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**PADIS Work Programme
1992-1993**

1. PADIS' activities at ECA are part of both the regular ECA Programme Budget as well as of its operational activities funded by extra-budgetary sources. PADIS is in the midst of drafting its requests for the next biennium and beyond for extra-budgetary funding that it will submit to donors (for further information on this, see "Financial situation of PADIS," ECA/PADIS/RTC/6 and "Adaptation of PADIS to changing needs" ECA/PADIS/RTC/8). However, since 1986-1987 PADIS' activities have also formed part of the ECA Programme Budget. The proposals which PADIS has submitted, which are being presented to the Twenty-sixth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers and subsequently to the Forty-fifth session of the General Assembly for approval are detailed below.

2. Given the structure of the newly-approved Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997, all of ECA's activities fall under one programme: Regional Co-operation in Africa. The number of subprogrammes has also been greatly reduced. In the 1992-1993 ECA programme budget PADIS is responsible for the implementation of activities under two different subprogrammes: it implements activities related to development information systems under Subprogramme 1: Development issues and policies in the ECA Region, as well as those for electronic support services under the Administration and Common Services subprogramme.

Development issues and policies in Africa

3. Funding for development information systems has been proposed from both extra-budgetary and regular budget sources. As members of the RTC are aware, since its establishment the bulk of PADIS' funds have come from extra-budgetary sources. Since the 1990-1991 work programme submission, however, ECA has attempted to secure some regular budget funding for PADIS' development information systems' activities on behalf of member States. Although two posts were proposed for 1990-1991 (that of the Director of PADIS and the chief of computerized documentation section), they were not approved. (However, in 1989 the Programme Planning Board noted that "efforts should be made both by ECA and Headquarters to seek continued extrabudgetary finances but that in case these did not materialize, resources from regular budget could be sought. The board decided further that this would be mentioned in the proposed programme budget.") Again, in 1991, ECA has proposed some regular budget funding for PADIS under the 1992-1993 programme budget: one P-4 post (for the Chief, Computerized Documentation Section) and \$4,000 for official travel. This submission too will need to be approved by the Programme Planning Board before it becomes part of ECA's submission to the General Assembly.

4. The following justification has been presented for the P-4 post:

Since 1987 resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers [679 (XXV), 658 (XXIV) and 600 (XXII)] have requested regular budget resources for the area of Development Issues and Policies in Africa concerned with development information systems, which have been a part of the ECA programme budget since 1986, but without any regular budget resources accorded. The creation of a P-4 post is proposed to assure the servicing of ECA legislative meetings in this substantive area, the maintenance of development information data bases crucial to member States, and

co-ordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies active in this field. The need for this post responds to the increasing demand for development information and the establishment of subregional and country-oriented databases, particularly those which will be created under General Assembly Resolution 44/211.

5. The proposed travel funds from regular budget will be used for travel to member States to collect data for the development and maintenance of bibliographic and referential data bases.

6. With regard to extra-budgetary sources for operational activities, PADIS has estimated, conservatively, that it expects to have available \$1,520,000 available over the biennium 1992-1993 (or \$3,800,000 for the period, 1992-1997), as opposed to actual 1990-1992 resources available of \$1,382,057, an increase of 10%.

7. The first step in programme planning is to develop the orientation of the subprogramme for the biennium, as per the approved Medium-Term Plan. PADIS has proposed the following orientation for its development information systems programme:

Within the objectives of the subprogrammes for the Medium-Term Plan period, emphasis will be given to:

- (a) enhancing the capability of member States to collect, store, retrieve and disseminate information on issues of African development;
- (b) development and maintenance of a series of numerical and non-numerical databases for storage and dissemination of development information to be used by member States;
- (c) development and encouragement of acceptance of norms and standards for harmonizing development documentation and information.

8. From this basis, PADIS has programmed as follows:

C: ACTIVITIES

1. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

(c) Depositary services

- (i) Negotiation of 10 participating centre agreements for the exchange of development information with national and institutional participating centres in the PADIS network.

(e) External relations

- (i) Promotion of norms and standards for the exchange of development information with intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations through the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information at Subregional and Regional Institutions in Africa (annual meeting, fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993);
- (ii) Establishment and operation of a development information network of national and institutional participating centres in the Africa region (Intermediate activity, no final output);
- (iii) Participation in meetings of the intergovernmental, inter-organization Study Group on the Exchange of Development Information (Intermediate activity, no final output).

2. PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

(b) Substantive Services

- (i) Substantive servicing of a meeting of the Information Science Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (biennial, second quarter 1992);
- (ii) Substantive servicing of a meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS (biennial, second quarter, 1993);

3. PUBLISHED MATERIAL

(a) Recurrent publications

- (i) PADIS newsletter on development information in Africa (quarterly, years of completion 1992 and 1993);

(c) Technical material

- (i) Bibliographic computerized data base on social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa (intermediate activity, no final output);
- (ii) Referential computerized data base on African experts in social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa (intermediate activity, no final output);

5. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(c) Field projects

- (i) Field project to enhance development information capability of member States.

6. CO-ORDINATION, HARMONIZATION AND LIAISON

- (i) Participation in the United Nations Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of Information Systems (Intermediate activity, no final output).

9. The utilization of the proposed P-4 post workmonths have been allocated as follows (24 workmonths over the biennium).

- 1 (e)(i) Four workmonths over the biennium will be spent on the co-ordination of documentation and information at subregional and regional institutions in the region and the preparation of documentation for the annual meetings of the Standing Committee on the Harmonization of Documentation and Information at Subregional and Regional Institutions in Africa;
- 1 (e)(iii) One month over the biennium will be spent on the harmonization and co-ordination of development information systems through participation in the work of and attendance at meetings of the intergovernmental, interorganizational Study Group on the Exchange of Development Information;
- 2 (b)(i) Three workmonths of 1992 will be spent on the preparation of documents, the organization of the meeting and the substantive servicing of the meeting of the Information Science Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

- 2 (b)(ii) Three workmonths of 1993 will be spent on the preparation of documents, the organization of the meeting and the substantive servicing of the meeting of the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS;
 - 3 (c)(i) Three workmonths of each year of the biennium will be spent on the maintenance and development of a bibliographic computerized data base on social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa;
 - 3 (c) (ii) Three workmonths of each year of the biennium will be spent on the development and maintenance of a referential computerized data base on African experts in social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa;
 - 6 (i) One workmonth over the biennium will be spent on the collection and follow-up of data and attendance of meetings of the United Nations Advisory Council on the Co-ordination of Information Systems.
10. Some activities of the programme budget will be delivered entirely with extra-budgetary resources: these are: 1(c)(i) [Negotiation of 10 participating centre agreements for the exchange of development information with national and institutional participating centres in the PADIS network]; 3(a)(i) [PADIS newsletter on development information in Africa (quarterly)], and 5 (c)(i) [Field project to enhance development information capability of member States]. Others will use extra-budgetary resources to supplement the regular programme budget.

Electronic support services

11. As part of PADIS' electronic support services to the ECA secretariat, ECA has proposed the addition of two new regular budget posts (beyond the 5 presently existing), with the following justification:

The ECA Conference of Ministers has emphasized the importance of technical assistance in information technology through its resolutions 679 (XXV) "Improving information flows in Africa" and 658 (XXIV) "Strengthening development information systems in Africa." At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly through resolution 44/201 acknowledged the office automation needs of the ECA secretariat.

ECA is presently undergoing a rapid transition to automation, which should be fully operational during the 1992-1993 biennium. While the P-5 post of Chief, Information Sections (responsible for Office Automation) provides direction to the subprogramme, the increasing demands necessitate the creation of additional posts to assist the Chief. The secretariat sees a heavy demand for services in the area of training and maintenance on the one hand, and for the development of office applications on the other. Accordingly, it is proposed that one P-3 post be established in the area of training and maintenance of computers and another P-3 post in the area of office applications.

12. The following work programme has been proposed for the use of these resources:

C: ACTIVITIES

8. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

(d) General Services [Electronic support services]

- (i) Operation and management of computer facilities;
- (ii) Maintenance and development of central computer operating system;
- (iii) Scheduling and monitoring maintenance of mini-computer system hardware;
- (iv) Planning, supervising and executing maintenance of ECA micro-computers;
- (v) Delivery of training courses, in co-operation with ECA training section, in utilization of mini- and micro-computer software, operating systems and applications programmes;
- (vi) Maintenance, development and installation of computer applications for administration and substantive divisions of ECA;
- (vii) Data entry for administrative applications;
- (viii) Management and administrative support for office automation (advising on and co-ordination of acquisition of office automation, preparing equipment specifications and requisitions, co-ordinating delivery, supervising installation and verifying invoices;
- (ix) Secretariat support for Technological Innovations Committee;
- (x) Management of spare parts inventory for microcomputers and related peripherals;

13. The human resources will be allocated as follows:

Twelve professional level work months are needed over the biennium for 8 (d) (i) operation and management of computer facilities;

Twelve professional level work months are needed over the biennium for 8 (d) (ii) maintenance and development of central computer operation system;

Three professional level work months over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (iii) scheduling and monitoring maintenance of the mini-computer system hardware;

Twelve professional level work months over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (iv) planning, supervising and executing maintenance of the ECA micro-computers, secured largely under the office automation programme.

Twenty-two professional level work months over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (v) delivery of training courses, in co-operation with ECA training section, in utilization of mini- and micro-computer software, operating systems and applications programmes;

Seventy-two professional level work months over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (vi) maintenance, development and installation of computer applications for administration and substantive divisions of ECA;

Ten professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (vii) data entry for administrative applications;

Ten professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (viii) management and administrative support for office automation, including advising on and co-ordination of acquisition of office automation, preparing equipment specifications and requisitions, co-ordinating delivery, supervising installation and verifying invoices.

Sixteen professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (ix) secretariat support for meetings of the Technological Innovations Committee; and

Sixteen professional level workmonths over the biennium are needed for 8 (d) (x) management of the spare parts inventory for ECA microcomputers and related peripherals (notably, printers).

14. Additionally, \$30,000 is being requested for operating expenses in data processing services.

15. All the resources for PADIS' operation of ECA's electronic support services will come from the regular programme budget.

Conclusion

16. It is hoped that PADIS will be more successful in 1992-1993 in securing regular budget resources than it was in 1990-1991. The small start, - one regular post - would be a symbolic landmark in integrating PADIS' activities in development information systems on behalf of member States into the United Nations regular budget.