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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Multinational Programming and Operational  
Centre (ECA/MULPOC) for Eastern and  
Southern African States

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO GOVERNMENTS OF STATES, MEMBERS OF  
THE LUSAKA-BASED MULPOC ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 1990 PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES (MARCH-NOVEMBER)

## INTRODUCTION

This report is the sixth report of the series of Semi-Annual Progress Reports prepared by the Lusaka-based MULPOC and, like its predecessors, has been prepared in compliance with the decision of the Seventh Meeting of the Lusaka-based MULPOC Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 14 March, 1984. The report also draws its mandate from the programme of work and priorities of the Lusaka-based MULPOC for the biennium 1990-1991, as approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2. During the reporting period, the MULPOC programme's scope and dimensions, as implemented, involved (i) follow-up activities in the implementation of specific recommendations and resolutions of the Eleventh Meeting of the Lusaka-based MULPOC Council of Ministers and its Committee of Officials; (ii) implementation of substantive programmed activities; and (iii) implementation of operational activities.

3. There were also, during the period, major developments with far reaching consequences on the future direction of the MULPOCs arising from the ECA Conference of Ministers' resolution 702 (XXV) on the Transforming and strengthening the multinational programming and operational centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa. This report also reviews the contribution of ECA substantive programmes to the subregion as also the logistic support provided to those programmes by the Lusaka-based MULPOC. The major developments, on account of their importance are reviewed first.

## II. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

4. In May 1990, the ECA Conference of Ministers reviewed the report of the Review Team established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in response to General Assembly resolution 43/216 which endorsed the recommendation of the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that "the achievements of the MULPOCs be thoroughly evaluated with a view to deciding whether this experiment should be continued or whether the mandate, number and structure of the centres should be thoroughly evaluated with a view to deciding whether this experiment should be continued or whether the mandate, number and structure of these centres should be completely re-organized".

5. The Conference, in its review of the report, recognized that the MULPOCs were more relevant to-day than they were 13 years ago when they were established and in its resolution 702 (XXV) decided, inter alia, that "the MULPOCs should report directly to the ECA Conference of Ministers through the Committees of Intergovernmental Experts" which would be responsible for supervising the activities of the MULPOCs at the subregional level, and adopted a memorandum on the Report of the Review Team on the Structures, Organization and Operations of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres. That memorandum, defines the role and terms of reference of the MULPOCs and provides them with a policy directive for the medium term plans and future biennial programmes of work.

6. Concern over the performance of the MULPOCs during the past few years as a result of insufficient financial and human resources was expressed and the Conference endorsed the proposal of the Review Team that the financial and human resources of the MULPOCs be significantly increased and strongly urged the United Nations General Assembly to augment the resources of the

MULPOCs. That resolution has since been adopted by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is presently before the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Conference, in that same resolution also appealed to member States to continue their support and assistance to the MULPOCs through the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and/or any other appropriate means.

7. A copy of resolution 702 (XXV) and the memorandum are presented as an Annex to this report.

### III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

#### (a) Rationalization and Harmonization of the activities of PTA, SADCC, ECA/MULPOC and other IGOs in the sub-region

8. As regards the report and recommendations for the MULPOC Policy Organ Chairman's consultation with Chairmen of PTA, SADCC, IGADD, IOC and KBO, etc. for the purpose of undertaking a co-ordinated study on the rationalization of the activities of IGOs in the subregion, no action was taken, as this was overtaken by events of (i) the PTA initiated and led study on the same as also of (ii) General Assembly initiated study by the Review Team on transforming and strengthening the multinational programming and operational centres of the Economic Commission for Africa. The latter has already been reviewed under Section II, Major Developments.

9. The PTA initiated study was considered by its Council of Ministers - at its Fifteenth meeting which was held in Nairobi from 24 - 28 November, 1989. In response to a request from the Hon. Dr. B. Chidzero, current Chairman of the UNECA/MULPOC, that Council "decided that the report of the Study Team be circulated to all IGOs for consideration and relevant

comments prior to a subsequent final submission of review and recommendations to the FTA Authority by the Ministerial Committee through the Council". The Lusaka-based ECA/MULPOC and ECA have since commented on that report and those comments will be submitted to the next Lusaka-based MULPOC Policy Organ meeting.

(b) Report on the implementation of the resolution on the review and appraisal of the Lusaka-based MULPOC

10. As for the resolution on the review and appraisal of the Lusaka-based MULPOC, the related Ad Hoc Committee was retained under the Chairmanship of Zimbabwe but did not have the benefit of more member States' views and perceptions of the MULPOC in relation to its substantive terms of reference. The secretariat, however, prepared the terms of reference, an outline of the report and the related questionnaire. However, when there were no indications of when the meeting would take place or member Governments' view gathering mission would take place, a desk study related to the Committee's work was prepared and is to be subjected to internal consultation and review.

(c) Secondment of civil servants to the Lusaka-based MULPOC

11. After many years of discussion, and subsequent to the decision of the Council of Ministers, arrangements to fund the cost of Fares and Daily Subsistence Allowance for national civil servants seconded to the MULPOC were finalized. Advertisements were sent out in November, 1990 but because of the little time before the deadline for submission of applications, the several member States were not able to respond, in time, to the call for nominations. However a nomination from one member State was being processed.

(d) Sectoral meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology (IGCESTD) 11-12 October, 1989

12. In the last progress report (ECA/MULPOC/Lusaka/SAPR/89) we reported the final outcome of the meeting of the IGCESTD, under which the following specific projects were considered:

- Lesotho - Large-Scale Production of School Science Equipment (Co-ordinator) (US\$35,200).
- Zambia - Procurement, Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Equipment in the Southern African subregion (Co-ordinator) (US\$45,000).
- Zimbabwe - Workshop on Development of Subregional Policy in Science and Technology for Southern African subregion (Co-ordinator) (US\$45,000).

13. Follow-up on these projects has now been initiated.

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

14. Of the outputs programmed for delivery during the period, the following actions have been taken with regard to each of the outputs:

(a) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions, 1991

15. This report, which is due to be submitted in 1991, is presently under preparation. Collection of data and reference materials for the report has already commenced.

(b) Reports to the Southern African Labour Commission (SALC) on the economic and social aspects of migratory labour in Eastern and Southern Africa

16. The report for 1990 was completed and submitted to SALC in January 1990 in Mbabane, Swaziland. The report for 1991 is

under preparation and will be submitted to the SALC meeting due to take place in Arusha, Tanzania from 16 to 22 January, 1991.

(c) Meeting of the Committee of Heads of Diplomatic Missions of member States of the Lusaka-based MULPOC accredited to Zambia

17. The above-named meeting was convened and serviced from 15 to 17 March, 1990. The Committee received the reports as programmed and was also informed of the salient conclusions and outcomes at the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process, 12 - 16 February, 1990, Arusha, Tanzania; and of the seminar that had been planned in the subregion, on EAF-SAP.

18. The Committee received reports from the secretariat on the implementation of its work programme during the preceding year and the work programme for the biennium 1990-1991. Reports presented included, inter alia, the following: (a) Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Eastern and Southern Africa; (b) the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC) activities; (c) Implementation of the 1988-89 and 1990-91 work programme for the Lusaka MULPOC; (d) Expected meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Review and Appraisal of the Lusaka MULPOC.

19. In reviewing the reports, the Committee agreed that the work programme of the Lusaka MULPOC was of vital importance and that there was need to augment the human and financial resources of the Lusaka MULPOC to enable it achieve the planned work programme. In this respect, the Committee also agreed to second civil servants from member governments to the MULPOC on short-term basis so as to assist in the implementation of the work programme in certain specialised sectors where the MULPOC did not have expertise.

20. The Committee also requested the secretariat to plan its programme in such a way that there was no duplication with the work programme of Intergovernmental Organizations in the subregion. Finally, it was agreed that channels of communication between the MULPOC and member States should be reviewed with a view to speeding up communications.

(d) Meeting of the Southern Africa Labour Commission (SALC)

21. SALC which is a grouping of eight Southern African countries established in 1980, held its Eleventh Ministerial Meeting in Mbabane, Swaziland from 17-23 January, 1990. At that meeting it was resolved that in the course of 1990, the secretariats should develop SALC's work programme, and the Bureau of that meeting and the secretariat of SALC should meet to discuss:

- (a) the programme of SALC;
- (b) the possibility of establishing an independent SALC secretariat accountable to SALC member States; and
- (c) the future relationship between SALC and SADCC.

22. Pursuant to the resolutions, a meeting of the Bureau of SALC was convened in Lusaka, Zambia and was also attended by the joint secretariat of ECA/MULPOC, ILO and ILO/SATEP from 5 - 6 April, 1990. After two days of deliberations, the meeting endorsed proposals from the secretariat on the work programme of SALC, the establishment of an independent SALC secretariat as well as the long outstanding issue of the relationship and co-operation between SALC and SADCC. The recommendations of the meeting of the Bureau will be reported to the Twelfth SALC meeting which is scheduled to be held in Arusha, Tanzania from 16 - 22 January, 1991.

23. Another activity undertaken during the reporting period was a mission to the Republic of Tanzania from 22 - 31 October, 1990 to assist in the preparations for the Twelfth SALC meetings scheduled to be held in Arusha from 16 - 22 January, 1991. Letters of invitation and agenda for the meetings have already been dispatched to all members and observers of the Commission.

24. The third quarter of each year is usually devoted to data collection and advisory missions to SALC member States. This exercise has not been possible during the reporting period due to the lack of forward planning and administrative delays.

25. Finally, due to movement of ILO/SATEP offices in March 1990 from Lusaka, Zambia to Harare in Zimbabwe, co-ordination of activities with ECA/MULPOC has become problematic. This has also affected the implementation of a number of SATEP operational activities during 1990. It is hoped that with the installation of modern telecommunications equipment in both offices, the problem of communication and co-ordination will be minimized.

#### Operational Activities

(a) Eastern and Southern African Documentation and Information System (ESADIS)

26. The establishment of ESADIS in Lusaka, Zambia has had a very slow start. The project which was expected to commence as a Zambian national centre for two years before devolving into a subregional centre was expected to commence in July 1989. All the equipment, consisting of: 1 Hewlett Packard Computer, HP 30037xE (220v150Hz power supply); one Magnetic tape drive unit 1600BPI; one 55 Mb Winchester disc drive unit; one 55 Mb additional disc drive; four video display units,

one line printer 300 lpm; one power stabilizer; and 10 Magnetic tape, had been installed and ready for operation upon appointment of personnel. However, activities were halted in March 1989. Beginning October 1990, efforts were intensified to resurrect the project, and following several meetings with Zambian Government officials, there are indications that ESADIS might be launched by early 1991.

(b) Maize Research Network for Eastern and Southern Africa

27. Revised budgets of the on-going research activities in Mozambique and Lesotho were approved by their respective Project Advisory Committees. Given the commitment to the project by the countries, it is expected, within the context of the co-operation between ECA and the Netherlands, that the project documents would be approved by the donor country.

28. A progress report of subregional activities in the application of the research findings will be submitted to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts in March 1991.

(c) Advisory services under the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation

29. During the period, advisory services were provided to Angola on environmental issues and PTA in the area of transport. Availability of advisory services in this programme for food and agriculture were widely advertised in October 1990 and it is hoped member States will avail themselves of these services. Additional information on services rendered under the programme Food and Agriculture is included in section V below.

(d) Other operational/advisory services

30. Requests for assistance were received from National Research, Training and Consultancy support services and financial intermediary institutions for assistance in (a) productivity enhancement programmes' design and development, (b) the development of policy framework for human resources development programmes and funding mechanisms, (c) the transformation of a national railways mode training institution into a subregional one, (d) the development of subregional project ideas and mobilization of financial resources for management capability development for African savings and home finance organizations, and (e) for staff development programme design and management. In response, to one of the requests, a paper on funding management training in Zambia, future alternatives and options was prepared and submitted to a Zambian Conference on Management and Organizational Development in Zambia. The paper's ideas were followed up at a seminar, and subsequently the MULPOC was invited to serve as a special advisor to a Task Force to draft a policy and institutional framework for setting up a mechanism for a training fund. The other requests are also actively receiving the MULPOC's attention.

(e) Subregional workshop to assess the Implementation of UN-PAAERD/Popular Participation in Development

31. A subregional workshop to assess the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the African Charter for Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process to be held in Angola, 25 February to 1 March, 1991 prior to the MULPOC Policy Organ meeting which will commence on 4 March, 1991 is presently being planned and invitation letters will be sent out before the end of December 1990.

## V. CONTRIBUTION OF ECA SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMMES TO THE SUBREGION

A. Food and Agriculture

## 32. Advisory and other services provided under the ECA Food and Agriculture programme included:

- (i) Assistance in organizing a workshop on agricultural restructuring in Southern Africa, in Namibia in August 1990;
- (ii) Advisory services in the formulation of required research to solve common agricultural problems and to advise and assist in the organization of an IAR/CIMMYT/CIAT workshop on economic analysis of farming systems, in Ethiopia in July 1990;
- (iii) Assistance in the application of results of research on the development of maize production within the context of the subregional maize research network, in Lesotho and Mozambique in August 1990;
- (iv) Preparation of report for, and servicing of a training seminar on shared living resources management in African Rift Valley Lakes with particular emphasis on Lakes Albert and Edward, in Uganda in September 1990;
- (v) Joint mission with FAO and IFIP to Indian Ocean island member States of the MULPOC subregion to draw up a master plan on co-operation in the development of coastal and marine fishery resources, in June 1990;
- (vi) Research training workshop on Evaluation of Rural Development Experiences in Africa (ERDEA) for Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe in November 1990.

B. Population

33. Advisory and other services provided, included missions to:

- (i) Swaziland from 23 June to 8 July, 1990 to assist in analysis of 1986 Census and prepare plans for a census dissemination seminar;
- (ii) Angola from 4 to 19 September, 1990 to assess the status and elaborate a programme of demographic surveys;
- (iii) Zambia from 18 November to 1 December, 1990 to assist in preparing census tabulations plans of the 1990 Census;
- (iv) Tanzania from 7 to 21 December, 1990 to assist in reviewing analysis plans from the 1988 Census.

C. Natural Resources

(a) Water Resources Sub-sector

34. In the water resources sector, the secretariat organized and serviced in July 1990 a meeting of Experts from the member States of the UNDUKU Group where Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia, among others, participated. This meeting considered the technical aspects of a master plan framework for the development of natural resources and infrastructure within the subregion.

(b) Mineral Resources Development Sub-sector

35. In the mineral resources sector, a workshop on the enhancement of the contribution of the African non-fuel mineral resources towards the region's economic advancement was organized in Harare, Zimbabwe from 30 July - 3 August, 1990. Although the workshop was organized in the subregion, participants came from the entire region as it was meant to be an input into the Fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 10-25 November 1990.

D. Environment

36. For the programme on environment, the following services were provided:

- (i) Angola (September-October, 1990): Helped to organise national forum on drought and desertification control in Lobito, Angola, which was attended by Government officials, University scholars, Provincial Governors, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of the UN System, etc. The national forum adopted the Lobito Declaration on Drought and Desertification Control. The declaration contains long term strategies on combating drought and desertification in the eight affected provinces.
- (ii) Lesotho (October 1990): Provided advisory services to the SADCC Unit on Soil and Water Conservation and Land Utilization (SWCLU) on the subregional plan of action to combat desertification in the Kalahari-Namibe area as well as monitoring of land degradation within the subregion. Also provided advisory services to Government of Lesotho on rehabilitation of degraded rangelands with emphasis on integration of environmental concerns in the development process at the village level.

E. Industrial Development

37. Under the programme industrial development, the following were implemented:

- (i) A paper entitled Action Plan on the Development of the Engineering Industry in PTA countries was prepared at the request of PTA secretariat and

presented to the First PTA Steering Committee Meeting on the establishment of Metallurgical Technology Centre in Harare, 25 - 27 June, 1990.

- (ii) Seven representatives of six PTA member countries participated in a study tour organized in India by ECA with the financial and technical support of the Government of India from 4 to 20 November 1990 with a view, inter alia, to exposing African entrepreneurs and officials responsible for the development of small-scale industries with the experience of India and specifically the National Small Industries Corporation.

F. Transport and Communications

38. The major focus and thrust of activities in this sector hinged on the preparation of the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II).

39. An orientation workshop for leaders of the National Co-ordinating Committees (NCCs) was organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 1990. As of 19 November, 1990 the following countries of the subregion had reported establishing their NCCs: Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

VI. LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO ECA SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMMES

40. The Lusaka-based ECA/MULPOC provided logistic support in the implementation of subregional components to the following regional programmes:

- (a) Food and Agriculture
- (b) Development issues and policies

- (c) Industrial development
- (d) Natural resources
- (e) Public administration and finance
- (f) Social development and humanitarian affairs
- (g) Transport, Communications and Tourism

VII. SUPPORT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (IGOs)

41. The Lusaka-based ECA/MULPOC and ECA headquarters attended the PTA meetings in Mbabane, Swaziland from 9-24 November, 1990 which culminated into the Ninth meeting of the PTA Authority.

VIII. PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

42. The preparation of the draft programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993 has now commenced. Secretariat proposals will, as in the past be presented to member States for review.

702 (XXV) Transforming and strengthening the multi national programming and operational centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCS);

Recognizing that the MULPOCs have over the years, played a vital role in fostering subregional economic co-operation and integration and that the objectives for which they were established are more valid today than they were 13 years ago;

Considering the imperative need for women to participate positively and effectively in the implementation of programmes aimed at their integration in the process of development in each subregion;

Concerned about the poor performance and achievements of the MULPOCs during the past few years mostly as a result of insufficient financial and human resources and their inadequacy to meet the new tasks that they are to perform towards economic recovery and transformation;

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 43/206 endorsing the financial reports and audited financial statements of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACAQ) which strongly recommended that the achievements of the MULPOCs be thoroughly evaluated with a view to deciding whether this experiment should be continued or whether the mandate, number and structure of these centres should be completely reorganized;

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint a Review Team whose mandate was, inter alia, to examine the structure and organization of the MULPOCs with a view to determining their suitability for the execution of their tasks taking into account the General Assembly resolution referred to above;

Noting that the current distribution and location of the MULPOCs are in keeping with the spirit of the Final Act of Lagos in terms of the need to promote co-operation and integration within the framework of the subregional economic groupings.

1. Takes note of the report of the Review Team which concludes that the structures, organization and operations, respectively of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa should be maintained, transformed and strengthened;
2. Warmly congratulates the Review Team on the thorough and objective manner in which it has carried out its work and for its findings and recommendations thereon;
3. Strongly supports the conclusions of the Review Team that the MULPOC institutions should be transformed and strengthened to provide member States with the required technical assistance and advisory services for the execution of their joint projects within the framework of the intergovernmental organizations;
4. Adopts the new mandate of the MULPOCs as proposed by the Review Team;
5. Strongly urges the United Nations General Assembly to provide the MULPOCs with additional human and financial resources to enable them to respond more effectively to multinational and multisectoral programming requirements based on priorities identified by the member States and to provide immediately a minimum "core" of such resources;
6. Decides that given the financial constraints and the need for better co-ordination between the MULPOCs and the intergovernmental organizations, the MULPOC should report directly to the ECA Conference of Ministers through the Committees of Intergovernmental Experts which will be responsible for supervising the activities of the MULPOCs at the subregional level;

7. Urges the General Assembly, donor and technical assistance organizations to provide the MULPOCs with sufficient resources for the formulation and implementation of programmes for the effective participation of women in the development process of their respective subregions;

8. Recommends that the current number and composition of the MULPOCs should be maintained since they fit in with the structure of existing subregional economic groupings. Their distribution could however be reviewed in future to make for the rational use of available resources and to reflect developments in the subregional economic groupings;

9. Submits the attached memorandum on the strengthening and transformation of the MULPOCs to the Economic and Social Council for consideration;

10. Appeals to member States to continue their support and assistance to the MULPOCs through the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and/or any other appropriate means;

11. Urges technical assistance and funding agencies to assist in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the evaluation team regarding the need to provide the MULPOCs with sufficient financial and human resources for the effective execution of their mandate.

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267th meeting,  
19 May 1990

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 702 (XXV)  
MEMORANDUM OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
ON  
THE REPORT OF THE REVIEW TEAM ON THE STRUCTURES,  
ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE MULTINATIONAL  
PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRES

1. This memorandum is submitted in response to the General Assembly resolution 43/216 of 21 December 1988 on Financial reports and audited financial statements and reports of the Board of Auditors which endorsed the concurring observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) with regard to the MULPOCs. The resolution called for a thorough evaluation of the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to deciding whether this experiment should be continued or whether the mandate, number and structures of these Centres should be completely reorganized.
2. Pursuant to the above resolution, an independent Review Team was commissioned by the Secretary General in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with the following terms of reference;
  - (a) To examine the original mandate as contained in document E/ECA/CM.8/26 of 8 April 1982 with a view to ascertaining its continued relevance;
  - (b) To examine the structure and organization with a view to determining their suitability for the execution of tasks of MULPOCs, taking into account the recommendations made in the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors as contained in paragraph 14 of document A/43/5;
  - (c) As a follow-up to the Rwambuza and Said's report dated 23 August 1988, to review and report on all aspects of management of the MULPOCs;

(d) To examine adequacy of resources available and make recommendations aimed at strengthening the MULPOCs for a more efficient execution of their mandate;

(e) To investigate the effectiveness of the linkages with ECA substantive and service organizational units;

(f) To examine any other relevant matters pertaining to the efficient and effective operations of the MULPOCs; and

(g) To report not later than 10 March 1989, or as soon as possible thereafter, to the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

3. We wish to express our appreciation that the Secretary-General has, in accordance with our request contained in resolution 659(XXIV) on the review of the achievements of the Multinational and Operational Centres of the Commission, enabled us to comment on the report of the Review Team. We wish to reiterate that we welcome the decision of the General Assembly on the review and evaluation of the MULPOCs, as we believe that such a review is opportune. Finally, we must express our sincere appreciation to the Review Team for the quality of its work and for the recommendations which it has put forward.

4. We wish in this memorandum to comment on those proposals and recommendations of the Review Team so that the General Assembly will have the benefit of our opinion on this matter. Our views have emerged from the extensive debate that took place on the report during our twenty-fifth session and sixteenth meeting preceded by an equally extensive discussion at the level of our Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) meetings held in Tripoli, the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 5 May to 19 May 1990.

5. In the light of our critical assessment of the proposals of the Review Team, we fully concur with the Teams findings that the "objectives and purposes for which the MULPOCs were established are more valid today than they were thirteen years ago, considering the socio-economic challenges which will confront the African countries in the 1990s. The member States strongly argue in favour of the maintenance, transformation and strengthening of an

institution such as the MULPOCs provided with the additional human, technical and financial resources required for execution of their joint projects within the framework of the intergovernmental organizations".

6. We recommend that the number and membership of the MULPOCs should be retained as they correspond to the existing subregional economic groupings. our Conference will continue to pay the necessary attention to the issue of the subregional distribution of the MULPOCs with a view to ensuring efficient utilization of available resources and in keeping with the evaluation of subregional groupings.

7. We wish to seize this opportunity to express our appreciation of the services rendered by the MULPOCs and the role which they played in supporting member countries' endeavours in promoting subregional and regional economic co-operation and integration in providing technical assistance to intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) in our different subregions. We wish in particular to underline the role of the MULPOCs in the establishment of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and playing a co-ordinating role among the over 40 intergovernmental organizations in West Africa.

8. We endorse the findings of the Review Team with regard to the relevance of the MULPOCs as an institution to provide technical assistance in our efforts towards subregional groupings and the need to redefine the terms of reference of the MULPOCs in the light of past experiences and the challenges that are ahead. Accordingly, we support, as proposed by the Review Team, the following terms of reference:

(a) To provide member States and IGOs with technical assistance (advisory services) in project identification, planning and the formulation of multisectoral programmes and projects for execution by MULPOCs in association with IGO secretariats and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system;

(b) To provide member States and IGOs with short-term advisory services in development planning and to assist in the translation of those plans into multinational and multisectoral programmes and projects including the identification and formulation of programmes and projects for execution by them or at their request by the ECA-STAP (MULPOCs) itself, in association with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as required;

(c) To undertake pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, research on and analyses of priority areas identified by member States and IGOs for enhancing subregional co-operation and integration;

(d) To provide assistance and support in the development of human resources and in organizing training courses, seminars, lectures, workshops in and around round-tables, with a view to strengthening institutional and organizational capacity of member States to execute multinational development programmes and projects for socio-economic advancement;

(e) To develop in the light of the above, effective working relationship with the governments, the IGOs, the UNDP offices and other international organizations with a view to harmonizing the designing, programming and implementation of technical assistance programmes at the subregional level;

(f) To develop and execute programmes for more effective participation of women in all aspects of development efforts at the subregional level; and

(g) To collect, and disseminate at the subregional level, information and statistical data on macro-economic indicators in the member States and to assist them in establishing compatible systems for exchanging information among themselves and with their development partners.

9. The MULPOCs should continue playing the important role of co-ordinating IGOs and they should also contribute to the establishment of the African Economic Community by undertaking studies for the harmonization and progressive linking of the various subregional economic groupings. They should also contribute to the implementation at the subregional level of strategies contained in global prospective studies carried out by the ECA secretariat.

10. We have always realized that inadequacy of resources has been the major constraint in the ability of the MULPOCs to fulfill their mandate. The build up in their staff was severely affected by the financial crisis that the United Nations faced in most of the 1980s. Similarly, their operational activities were severely constrained by their lack of resources - financial and human. We are preoccupied by the resulting negative impact on the delivery of the MULPOCs in the past few years. ECA's capacity to decentralize staff and resources to the MULPOCs was stretched to the limit in spite of its own severe resource constraints. We are not therefore surprised that under such circumstances the impact of these MULPOCs began to dwindle.

11. We therefore fully endorse the proposal of the Review Team that the financial and human resources of the MULPOCs be significantly increased as contained in chapter 6 of the evaluation report. We propose that the MULPOCs be provided with cost-effective minimal core staff that will enable them to have immediate impact on their respective subregions.

12. We do not foreclose the possibility of changing the name 'MULPOCs' and we will keep on reflecting on this possible change in the light of the evolution of their mandate and activities.

13. Finally, we wish to reiterate our firm commitment to the MULPOCs. As in the past, we will continue deploying every possible effort to create the enabling environment for the enhancement of the MULPOCs effectiveness.

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