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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Meeting of the Committee of Experts
of the North African MULPOC

Tangier, Morocco,
17-21 March 1983

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
OF THE NORTH AFRICAN MULPOC

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OF EXPERTS OF THE NORTH AFRICAN MULPOC

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC was held from 17 to 21 March 1983 in Tangier, Morocco. It was opened by His Excellency Mr. Driss El Fellah, Governor of the Province of Tangier.
2. Representatives of the following member States of the MULPOC participated in the work of the meeting: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia.
3. The UNDP Resident Representative in Morocco also attended the meeting on behalf of the Regional Bureau of the Arab States. Participating as observers were: The Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), the Centre d'Etudes industrielles du Maghreb (CEIM), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
4. Participants elected the leader of the Moroccan delegation as President and the leader of the Egyptian delegation as Vice-President. In keeping with past practice, it was decided that ECA secretariat would act as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

5. The following agenda was adopted:
 1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of Officers
 3. Adoption of the Agenda
 4. Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme of the North African MULPOC
 5. Review of the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the Fields of Trade and Finance
 6. (a) Consideration of the Report on Trade Promotion among North African Countries
(b) Development and Expansion of Afro Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation
 7. Report on the Implementation of the African Food Plan in North Africa:
 - (a) Summary of the Report of the FAO Activities in the African Region
 - (b) Progress Report and Recommendations for the Implementation of Three Food Development Projects

8. Report on Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb Countries
9. Report on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
10. Consideration of the Report on the Extension of North African Maritime Transport (Report on Volume and Type of Sea Trade and Inventory on Tonnage Capacities and Port Infrastructures)
11. Report on the Co-ordination of Women's Programmes and Programme Priorities in North Africa
12. Report on Wood-based Industries Development in North African Countries:
 - (a) Demand and Investment Projections in the Forest Industries of North Africa
 - (b) Proposal for a Project Identification Study on the Medium-Term Development of Forest Industries in the North African Subregion
13. Progress Report on the Establishment of PADIS Co-Ordination Office, Addis Ababa

Phase I : Establishment of the Central Co-ordination Office

Phase II: (a) Further consolidation of PADIS/CCO

 - (b) Attempts to establish subregional and national centres
 - (c) Problems encountered in the process
14. Proposals for the creation of the PADIS Subregional Co-ordination Centre for North Africa:
 - (i) Justification and Activities of WADIS/CADIS/NADIS/ESADIS
 - (ii) Relationship between PADIS and WADIS (Institutional, Technical, etc)
 - (iii) Manpower Requirements for WADIS/CADIS/NADIS/ESADIS
 - (iv) Equipment Needs
 - (v) Financial Cost of establishing WADIS/CADIS/NADIS/ESADIS
 - (vi) Location of Subregional Centre
 - (vii) Discussions of the Recognition of the Professional Status
 - (viii) Adoption of Draft Resolution
15. Report on the Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management:
 - (a) Report of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries
 - (b) Report of the Working Session of the Representatives of the North African Countries
16. Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the African MULPOC Work Programme
17. Recommendations and Draft Agenda for the Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries
18. Date of the Next Meeting of the Committee of Experts
19. Any other Business
20. Adoption of the Report and Recommendations
21. Closing of the Meeting

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening statements

6. In his opening statement, the Governor of the Province of Tangier welcomed all representatives to the meeting. He stressed the need to organize meetings to bring together member States of the subregion in the effort to solve development problems. In that regard, he expressed his appreciation to ECA for having established the MULPOCs in Africa as a way of bringing together and integrating African countries.
7. He went on to say that the meeting was of great importance since its purpose was to achieve economic and social co-operation. With specific reference to the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts, the numerous items on the agenda reflected ambitious objectives which had their foundation in legitimate ideals. Finding solutions to such issues as training, food security and self-reliance, to mention only a few, was an arduous task but with perseverance in considering those issues the experts would propose fruitful recommendations. He concluded by wishing participants every success in their work and a pleasant stay in Tangier.
8. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Fakhreddine Mohamed, MULPOC Director, thanked the Governor for his words of welcome and encouragement to the participants. He recalled that the Meeting of experts was taking place at a time of economic uncertainty and crisis. That was all the more reason to appreciate the fact that the Meeting was being attended by more participants than ever before and that there had been a noticeable renewal of contacts among the countries of the Maghreb together with a strengthening of the ties binding Egypt and the Sudan.
9. Taking up the items on the agenda, the MULPOC Director stated that in view of the need, when carrying out any study of trade flows, to conduct a detailed analysis and evaluation of all factors of production in order to arrive at definitive conclusions, a multidisciplinary mission had been set up in 1979. In 1982, the Council of Plenipotentiaries had considered the report of the mission and requested that a report should be prepared on trade promotion. That report had stressed the importance of considering the real possibilities for co-operation in specific sectors or products.
10. Since the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa was currently at the mid-way mark, it behoved African countries to consider the progress achieved and reaffirm their commitment to achieving the set objectives.
11. It was also imperative that measures should be taken to remedy the food production situation in the subregion. In its concern to assist member States to attain self-sufficiency within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action, ECA was endeavouring to implement in North Africa the Regional Food Plan for Africa. UNDP had allocated funds for the implementation in North Africa of the African Food Plan.

12. The integration of women in development had been considered at the preceding second meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development. Other issues on the agenda were the PADIS Subregional Centres, Population questions, the Development of Forest Industries and the Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management.

13. In conclusion, the Director appealed to all member States to provide moral and material support to the MULPOC projects.

Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme of the North African MULPOC (agenda item 4)

14. This agenda item was dealt with in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/3. The MULPOC Director outlined the main developments in each area of activity during the period under review. His presentation ended with the reading of a Council of Plenipotentiaries resolution in which an appeal had been made for the payment of contributions for the implementation of the MULPOC Work Programme.

15. He then answered questions on the proposed directory of intergovernmental development organizations and on the status of implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa.

Review of the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the fields of Trade and Finance (agenda item 5)

16. A representative of ECA secretariat explained that the item had been included in the agenda in pursuance of a decision taken at the seventh session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade. The decision called for periodic reviews of progress achieved by the countries bilaterally and multilaterally in the specific fields of trade and financial co-operation. Recent developments indicated the concern of member States to forge ahead in that area. Measures taken at the bilateral level and those scheduled to be taken multilaterally would constitute significant milestones in the achievement of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action.

17. While acknowledging the merits of the study it was pointed out that obstacles still remained to intra-subregional trade whose volume in relation to total trade was insignificant. It was suggested that more concrete proposals could have been formulated in that regard.

Consideration of the Report on Trade Promotion Among North African Countries (agenda item 6(a))

18. The secretariat representative who presented the report recalled the main objective of the MULPOC which was to assist countries in integration-oriented co-operation so as to promote development on the basis of collective self-reliance. Trade was, in that light, a priority sector that had been

studied by the multidisciplinary mission for trade promotion in 1979. The study had revealed a deficit in the agricultural sector and the need to exploit every potential. The GDP structure showed that the industrial sector had developed while trade in agricultural products had declined. The major constraint on intra-subregional trade promotion could well be the difficulty of breaking with long-standing North-South trading habits. It was therefore suggested that existing bilateral agreements might be used as a spring-board to multilateralization and the establishment of preferential trade areas.

19. The study had been updated to take into account the need to establish a list of commodities to be traded and projects which might be undertaken jointly. The ensuing report confirmed the prevalence of such trends as the general decline in intra-subregional trade together with a desire for rapprochement in the promotion of trade among all countries. All things being considered, measures would still have to be taken to give economic operators a better awareness of the problem.

20. In the long discussion that followed, one representative expressed the feeling that the list of products should have been elaborated, bilateral projects considered necessary and that subregional institutions should provide the methods and techniques for project implementation. Another representative acknowledged the importance of the report which highlighted the efforts made by countries and provided statistics on the breakdown of trade within the subregion. It was however remarked that no import profiles had been provided to indicate the advantages that countries in the subregion would derive from trading among themselves. It was difficult to get multilateral projects going and import substitution industries would have to be established to take advantage of subregional economies of scale and to accord priority to the procurement of supplies from within the subregion. It was suggested that the MULPOC should always endeavour to co-ordinate its work with national organizations with a view to making specific and workable proposals. It was further observed that the report should have dealt with trade organizations, country public and private sectors, customs formalities and export credit financing terms.

21. In response to comments and questions the secretariat indicated that obstacles to the dissemination of trade information could be overcome to a large extent by taking appropriate measures. In this regard, ECA was currently preparing a directory of trade operators.

Development and Expansion of Afro-Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation (agenda item 6(b))

22. The secretariat representative who presented the document explained that the project was aimed at developing a strategy and taking concrete action to strengthen Afro-Arab co-operation in which the support of the

six countries of the subregion was regarded as crucial. The project found justification in the previous plans of action adopted to date and in the recommendations formulated at the first Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo in 1977 as well as in various resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers and the North African MULPOC Council of Plenipotentiaries. Contacts made during the regional meeting of Arab States held during the current year in Riyadh indicated the interest shown by countries concerned in such a project and by the UNDP Bureau for Arab States.

23. Africa's external trade and that of the Arab world was carried out essentially with developed market-economy countries. Afro-Arab trade accounted for only one per cent of the volume of trade between the two regions. Monetary and financial co-operation between African and Arab countries remained minimal both at the regional and subregional levels. Given the development potential of Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation it was particularly important that projects should be launched in these areas.

24. After outlining the objectives that the project should achieve from January 1984 to December 1986, the ECA representative indicated that the project was technically centred around the following five themes: (i) trade promotion and the formulation of trade policies; (ii) export marketing and market surveys; (iii) export credit financing, credit insurance and export guarantees; (iv) promotion and strengthening of bilateral co-operation between subregions and regions; (v) training schemes in international trade techniques with a programme adapted to the needs of Arab countries on the one hand and African countries on the other. The implementation of the project would require favourable and speedy reaction on the part of governments.

25. In the course of the ensuing debate, representatives expressed their full support for the project and hoped that it would be placed under the control of the North African MULPOC decision-making Organs.

Report on the Implementation of the African Food Plan in North Africa
(agenda items 7(a) and 7(b))

26. A representative of ECA secretariat explained that the report dealing with agenda item 7(a) Summary of the Report of the FAO Activities in the African Region, had been circulated merely for information purposes. Referring to agenda item 7(b) he introduced the progress report on the implementation of three food development projects. The report contained recommendations for follow-up action to the work done by the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division and the North African MULPOC in assisting countries with the implementation of the Regional Food Plan. The three studies planned for North Africa were aimed essentially at promoting intra-subregional co-operation in agricultural and food production and at assisting governments in the formulation and preparation of food self-sufficiency programmes relating to cereals, pulses, root crops, livestock and fisheries. UNDP had made appropriations for the studies.

27. Three projects had been identified by ECA and the North African MULPOC in light of the Regional Food Plan and the recommendations of the Council of Plenipotentiaries. The projects dealt with: (i) Co-operation and trade in food products among Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia; (ii) Co-operation and trade in food products among Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia; (iii) A food self-sufficiency programme based on the supply and demand projections of cereals, pulses, root crops, livestock and fisheries in Egypt and the Sudan.

28. The UNDP representative expressed his pleasure at learning that the project whose financing had been planned three years previously was getting under way. He hoped that UNDP offices would be kept posted on developments. He also made the observation that since the representatives of governments meeting as a Council of Plenipotentiaries were always aware of the nature and terms of reference of experts and missions it should not be necessary for such terms of reference to be reiterated when the mission was being mounted. It was, however, the case that such a procedure was demanded by government authorities.

Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb Countries (agenda item 8)

29. The representative of the secretariat who presented the report declared that at the 1982 meeting of the North African MULPOC Council of Plenipotentiaries a resolution had been passed requesting ECA, among other things, to undertake a study of the various aspects of the problem of migration. Consequently, the ECA Population Division undertook a mission to Geneva in November 1982 to work out modalities of collaboration between the ECA and ECE secretariats in the context of the proposed study. A project document had accordingly been prepared and submitted to UNFPA for funding in December 1982. The document described activities envisaged for operationalizing the study. He drew the attention of the meeting to the need for countries of the North African MULPOC to pledge funds for executing the project in the face of current liquidity difficulties within UNFPA.

30. In discussing the documents, the participants raised the issues of delays in funding by UNFPA, of the current broad scope of the project instead of focusing on migration per se, and the emphasis of the proposed methodology on the demographic components of the problem to the exclusion of its socio-cultural dimensions; the need to review the project terms of reference in order to bring them more into line with realities in the countries who would have to cope with the problems relating to the return of emigrants.

31. In his response to the funding issue, the representative of ECA explained that the UNFPA Governing Council periodically reviewed the research priorities of the Fund. Current priorities were more family planning-oriented than geared to the interrelationship between population distribution, migration and development. The representative noted that the broad scope of the project was consistent with the thinking that emerged from

the World Population Conference in Bucharest, which considered migration more from the viewpoint of its relationship to population on the one hand, and development, on the other, than as an apparently insignificant population growth component. While there were other approaches to achieving the project objectives the proposed methodology would assist a working group to be constituted, in determining the best research design for implementing the entire project. The problem lay in mobilizing funds for organizing such a working group.

32. The meeting urged ECA to submit to the member States the said project document for comments and to revise the document in light of such comments.

Report on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa
(agenda item 9)

33. The report was introduced in brief by a representative of the secretariat. Since the representatives of member States felt that the circulation of the document was mainly for purposes of information they decided to take note of the progress achieved by ECA in implementing the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

Consideration of the Report on the Extension of North African Maritime Transport (agenda item 10)

34. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief outline of the salient points of the report. It was proposed that statistics on Algeria could be incorporated in the report and additional information collected on maritime linkages. It was similarly suggested that member States should implement the recommendations of the report under consideration (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/10). It was further recommended that ECA secretariat should improve the organization of visits by consultants to countries of the sub-region by sending in advance of their arrival the necessary documentation so as to ensure the success of their mission.

Report on the Co-ordination of Women's Programmes and Programme Priorities in North Africa (agenda item 11)

35. The rapporteur of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development which held its second meeting on 15 and 16 March in Tangier presented the report of that meeting.

36. The Subregional Committee had studied reports and documents submitted by the Bureau (which had met on 14 March 1983) and by the ECA secretariat which revealed that not much had been achieved in the subregional programme since 1981. It had revised the existing work programme and priorities to give them a clearer focus and delineate the fundamental objectives and approaches. The new priority areas would serve as a framework for concrete projects and activities to be undertaken in aid of women. The Committee had discussed the recruitment of the Co-ordinator for the women's programme of the North African MULPOC. Unfortunately there had been further unavoidable delays but the Committee hoped the matter would be settled in the very near future.

37. As the question of resources was a crucial one, the Committee had urged member States to give their full support to the women's programme through contributions in cash and in kind. At the same time, the Committee requested UNDP to provide more funds to extend the programme beyond the current year.

38. In the discussion that followed some representatives expressed concern over the delay in the recruitment of the Co-ordinator. The representative of UNDP echoed that concern and requested ECA to submit a report on steps taken to implement the funded project, including the appointment of the co-ordinator. He observed that the proposed programme priorities needed to be translated into a concrete work plan showing a **time-frame** and measurable outputs. The concrete achievements from such a work plan would provide a credible basis for requesting an extension of the project.

39. A representative of the secretariat recounted the steps taken by ECA to fill the Co-ordinator's post and assured the Committee that the process would be completed within the given deadline of 30 April 1983.

Report on Wood-based Industries Development in North African Countries
(agenda item 12)

40. The representative of FIAG, in introducing the item pointed out that the FAO/ECA project proposals contained in the reports reflected the needs expressed at the March 1982 Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries, to develop wood-based industries and to identify prospects for their development. Project identification proposals had accordingly been drafted for submission to UNDP for financing.

41. While forest industries production had increased sharply in the subregion during the 1970's, demand had risen at an even faster pace and as a result, imports of forest products had increased considerably for all but sawn wood. Projections indicated that consumption in this sector would continue to grow at a high rate. It was therefore necessary for the subregion to develop all its potential if it was to achieve self-sufficiency in forest products. The magnitude of projected investments

and additional production capacity required by the subregion to achieve this goal provided a strong rationale for the establishment of an organic framework for the development of the forest industries sector, both in a national and intra-subregional context. The project outputs were: (i) to formulate a broad medium-term development plan for forest industries in the subregion, built on a country by country basis and reflecting intra-subregional relationships, and (ii) to carry out pre-investment studies for priority projects in each of the member States of the subregion.

42. The representatives of member States had no objections to the project proposals submitted by the secretariat.

Progress Report on the Establishment of PADIS Co-ordination Office, Addis Ababa; Proposals for the creation of the PADIS Subregional Co-ordination Centre for North Africa (NADIS) (agenda items 13 and 14)

43. Under these agenda items, dealt with in documents ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/14 and ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/15, the Director of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) gave an account of the establishment of PADIS, designated initially as the African Data Bank. At its inception in 1981, PADIS was meant to meet the need to provide decision-makers, planners and other users with accurate, instant and reliable data for the judicious planning of Africa's socio-economic and technological development. In order to set up the Panafrikan memory component of PADIS, subregional and national centres would need to be established. The System would therefore have a co-operative, community and pyramidal structure. The Director of PADIS added that the selection of new data processing equipment had been the subject of a study. Three out of the four subregional centres planned had already been established officially and 800 quadruple channels planned for satellite operation.

44. The Director of PADIS then described the modalities of establishing the North African Documentation and Information System (NADIS) making reference to the budget of that subregional centre and the participation of member States and the host country in meeting the costs involved.

45. A long and lively debate followed this presentation. The representative of Tunisia recognized the usefulness of the project and informed the meeting that his country would like to host NADIS. However he found the budgetary costs of establishing the subregional centre excessive. The representative of Morocco stated that the PADIS multidisciplinary programme was too ambitious in view of the equipment involved. Data processing was no easy undertaking. Technology evolved very fast and mere bibliographical information systems were not enough. Nor should much store be laid on the retrieval of international data. While it was necessary to establish the subregional centre the project should not be implemented in its proposed form. It might be well to convene a meeting of national experts to consider the form that the Centre should take.

46. Another representative indicated the need for specialized data to inform national sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and supported the call for the constitution of a group of experts.

47. The Director of PADIS explained that various agreements had been concluded with specialized agencies in order to harmonize standards. The data base would be constituted by primary users. The budget of the staff in particular could be cut down. The establishment of PADIS had been meticulously prepared through the organization of missions to the countries. The system was hooked up to international data banks and its equipment would be developed and modernized. Constant checking had been instituted to avoid errors.

48. The delegation of Morocco stated that PADIS should circulate to member States and in particular to government designated national centres that study which had served as a basis for the selection of new equipment. In line with the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, African staff and experts should have priority of recruitment. Even the term "Pan African Documentation and Information System" was considered inexact and should be changed.

49. Following a long intervention by the Director of PADIS, the representative of Algeria stated that: (a) his country considered that PADIS was merely intended to facilitate access to reference information on numerical and non numerical data and that it would therefore be necessary and helpful for a working group to be designated to consider the possibilities offered by other information systems more adapted to the needs of countries in the subregion; (b) wherever the subregional centre was located, the establishment of the NADIS System required effective and dense telecommunications infrastructures and substantial computer resources. The working group or group of experts that would be constituted might therefore consider and objectively assess the hosting potential of countries in the subregion before taking a final decision on the location of NADIS; (c) the changing of the term PADIS was necessary. He proposed that it should be named: "Panafrikan Development Information System".

50. The Director of the Centre d'études industrielles du Maghreb (CEIM) recounted the experience of his organization which had had to determine whether to assemble industrial data, constitute a bibliographical reference base or a bibliographic-cum-data base system avoiding duplication and taking the availability of resources into account. CEIM had assembled its own data on technological, economic and statistical profiles which were monitored in co-operation with national centres.

51. Since participants had been concerned at the lack of reference to training in the report and at the danger of selected equipment becoming obsolete, the Director of PADIS assured the meeting that the possibilities of training envisaged were virtually limitless. Computer technology evolved very fast and the latest equipment that PADIS had acquired becomes obsolescent; new equipment of higher memory capacity and performance was being acquired. The access of users to the PADIS structure was both horizontal and vertical as attested by the ADB's Devobank data base. While no methodology or standardization could be imposed, some users had found harmonization helpful and requested it. The way in which PADIS funds were managed depended on funding agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, and on whether their assistance was conditional.

52. Taking up agenda item 14 the Director indicated some advantages that would accrue from the establishment of a subregional centre. It would afford the possibility of adapting policies to the specific needs of the subregion and further ease the solution of financing problems.

53. Some delegations felt that since the debate on agenda item 13 had not been closed, consideration of agenda item 14 could wait. One delegation felt that pending the submission of a draft recommendation on agenda item 13, the work of the meeting should continue. Mauritania, even though not a member of the North African MULPOC, would need to be invited because of its interest in NADIS.

54. The Director of PADIS proposed that operative paragraphs 1 to 5 of the draft resolution contained in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/15 concerning the technical aspects of the project should be adopted to the exclusion of the political aspects of the resolution.

55. That proposal was not adopted. The very principle of establishing NADIS was in the balance; however, some representatives felt that the establishment of a subregional centre had already been decided at a higher level.

56. A draft recommendation was then read out to the effect that the establishment and consideration of the practical modalities of the centre should be postponed. In its current form, the project did not elicit a consensus. It should accordingly be modified, notwithstanding the legal issue raised by the Director of PADIS.

57. Following an adjournment and consultations among delegations, a fresh draft resolution was then submitted proposing (i) the establishment of the PADIS subregional centre; (ii) the convening of a meeting of experts and plenipotentiaries by late May or early June 1983 at the latest; (iii) the determination, by that meeting, of the policy guidelines and mode of operation of the subregional centre. Since there was no agreement on operative paragraph 1 of the draft when discussion was resumed, it was decided to refer the question to the North African MULPOC Council of Plenipotentiaries.

Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the North African MULPOC Work Programme (agenda item 16)

58. The MULPOC Director introduced document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/18 dealing with this agenda item. He explained that for lack of adequate financing some activities on the work programme could not be implemented. The Council of Plenipotentiaries had submitted recommendations on trade promotion in 1979. Even though member States had committed themselves, within the framework of subregional co-operation, to make the necessary contributions, none were made and the recommendations could not be fully implemented.

59. The financing of MULPOC projects was secured from three major sources: (i) the regular budget of ECA; (ii) contributions by member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development; (iii) UNDP, which was the major source of such contributions. The problem was that these sources were prepared to finance MULPOC projects only when member States themselves demonstrated the importance they attached to these projects.

60. The Director pointed out that the costs of the 1982-1983 programme had been kept as low as possible and launched an urgent appeal to member States to pay in their voluntary contributions. In the debate which followed, the Representative of Tunisia, aware of the fact that without funding the recommendations would be nothing more than mere words, stated that his country had pledged an amount of U.S.\$ 100 000 to UNTFAD on condition that projects financed from it secured the approval of the Government of Tunisia. His country was prepared to assign the entire amount to the financing of MULPOC projects and invited the MULPOC Director to visit Tunisia in order to discuss the matter with Tunisian officials. The Director commented that Tunisia as well as other member States would be visited.

61. The MULPOC should submit specific projects to member States who would decide on the most appropriate means of financing. One representative particularly insisted on sound and meticulous project management which included the definitions of objectives and expected results.

62. In conclusion, the MULPOC Director insisted that it was up to member States to demonstrate their interest in selected MULPOC projects and in turn, to submit project proposals to the MULPOC.

Recommendations and Draft Agenda for the Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC (agenda item 17)

63. Participants decided to submit the following provisional agenda to the Council of Plenipotentiaries for adoption:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts
5. Trade Promotion Among North African Countries
6. Development and Expansion of Afro-Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation
7. The Implementation of the African Food Plan in North Africa
8. The Problem of Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb Countries
9. The Extension of North African Maritime Transport
10. Report of the North African Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development
11. The Development of Wood-based Industries in North Africa
12. The Establishment of the North African Documentation and Information System
13. The Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management
14. The Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the MULPOC Work Programme 1982-1983
15. Date of the Next Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries
16. Any Other Business
17. Adoption of the Report
18. Closing of the Meeting

Date of the next Meeting of the Committee of Experts (agenda item 18)

64. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC would be held in the first quarter of 1984.

Any other business (agenda item 19)

65. There was no discussion under this agenda item.

Adoption of the report and recommendations (agenda item 20)

66. Following discussion and amendment of the report and its annexed recommendations, the President pronounced the report and recommendations adopted.

Closing of the meeting (agenda item 21)

67. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC at its third meeting held in Tangier, Morocco, from 17 to 21 March 1983, recommends the following draft resolutions to the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC meeting in Tangier on 22 March 1983 :

RECOMMENDATION 1 : TRADE PROMOTION

Having considered the report in document ECA/MULPOC/E.III/5 on Trade Promotion among countries of the subregion,

Bearing in mind the results of the multidisciplinary mission on the promotion of trade and financial co-operation among countries of the subregion,

Having taken note of the progress achieved by North African countries in bilateral co-operation particularly in the area of trade and the establishment of joint enterprises,

Taking note of the subregion's agricultural and industrial potentials and the advantages of trading with a view to securing a fuller integration of the economies of the subregion,

1. Congratulates the Director and Staff of the Tangier MULPOC for the efforts that have been made in the collection, analysis and processing of data on trade and financial co-operation in the subregion;
2. Requests the MULPOC Director to undertake arrangements for the compilation of a synthesis of studies undertaken in the area and to identify recommendations for further intensification of intra-subregional trade;
3. Invites the MULPOC Director to continue consultations with member States with a view to exploring the long and medium-term possibilities of developing, through joint bilateral or multilateral ventures, the potential in agricultural products identified in the Sudan with specific reference to animal products and by-products.

RECOMMENDATION 2 : AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION
IN TRADE AND FINANCE

Considering the recommendations of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in March 1977 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt,

Recalling the May 1981 Caracas programme of action,

Considering the Lagos Plan of Action for the social and economic development of Africa,

Considering the Amman Strategy for Arab States,

In light of ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 310 (XIII) calling for co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA);

In light of the Resolution of the North African Council of Plenipotentiaries n° 2 of March 1979 calling on the North African MULPOC and ECA in close co-operation with appropriate intergovernmental and national institutions in North Africa to implement a programme directed towards the promotion of intra-subregional trade,

1. Recommends that the human, material and financial resources should be found and in good time placed at the disposal of the Tangier MULPOC in order to give it the capacity to expand its activities in response to the expressed needs of countries in the subregion;
2. Urges the governments concerned to provide official support to the Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation project submitted to the Meeting of Experts in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/III.5(b);
3. Further urges the countries of the North African subregion to approve the project document as soon as possible so that the UNDP Bureau for Arab States, in consultation with ECA and ECWA can include it in the third programming cycle for 1984-1986 and make the necessary financial appropriations;
4. Invites the UNDP Bureau for Arab States to provide the financing necessary for the implementation of the project within the specified deadline, namely, January 1984 to December 1986;
5. Further invites the UNDP Office for Arab States, in concert with the North African States and the Economic Commission for Africa to guarantee the implementation of the project in accordance with the required terms and conditions;
6. Requests that the Committee of Experts and the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African Tangier MULPOC should monitor the implementation and management of the Afro-Arab development and financial co-operation project.

RECOMMENDATION 3 : THE IMPLEMENTATION
IN NORTH AFRICA OF THE AFRICAN FOOD PLAN

Having considered the report presented by ECA on the implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN), especially on the implementation of three food development projects in the North Africa sub-region,

Recognizing the importance of improving food production and productivity and strengthening intra-subregional co-operation and trade in food crops,

1. Approves the programme of work proposed by the secretariat for implementing the three projects mentioned in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/7;
2. Requests the secretariat to include in the objectives of the projects and the terms of reference of the missions and consultants the preparation of a list of agricultural products of nutritional and economic relevance for the countries of the subregion;
3. Recommends that the studies should put more emphasis on the increase of agricultural productivity and production without neglecting the intra-subregional co-operation and trade in food crops;
4. Agrees that the countries concerned should establish contact points for assisting the missions and consultants and for following up the implementation of the studies.

RECOMMENDATION 4 : POPULATION, MIGRATION
AND DEVELOPMENT IN MAGHREB COUNTRIES

Having considered the progress report presented by ECA regarding the study on Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb countries,

Recognizing the adequacy and importance of undertaking as soon as possible a study on migrant population of Maghreb origin to Europe,

1. Requests ECA to transmit the project document on the migration problem to member States of the MULPOC for comments;
2. Requests the Director of the North African MULPOC to co-ordinate the submission of such comments to ECA as soon as possible;
3. Further requests ECA to revise the project document incorporating such comments and to resubmit it through the MULPOC to the member States so that the latter may give in writing their agreement to enable the secretariat to undertake the necessary study as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION 5 : THE EXTENSION
OF NORTH AFRICAN SEA LINKAGES

Recalling resolution n° 3 of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of North African MULPOC of 1-2 March 1982 requesting ECA in collaboration with North African MULPOC member States to undertake a study of the feasibility of extending North and Sub-Saharan African sea linkages including the assessment of shipping tonnage capacities in the countries concerned,

Noting the mission undertaken by ECA from 19 September to 15 October 1982 in accordance with the resolution 3 adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries,

Having taken cognizance of the report submitted by ECA to the meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC from 17 to 21 March 1983,

1. Requests member States of the North African MULPOC to provide all the necessary data to complete the study as requested;
2. Requests ECA to submit a full report on the feasibility of extending North and Sub-Saharan African sea linkages including the assessment of shipping tonnage capacities to the next meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC in 1984.

RECOMMENDATION 6 : THE INTEGRATION
OF WOMEN IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Having considered the report of the second Meeting of the subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development held in Tangier, Morocco, 15-16 March 1983, (Document ECA/MULPOC/Tanger/E.III/11)

Recognizing the importance of implementing concrete projects with specific goals and targets to improve the condition of women in the sub-region;

Appreciating the continued support given by UNDP to the MULPOC women's programme,

1. Takes note of the report and approves the priority areas and activities identified by the subregional Committee in Annex I of the report;
2. Endorses the recommendations of the Subregional Committee contained in Annex II of the report;
3. Calls upon ECA to finalize the recruitment of the Co-ordinator of the Women's Programme by 30 April 1983.

RECOMMENDATION 7 : FOREST INDUSTRIES
DEVELOPMENT

Having considered the reports presented by the Forest Industries Advisory Group (FIAG) (FAO/UNIDO/ECA), regarding the proposal for a project identification study on the medium-term development of Forest Industries in the North Africa subregion,

Recognizing the importance of such a study in order to provide a basis for sound planning of the forest industries sector, reflecting national priorities and realistic subregional complementarity of bilateral or multilateral scope,

1. Approves the proposal of the project;
2. Requests FIAG to submit to the next meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC a report on the progress of the study.

RECOMMENDATION 8 : CONVENING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH AFRICAN GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF MANAGEMENT (NAGIM)

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 306(XIII) and 318(XIII),

Recalling also resolutions in Document PAMM/MAN/NA/12/82/Annex I of 2 June 1982,

1. Requests the North African MULPOC and ECA secretariat to convene the meeting of the NAGIM Board of Directors as soon as the required number of signatures ratifying the NAGIM statutes have been secured.

RECOMMENDATION 9 : MOBILIZATION
OF MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Recognizing that the implementation of the Work Programme of the North African MULPOC for 1982-1983 necessitates the provision of supplementary resources in addition to those provided by the ECA regular budget and the allocations by UNDP for the women's integration and agricultural development programmes,

1. Calls upon member States of the North African MULPOC, in recognition of their primary responsibility for the success of economic development through multinational co-operation in the subregion to spare no effort in making financial contributions or contributions in kind to designated projects in the current MULPOC Work Programme,
2. Reiterates its authorization for the Chairman of the Council of Plenipotentiaries to act in the name of all member States of the MULPOC in seeking assistance from member States or donor agencies and requests him to report to the next Council of Plenipotentiaries;
3. Appeals to the Administrator of UNDP to extend UNDP assistance beyond the current programme period;
4. Requests all the United Nations Specialized Agencies to supplement the resources of the MULPOC by providing experts and carrying out studies at their own expense in implementing specific projects within their fields of competence.