convened in Niamey from November 30 to December 2, 1978 the inaugural meeting of the sub-regional committee for West Africa. The following mandate, as set by the Nouakchott Conference was given to the sub-regional committees :

- To receive and examine the proposals put forward by respective national machineries dealing with the integration of women in development with a view to securing financial and technical assistance for the execution of projects.
- To disseminate information and deal with matters related to communications means

- To exchange knowledge and experience through training courses, seminars, study tours and other technical meetings.
- To ensure that sub-regional development programmes take full account of the integration of Women in Development ; this will be possible by making hear the voice of women at meetings on project planning of the sub-region such as the technical committee of Mulpoc Experts, the council of Ministers at african level, at the meetings of the african regional coordination committee and at the Conference of Ministers of ECA.
- To make understand in collaboration with Member States, studies by country in order to help national institutions determine the real categories of the situation of women and factors which favour their advancement or handicaps it.
- To propose some solutions that are likely to improve the living conditions of women every where in rural areas.
- The sub-regional committee achieves the above mentioned objectives from projects designed by national machineries of Member states with which it is to cooperate closely.

This is the mandate that has been given to the Mulpoc sub-regional committee of Niamey in November 1978 with as a consequence a work programme and a priority order.

Your meeting, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues, is going to examine for four days the progress made and the obstacles faced by the women of our sub-region in their effort to integrate women in development.

This examination will be done through the activities carried out by the African Research and Training centre for Women at the bureau of the sub-regional committee in the framework of the execution of the work programme adopted by the second meeting of the sub-regional committee of West Africa held in Banjul, the Gambia in January of 1981.

This work that you will have to examine here Ladies and Gentlemen Delegates of Member States, is the same you have had to carry out yourself on the occasion of Conferences, seminars and study visits organized in your sub-region.

We can from now quality this work as appreciable in spite of the many difficulties encountered during the process of execution of your work programme (area of the sub-region including 16 countries, financial difficulties, lack of personnel etc). The results attained are the concrete proof that materialises the from will of african women to become agents conscious and recognized as such of the economic and social progress of our respective countries.

I will once more remind the distinguished representatives of Member States that you are that the sub regional committee of the Niamey Mulpoc is your working tool. It will be what member states will make it, the mandate defined here above is very well explicit. That is why I shall insist on the close relationships of work and collaboration and team sprit through

information, meetings, conferences and seminars that are to focus all the organizations of the women in the sub-region and the region. A close organic relationships should exist between national machineries, the sub-regional committees and the African Regional Coordination Committee (ARCC), as all these structures contribute in the setting up of strategies to speed up the integration of women in the development process. Once again, it is our duty to recall to Member States that national machineries are the keystone on which hang the other ECA structures relating to women ;

That is why their strengthening and development should be paid the high attention of governments which should not also forget that women are a crucial resource for development.

Among the obstacles that shackle the endogenous development of women, is in good order the matter of financial and human resources, that is why governments should feel more and more involved in the execution of projects concerning women.

Before ending I would like to thank most sincerely the Government of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea for having accepted to host this meeting in the pleasant city of Conakry. Our most cordial thanks are specially for the President of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency AHMED SEKOU TOURE.

I wish full success to the works of the 5th meeting of the sub-regional committee for West Africa on the Integration of Women in the process of development.

I thank you for your so kind attention.