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PREPARATION OF UNTACDA II
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
The Second United Nations Transport
and Communications Decade for Africa
UNTACDA II: 1991-2000

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE
INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR UNTACDA II

29-30 April 1991

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The seventeenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 29 and 30 April 1991.

B. ATTENDANCE

2. Representatives of the following African Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), United Nations Specialized Agencies and bodies attended the meeting: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), Association of African Maritime Training Institutions (AAMTI), African Development Bank (ADB), Organization of African Unity (OAU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Ministerial Conference of Western and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Port Management Association of Western and Central African States (PMAWCAS) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was officially opened by Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA.

4. After welcoming participants he recalled the decision taken by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning which met in Abuja, Nigeria on 7 and 8 February 1991 to hold the current meeting. At that 8th meeting of the Conference, the Ministers had observed that the Decade programme could not be considered complete without projects and had requested the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) to screen the projects submitted in order to make out a list for inclusion in the programme.

5. He went on to inform the meeting about the activities conducted since the Abuja meeting by all the parties involved in the project selection exercise entrusted to RMC, namely, subregional organizations, ECA, the RMC technical sub-committee and the RMC itself.

6. In spite of the many difficulties encountered in the performance of this assignment, the RMC had pronounced the work of the technical sub-committee satisfactory.

7. The role of the current meeting of IACC was consequently to consider the list of projects submitted by RMC and to recommend those which should be included in the Decade programme.

8. He concluded his statement by calling on all participants to exercise a sense of responsibility and a spirit of consensus in screening the projects and in conducting the follow-up activities proposed by RMC.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Adoption of the report and programme of work (agenda item 2)

9. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening statement of the Executive Secretary of ECA
2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. Adoption of the report of the Sixteenth meeting of IACC
4. Report of RMC on UNTACDA II projects
5. Date and venue of the next meeting of IACC
6. Any other matters
7. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting

10. The meeting adopted the following work programme:

Monday 29 April 1991:	Morning	10:00 to 1:00 p.m.
	Afternoon	3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 30 April 1991:	Morning	9:00 to 1:00 p.m.
	Afternoon	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adoption of the report of the Sixteenth Meeting of IACC (agenda item 3)

11. The meeting adopted the report of the sixteenth meeting of IACC held in Abuja on 31 January and 1 February 1991 with the only amendment being the inclusion of the Universal Postal Union on the list of participants.

Reports of RMC on UNTACDA II projects (agenda item 4)

12. In his report, the Chairman of RMC, first recalled that in Abuja a Technical Committee had been set up to assist RMC in the screening of projects submitted by organizations, member States and Agencies.

13. He went on to indicate that RMC met from 24 to 28 April 1991 in Addis Ababa to consider the report of the Technical Committee and described the work done by RMC at that meeting.

14. On the whole, RMC had considered 1,036 projects comprising 761 transport projects and 270 telecommunications projects. Among those, 459 projects comprising 329 transport and 127 communications projects had been recommended to make up the initial list of projects to be included in the Decade programme, while 475 projects were pending either because the information on them was insufficient or because they needed prior feasibility study. For other projects in the same category, harmonization and co-ordination between countries and certain agencies or among agencies were required.

15. The Chairman of RMC then informed the meeting of future activities of RMC as well as recommendations made by the Committee in connection with the implementation of the Decade programme.

16. Following this introduction, the meeting considered the RMC proposals and recommendations.

17. Concerning the proposal that only those projects approved should be submitted to the meeting of Experts, the meeting opted for transparency and requested that the evaluation conducted on all projects received should be communicated to the Experts. It was however understood that in line with the project selection mechanism adopted in Abuja by the Conference of Ministers, projects that were not recommended for the moment should first of all be re-examined by RMC.

18. The meeting approved the following future activities of RMC:

(a) Pending projects were to be re-considered in light of additional information that the concerned member States and agencies will furnish to the lead-agency. In that connection, RMC will hold an initial meeting in June/July 1991 to which will be invited the lead organizations of subregional and sub-sectoral working groups;

(b) RMC will meet regularly over the next two years to consider fresh projects duly submitted through the mechanism approved by the Conference of Ministers in Abuja. The lead organizations of subregional and sub-sectoral working groups would be invited to those meetings;

(c) RMC would convene within the next six months a Technical Donor Meeting which will not be a Pledging Conference but rather

more of a forum for considering the best way of securing project financing;

(d) With the assistance of IACC members, RMC, Chairmen of subregional and Sub-sectoral Working Groups, the lead-agency would organize and co-ordinate seminars to sensitize member States and African IGOs about the Decade objectives and strategies; and assist them in reassuring their sub-sectoral strategies along the lines of the recommended strategies by the working groups;

(e) RMC will commence resource mobilization activities by organizing the funding of projects already accepted under the programme.

19. The meeting also approved the following RMC recommendations:

(a) The Executive Secretary of ECA should contact officials of the funding agencies members of RMC in order to discuss the specific involvement of those institutions in the implementation of the Decade programme;

(b) The projects selected for the Decade programme should be included in national sub-sectoral programmes worked out in pursuit of rational and realistic strategies;

(c) The projects submitted by IACC members should be prepared in accordance with the strategies recommended by the subregional and sub-sectoral working groups and subsequently implemented in close co-operation with members of each working group.

20. The meeting agreed to recommend to the Conference of Ministers that RMC should be authorized to approve under the Decade programme pending projects on which it receives such additional information and meet the selection criteria.

21. In connection with future activities the meeting re-affirmed the need for members of sub-sectoral and subregional working groups to meet before the next meeting of RMC in order to harmonize and co-ordinate their programmes.

22. It was recalled that the 8th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning had decided that the working groups should be maintained throughout the Decade.

23. The lack of industrial production projects was noted and it was decided to draw the attention of Experts Meeting to this shortcoming with a view to obtaining a directive to the Secretariat of ECA and UNIDO to intensify their assistance to member States to

the identification and preparation of investment projects for consideration by RMC to the future.

24. On this occasion, the invitation by AMTA to host the meeting of the sub-sectoral working group on maritime transport, ports, multimodal and inland water transport was noted.

25. The meeting also recognized the need for all documents of the sub-sectoral and subregional working groups as adopted by those groups in line with their strategies to be published for distribution to all interested parties. For that purpose, these reports were to be forwarded as early as possible in French and English by the lead organizations of the Working Groups to ECA.

Date and place of the next meeting of IACC (agenda item 5)

26. The meeting agreed to meet one month before the holding of the donor meeting in order to instruct RMC on the manner in which the donor meeting was to be organized

Any other matters (agenda item 6)

27. The meeting underscored the fact that management and policy problems were largely responsible for the inefficiency of transport and communications systems in Africa. In that regard, it was decided that the most important task of IACC member agencies and organizations was to convince and assist member States to improve their transport and communications management policies.

Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting (agenda item 7)

28. The meeting examined its draft report and adopted it after some amendments.

29. The meeting in expressing its satisfaction with the work accomplished, congratulated and thanked Professor Adebayo Adedeji, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA for the able manner in which he conducted the meeting as well as for his positive contribution to the search for solutions to the problems of transport and communications in Africa during all his tenure as Executive Secretary of ECA.

30. In his closing remarks, Mr. M. Bongoy, Director of the Division of Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of ECA, thanked all the members of the IACC for their active participation in the work, and drew their attention to the important tasks which still remain to be done. Finally, he declared the closure of the meeting of the IACC.

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