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NAIROBI RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PROGRAMME  
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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\*Report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme

I. Objective of Report

1. This report is being submitted to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Ministerial Conference and to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in accordance with one of the recommendations adopted by the Conference of African Governmental Experts on Technical Co-operation among African countries organized by UNDP from 12 - 20 May 1980 in Nairobi. The recommendation in question reads as follows: "In order to ensure that African Governments are aware of the progress made and the outstanding difficulties in the development of TCDC in Africa, from 1980 onwards UNDP should prepare annual reports on these two matters. These reports should be submitted to the ECA Ministerial Conference and the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers prior to the summit Conference of African Heads of State and Government. The Conference strongly recommends that all African States collaborate with UNDP in the preparation of these reports".

2. This report summarizes the conclusions of the Nairobi Conference. Future reports will focus on steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

II. Nairobi recommendations for a programme of technical co-operation among African countries

3. Opened by His Excellency Mr. Mwai Kibaki, Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya and closed by His Excellency Mr. Robert Ouko, Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Nairobi Conference brought together over 200 experts, coming from 45 member states of the OAU, 52 governmental and non-governmental African organizations as well as 50 representatives of 21 United Nations organizations.

4. Chaired by Mr. J. Muliro, Head of the Kenya delegation, the Conference adopted a number of recommendations listed on the Agenda. These focussed on two major subjects, as follows:

- (1) Strengthening technical co-operation among African countries.
- (2) Technical co-operation among African countries in the following priority areas:
  - (a) rural development
  - (b) food production, processing and marketing
  - (c) science and technology for development

5. The conclusions adopted by the Conference constituted what the Conference has called the Nairobi Recommendations for a programme of technical co-operation among African countries. These recommendations have been published by UNDP, in French and in English, in the form of a brochure which has been widely disseminated throughout the Africa Region. Copies of this brochure are available for participants of this Conference.

6. It is impossible to summarize in this brief report the various recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Conference. It is important, however, to call attention to some specific recommendations addressed to African Governments for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries in Africa. It is also important to highlight those recommendations which require the co-operation of the OAU and/or the Eca for implementation.

III. Recommendations submitted to Governments for the promotion of TCDC in Africa

7. Nineteen recommendations deal in general with the promotion of TCDC in Africa. These are the recommendations included in paragraphs 15 to 33 and in paragraphs 70 to 72 of the brochure.

8. Regarding the actions to implement at the national level, one of the most significant recommendations points out that "each African country should designate a Ministry which will be responsible for coordinating and promoting technical co-operation between that country and other developing countries in general and other African countries in particular. It would be the responsibility of that Ministry to devise the necessary processes for securing the involvement of other Ministries and appropriate institutions in the promotion and development of TCDC".

9. Another recommendation specifies that "all countries should provide a flexible and effective legal administrative framework to facilitate the exchange and pooling of resources. An inventory of the possibilities that countries can offer their neighbours and other African countries in the field of TCDC should be prepared".

10. A further recommendation finally points out that "where possible, every effort should be made to associate national experts, universities, women's organizations, trade unions, employers, young people and financiers in the development of TCDC".

11. The promotion of TCDC at sub-regional and regional levels is dealt with in several recommendations. One of these recommendations stresses that "technical co-operation relations between regional and sub-regional institutions and bodies should be strengthened particularly in jointly agreed priority areas. Such areas should be designed in the light of the requirements and potential of the countries concerned, taking account of the need for complementarity".

12. It was also recommended that "existing bodies such as the Pan-African Women's Organization, the African Research and Training Centre for Women and other continental associations should be closely involved in the preparation and coordination of technical co-operation activities at the sub-regional and regional levels with a view to enhancing the exchange of experiences and promoting joint ventures among women".

13. The Conference further agreed that "sub-regional and regional level associations between teaching, research and development institutions, on the one hand, and production, distribution and service industries, on the other, should be encouraged within the framework of which scientific and technical information could be exchanged".

14. With regard to the funding of TCDC activities in Africa, the Conference has adopted the following recommendation: "since the primary responsibility for initiating and enhancing technical co-operation among African countries lies with the countries and Governments concerned, the latter should take all appropriate measures in order to fully participate in the financing of that co-operation. These measures may include:

- provision in national budgets of a percentage of resources that should be devoted to the promotion and support of TCDC activities:

- provision in budgets of African sub-regional and regional inter-governmental organizations of a percentage of resources that should be devoted to TCDC activities;

- allocation of a percentage of the UNDP resources to individual countries in the form of Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) - perhaps from 5 to 10 per cent - for the specific financing of TCDC activities of interest to that country;

- allocation of a percentage of the World Bank Group's credits and of the African Development Bank Group's resources granted a country - again, from 5 to 10 per cent - for the support of projects which contain TCDC components:

- the inclusion, at the request of African countries, of TCDC components to the extent of 5 to 10 per cent of the costs of projects presented for financing to the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa;

- utilization of a percentage of assistance received by an individual country from the European Economic Community (EEC) for the support of TCDC activities of interest to that country;

- utilization of a percentage of bilateral assistance received by the country (5 to 10 per cent at least) for the financing of TCDC activities of interest to that country.

Bilateral and multilateral sources of assistance to African countries should devote, as indicated, part of their assistance to these countries with a view to ensuring untied financing of TCDC activities of interest to the countries in question.

IV. Recommendations whose implementation requires the co-operation of OAU and/or ECA

15. Although the participation of OAU and ECA is required for the implementation of all the Nairobi recommendations for a programme of technical co-operation among African countries, some recommendations explicitly mention the necessity of such a participation. This is the case of the recommendations mentioned in paragraphs 20, 27, 30, 35, 59, 67 and 72 of the brochure.

16. The recommendation in paragraph 20 proposes that "special bodies should be created on a sub-regional or regional level and within UNDP in order to work jointly with OAU to coordinate the activities of TCDC among member states".

17. The recommendation in paragraph 27 reads as follows: "since technical co-operation among African countries is a process whose effects are only visible over a long term period, it would be strongly indicated that UNDP envisages to carry out a study entitled 'Various ways to envisage TCDC in Africa from now on up to the year 2000'. This study should be undertaken by an independent team of African experts in close consultation with OAU, ECA and the appropriate professional organization".

18. In the recommendation of paragraph 30, the Conference has reckoned that "it would be appropriate to envisage the creation of a UNDP-financed project to establish a list of African experts within Africa and outside Africa. This should be done with the assistance of OAU, ECA, interested international organizations such as the UN Volunteers and non-governmental African organizations such as the Association of African Universities and the African Association for the Progress of Science and Technology. This list should be conceived as a computerized information service in the interest of African governments. In the beginning, the list should be limited to one sector such as science and technology".

19. The recommendation in paragraph 35 reads as follows: "UNDP should examine the possibility to create a fund-in-trust for the development of TCDC in Africa. This fund-in-trust could be financed by bilateral and multilateral sources, by foundations and by national and international companies as well as by individual contributions. The modalities of operation and the management of this fund should be agreed upon between UNDP and OAU".

20. In the recommendation of paragraph 59, it is suggested that OAU states "its interest in research with regard to medicinal plants".

21. In the recommendation of paragraph 67, the Conference has reckoned that it would be useful "to reinforce the links between African states and Arab states and to institutionalize them in the field of technical co-operation, particularly in the priority fields which interest the present Conference.

The Regional Bureaux of UNDP for Africa and the Arab states should develop studies and common programmes taking into consideration that on the one hand a number of North African countries are part of the Arab region and on the other hand that an institutionalized co-operation exists already between the two groups through OAU and the Arab League".

22. The recommendation in paragraph 72 deals with the preparation of this report and has been mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

23. The Conference has also acknowledged the intention of UNDP to organize another Conference concerning the technical co-operation among African countries in the field of development and utilization of human resources. This Conference will take place in principle in August 1982. UNDP has already requested the co-operation of OAU and ECA as well as various organizations of the United Nations System for the preparation of that Conference.

#### V. Conclusion

24. As it is indicated in paragraph 2 above, this report is only a mere description of the Nairobi Conference. From the next report onwards, information will be provided concerning the application of the recommendations of the Conference. For the preparation of the next reports, UNDP is suggesting in particular to ask African governments at the end of each year to report to UNDP on the actions that have been taken with regard to the application of the recommendations which concern them.