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ASSOCIATION OF WEST AFRICAN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

5th Meeting of the Committee of Officials
22 - 23 march 1991
Niamey, Niger

REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
OF OFFICIALS OF WEST AFRICAN IGOs

OPENING OF THE MEETING
(Agenda Item 1)

1. The fifth meeting of the committee of officials of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations was held on 22 and 23 March 1991 at Niamey in the Republic of Niger.
2. Opening statements were made by the representative of the Government of Niger, the Director of the Niamey-based MULPOC on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the ECA and the representative of the current Chairman of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations.

A. ATTENDANCE

3. Representatives of the following organizations participated in the meeting :
 - Niger Basin Authority (ABN)
 - Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)
 - West African Development Bank (BOAD)
 - Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO)
 - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - Inter-States Committee of Water Studies (CIEH)
 - Inter-States Permanent Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
 - Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Co-operation (NNJCC)
 - African Guaranty Fund for Economic Co-operation (FAGACE)
 - African Solidarity Fund (ASF)
 - Organization for the Development of the River Senegal (OMVS).
4. Also attending the meeting as observers were representatives of the Ministry of Planning of the host country.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
(agenda item 2)

The meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman : OMVS

Vice-Chairman : CEA0

Rapporteur : CIEH

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK
(Agenda item 3)

6. The meeting adopted, after amendment, the following programme of work and agenda :

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - (a) Welcoming statement by the Representative of the Government of Niger
 - (b) Statement by the Director of the MULPOC.
 - (c) Statement by the current Chairman of the Committee of Experts of the Association
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work
4. Report of the Secretariat on the overall activities of the Association for the period 1989 - 1990
5. Report of the first meeting of the Follow-up and Evaluation Committee of the Association of IGOs
- 6.I. Detailed report on the implementation of the West African Intergovernmental organizations' co-operation programme

Reports of the sectoral committees.

A. Agriculture, livestock and water resources

Report of the meeting of the Sectoral Committee of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the fields of agriculture, livestock and water resources.

B. Transport

Report of the meeting of the Sectoral Committee of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the field of transport.

C - Trade and Finance

Report of the meeting of the Sectoral Committee of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the fields of trade and finance.

D - Industry

Report of the meeting of the Association's sectoral committee on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the field of industry.

E - Training and information

Report of the meeting of the Sectoral Committee of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the fields of training and information.

F - Energy

Report of the meeting of the Sectoral Committee of the Association of West African IGOs on joint and complementary programmes and projects in the field of energy.

6.II. Other activities

A - Follow-up to the establishment of the West African Documentation and Information System (WADIS)

B - Publication of the directory of the IGOs

C - Publication of the liaison bulletin of West African IGOs.

D - Cooperation Agreement and Rules of Procedure

E - Creation of a Committee of IGOs responsible for the development of river and lake basins.

7. Report on the financing of the work programme and activities of the West African IGOs

8. Reflection on future activities of the Association.

9. Re-organization of the MULPOCs : Follow-up to the report of the evaluation team to review the achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening and making them more effective

10. Work programme of the MULPOC for the period 1992-1993

11. Consideration of the draft agenda and work programme of the 5th conference of Chief Executives of the Association of the West African IGOs

12. Date and venue of next meeting

13. Any other business

14. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting and draft resolutions likely to be submitted to the conference of Chief Executives of the Association.

15. Closing session

Programme of Work

21 March 1991 : 4p.m. - Registration of participants

22 March 1991 : 8a.m. - 8.30 a.m. - Meeting of Heads of Delegations

9a.m. - Opening of the Meeting

9.45a.m. - Break

10a.m. - Resumption of proceedings

1.p.m. - Lunch

3.p.m. - Resumption of proceedings

- 23 March 1991 : - Drafting of the report of the Meeting
- 24 March 1991 : 4.p.m. - 5.p.m. - Adoption of the report.
- 5 p.m. - Closing Session.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

7. In this opening statement Mr Harouna Abdoulaye Director of Research, Economic Analysis and Projections (REAP) of the Republic of Niger, on behalf of the Minister of Planning, welcomed the participants to the fifth meeting of the committee of experts of West African IGOs.
8. He stressed that the coming together of countries of the subregion was the only way by which the modernization and sound economic management of these countries could be achieved. In light of this fact, the OAU and ECA had reflected on the issue and taken concrete steps towards economic integration of the continent while States in the subregion had also established IGOs with a view to meeting the requirements of such integration.
9. He stated that the 1980s were "a lost decade for Africa's development", and recalled the serious difficulties member States were currently facing in their effort to honour their commitments towards the large number of IGOs that exist in the subregion.
10. The establishment of the Association of IGOs should, according to the Director of REAP, lead to the gradual merging, rationalization and restructuring of IGOs in the sub-region.
11. Having commended the successes of the Association of IGOs, he pointed out the problems connected with the mobilization of financial resources needed for the continued harmonization of their programmes.

12. The Director of REAP informed the meeting that the post of Director for the MULPOC, which had been vacant for a long time, had just been filled. He welcomed the new Director to Niger and wished him every success in his present assignment.

13. Finally, he expressed, on behalf of the Minister of Planning, his sincere gratitude to Mr. Henry Gabriel SOUMAH (who acted as interim Director of the MULPOC) for his courage, selflessness, efficiency and courtesy during the transition period.

14. In his address, the MULPOC Director, M.Blessing Akporode Clark (Nigeria), on behalf of the Executive Secretary, of the ECA, also welcomed the participants to the fifth meeting of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations.

15. Furthermore, he expressed his gratitude to General Ali SAIBOU, President of the Republic of Niger, as well as the Government and the people of Niger for hosting the series of meetings being organized presently at Niamey by the ECA.

16. With respect to the Association, the MULPOC Director referred to resolution 5 of the eleventh meeting of the MULPOC's council of Ministers held in February 1989 at Dakar, which stated that activities carried out by the MULPOC within the framework of sectoral committees should form an integral part of its work programme in order to translate the existing co-operation into concrete projects.

17. He called on the IGOs to give full support to the MULPOC in the implementation of its work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium which was submitted to meeting for consideration.

18. He also recalled the re-organization of the MULPOCs as advocated by the UN General Assembly's evaluation team which, among other things, recommended that they should be strengthened to enable them offer meaningful advisory services to the States and IGOs in the sub-region.

19. The MULPOC Director called on the lead agencies of the IGOs to assist the Secretariat in presenting reports and formulating recommendations at the end of meetings of their respective sectoral committees.
20. Having recalled the need for improved co-ordination and re-doubling of efforts towards the reversal of the negative trend of the economies of the African continent, the Director of the MULPOC wished the meeting full success in its deliberations.
21. The representative of the current Chairman of the Association of IGOs, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Niger for all the facilities provided for the participants to the on-going meeting.
22. After spelling out the aim of the first meeting of the Follow-up and Evaluation Committee held on 26 and 27 March 1990 at Niamey and also those of the sectoral committees from 19 to 24 November 1990 at Ouagadougou, the representative of the current Chairman of the Association placed special emphasis on the difficulties encountered in making members pay their contribution of 1,400 dollars every of two years as well as the signing of the Co-operation Agreement and rules of procedure of the IGOs. He stated that this should help re-vitalize the Association, strengthen co-operation links and promote economic integration of the sub-region.
23. Finally, he pointed out the efforts being made by the MULPOC to facilitate the task of the Chairman of the Association

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE OVERALL
ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION IN 1990
(Agenda item 4)

24. The Secretariat, presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/90/V/17) after recalling the decisions and recommendations of the 4th conference of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations held on 10 and 11 February 1989 at Dakar. He placed emphasis on the traditional role of the

Association before spelling out the specific activities assigned to the MULPOC by the 4th conference of the Chief Executives.

25. Finally, he stressed the excellent co-operation that exists between the Secretariat and the current Chairman in search for appropriate solutions to the problems encountered during the implementation of the recommendations of the 4th conference of Chief Executives. He expressed the hope that the IGOs would pay up their contributions to re-active and strengthen the rationalization and integration efforts within the subregion.

26. The meeting took due note of the report.

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION
COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IGOs
(Agenda item 5)

27. The representative of the current Chairman of the committee of officials of the Association of Intergovernmental Organisations presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/4) and informed the participants that at the first meeting of the Follow-up and Evaluation Committee held on 26 and 27 March 1990 at Niamey, the rules of procedure of this committee was considered, amended and finally adopted.

28. As regards the publication of the liaison bulletin, it was envisaged that a local staff would be recruited for that purpose and that he should be remunerated from the Association's funds. The bulletin should facilitate the rationalization and integration activities of the IGOs.

29. While the meeting took due note of this document, it insisted on the need to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the programme of the Association.

DETAILED REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF WEST AFRICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS' CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME
(Agenda item 6)

A. SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND WATER
RESOURCES.

30. The representative of CILSS, lead agency of the committee, presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/5) in which he gave account of activities of this committee made up of 3 other sub-committees.

31. With respect to the livestock subcommittee, he informed the meeting that the IGOs members of this sub-committee located in Ouagadougou (CEBV, ALG, CEAO and CILSS) met on several occasions and managed to work out the following areas of co-operation :

- improvement of the flow of information in the area of livestock
- revitalization of subregional trade
- organization of transhumance
- control of epizootic diseases
- research activities

The representative of CILSS pointed out that the livestock sub-committee had not been able to meet formally.

32. As regards the agriculture sub-committee, its lead agency, the ECOWAS, informed the meeting of the difficulties encountered, including :

- a) the feasibility study on the national seed banks and the complementary study on livestock, fishery and forestry products could not be conducted and were therefore re-scheduled for 1991 ;
- b) Concerning co-operation in the production of pesticides, there was prior need for the various organs of ECOWAS to endorse such a move and ensure its co-ordination as requested by the FAO .

c) The community information centers were still not operational due to difficulties encountered in securing data. The sub-committee would pursue its efforts to make the centers operational.

d) With respect to the veterinary laboratories for the production of vaccines located in Dakar, Bamako and Bingerville, it was stated that they would be strengthened in accordance with the decisions adopted by the organs of the ECOWAS ;

e) The CILSS had still not secured funds to conduct the study on agricultural data banks. It was therefore recommended that the MULPOC should incorporate the study in its work programme.

33. The CILSS recalled that the subcommittee on water resources had not been able to meet officially since its inception in 1985, in spite of bilateral consultations between the CIEH (its lead agency) and other IGOs.

34. Finally, he informed the participants about the recommendations adopted by the committee at Ouagadougou :

- Systematic transmission of reports of meetings of the subcommittees to all IGOs.

- Recruitment of two consultants to conduct a study on the harmonization of work programmes of IGOs involved in agriculture and livestock.

35. The meeting adopted the above - mentioned document after discussions and suggested that in future, the Secretariat should present a more concise account of sectoral committee meetings by including detailed information on each subject concerned. In addition, the meeting recommended that informal meetings of sectoral committees should be taken into account and that the CIEH should be encouraged to pursue its initiatives aimed at convening a meeting of the subcommittee on water resources.

B. TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

36. The Secretariat presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO 90/V/6) and pointed out that the committee was unanimous on the need for closer co-operation among the ALG and ECOWAS in the area of road networks.

37. It also informed the meeting of some subregional projects in the field of sea transport (such as the CEAO project) which were aimed at creating a community shipping line, like the one operating within the MRU or the Great African Shipping Company, created by Togolese private businessmen.

38. The Secretariat also recalled that there were plans to incorporate the Association's transport committee into the Transport Development Decade as part of the West African subregional group composed of CEAO, ECOWAS, ALG, OMVS, CILSS and NBA.

39. The meeting adopted the report after discussions during which it transpired that the United Nations Transport Development Decade was also devoted to the development of telecommunications.

C- TRADE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

40. The Secretariat presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/7) and informed the participants on the progress of the four studies conducted by the trade and finance committee which had been incorporated in the work programme of the ECOWAS, namely :

- the global study on the subregional market for the main agricultural and industrial products as well as services that were likely to be traded and provided in the West African subregion ;

- study on the mechanism for financing trade within the subregion
- the payments and foreign exchange management mechanisms in West Africa; and

- the study of ways and means towards effective and efficient implementation of measures taken at the subregional level in trade liberalization and decisions envisioned within the framework of the

harmonization of policies aimed at developing agricultural and industrial activities in West Africa.

It pointed out that, out of the four studies, only the first one had been conducted and that the ECOWAS was in the process of securing funds from Italy for the remaining studies. The Secretariat also reminded the participants of the recommendations of the committee meeting held at Ouagadougou, especially the recommendation that called on the CEAO and ECOWAS to intensify their co-operation towards the harmonization of their customs tariffs and formalities and charged the CEAO to organize a joint meeting involving the majority of IGOs.

41. In course of the discussions that followed, the participants suggested that the MULPOC should contact directly those IGOs concerned with a view to conducting the study on the harmonization of their activities in the fields of trade and finance. To this end, the BOAD and FAGACE expressed their readiness to consider any proposals in that direction. The participants encouraged, once more, the ECOWAS and the CEAO in their efforts towards the gradual harmonization of common external tariff and the regional co-operation tax. Furthermore, the committee was urged to desist from conducting new studies, the external financing of which often posed problems.

D. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

42. In the absence of this committee's lead agency, the Secretariat introduced document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/90/V/8) entitled : " Report of the fifth meeting of the Industrial Development Committee." It indicated that, the study on industrial survey aimed at ensuring better industrial integration of the subregion, which had to be undertaken by the committee had been suspended because CEAO had carried out a similar study while ECOWAS was in the process of conducting the same study under its industrial Master Plan. On the issue of the Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa, it was pointed out that the joint Secretariat of ECA/OAU/UNIDO had drafted a related working document for the various IGOs involved in the industrial sector and that ECOWAS was to make the necessary arrangements to convene a consultative meeting of all the IGOs to consider the draft programme of the second decade on the organisation of the African Industrial Day. It said that the committee had agreed to convene the industrial development committee meeting to draw up

a joint programme for the celebration of the Day, and stressed that IGOs should make the necessary budgetary arrangements to finance its preparation and celebration each year. The ECOWAS would be responsible for the co-ordination of such activities.

43. Concerning the exchange of information on the work programmes of the IGOs, the Secretariat noted that the Liptako Gourma Authority had, under its industrial programme, three priority activities : regional iron and steel industry based on the iron ore deposits of the region, regional cement industry , and regional phosphate fertilizer industry. The study showed that the existing plant had failed to meet the full requirements of the three member countries due to high distribution costs and that they had agreed to build a bigger factory based on nitrous gas and transfer the fertilizer plant to the phosphate site at Tahoua in Niger.

44. With respect to studies on industrial projects, the BOAD informed the committee of its readiness to provide those IGOs involved in the projects with the reports of regional studies it had financed, as it had done in the past. The studies focused on textile production, development of agricultural implements, pharmaceutical industries and so forth. As regards the Bank's contribution towards the financing of enterprises likely to be privatized, the BOAD pointed out that it was in the process of considering the best possible way of intervening in that area. Meanwhile, the Bank had funds to provide assistance and purchase shares in new private enterprises or public enterprises that were likely to be privatized in UMOA countries.

45. The main task of the CEAO in the field of industry, consisted in conducting a study on the regionalisation of existing industries and establishment of new regional industries in member States. The first phase of the study which was devoted to global analysis of the industrial situation in member States had been completed and approved, while the second phase which involves diagnostic study of enterprises likely to be regionalized would be carried out after the workshop on the new industrial policies of Members States scheduled for 1991 had been completed. In conclusion, he noted that under the ECOWAS industrial programme, the main activity envisaged was to

conduct a study aimed at preparing an Industrial Master Plan for the ECOWAS member States. The study was already under way and the first phase of the industrial survey had almost been completed. In addition, ECOWAS was also involved in activities aimed at providing training for industrial staff and support to the Federation of the Association of West African Industrialists which it assisted in establishing.

46. In the discussion that followed, the meeting emphasized the need to coordinate efforts at the level of the IGOs in order to avoid the errors of the first Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) which had made the Decade a lost opportunity for Africa. It was therefore stressed that the Chief Executives should give their full support towards the preparation of the Second Decade so as to make it more meaningful to the industrial development efforts in Africa.

47. With regards to the African Industrialization Day, some delegates felt that its celebration should be organised at the national level in conjunction with the IGOs located in those countries. Other delegates were of the opinion that while organization of celebrations at the national level could be undertaken in collaboration with the IGOs, sight should not be lost of the regional dimensions of such activities.

48. The Secretariat indicated that the meeting of the industrial development committee which was aimed at examining and drawing up of a joint programme for the celebration of the African Industrialization Day would consider all available options. It stressed, however, that the need to make the Day popular would require the efforts of all those concerned with industrial development activities in the subregion.

49. The meeting adopted the report.

E. TRAINING- INFORMATION

50. A representative of the Secretariat introduced document ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGOs/90/V/9) entitled, " Report of the Meeting of the Training and Information Committee". He informed the meeting that a decision had been made to replace the Pan-African Development Institute with the Inter-States

School for Rural Engineering (EIER) as lead agency of the Committee. With regards to the activities of the committee, the EIER informed the meeting that the school had been authorized by its Governing Council to undertake a survey on the ratio of training to employment with a view to enabling trained diploma holders to work in sectors other than in the civil service. The CEAO, he noted, had envisaged the organization of a training course in advanced accountancy at the African Center for Advanced Management Studies (CESAG) at Dakar subject to availability of funds. Furthermore, the CEAO had requested that the CESAG, ISSTH and CAMES recognize the diplomas awarded by its training institutes. In addition, CEAO would request its Governing Council to decide on transforming its five subregional training institutions--CESAG, ISSTH, School for mines and geology (EMIG), Advanced School for Industrial Textiles (ESITEX) and African Regional Center for Solar Energy (CRES)--into Regional institutions in view of the fact that the running cost of these institutions had outstripped current resources. The institutions, once transformed into regional institutions, would use French and English as working languages.

51. In an effort to strengthen the training activities within the subregion, the committee meeting made the following recommendations :

- development of cooperation agreements in training activities and discussion of the issue during the meeting of the Association of IGOs scheduled for February, 1991 ;
- promotion of co-ordinated training activities between two or several institutions.
- opening of subregional training centres in all African countries ;
- evolution of the training institutions towards greater autonomy in respect of their mode of management and funding.
- development of cooperation among IGOs in the dissemination of information ;
- systematic transmission of documents and reports of consultative meetings to the IGOs members of the Association ;

- convening of meetings of the Committee, at least, once a year, by the new lead agency, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Association, if need be.

52. Furthermore, after the committee had examined the terms of reference of the study on the harmonization of training and information activities in the subregion, it made the following recommendations :

- that the estimated costs should be revised upwards notably, in respect of professional fees, in order to attract more qualified consultants;
- that the search for financing for the study should be pursued;
- that the EIER, CAMES and CIEH should be included in the list of IGOs which the Consultant should meet during his mission to Ouagadougou ;
- that a seminar should be organized at the end of the study to discuss its findings and recommendations;
- that the EIER, which organizes seminars on regular basis should be contacted for joint consideration of the possibility of merging the seminars to reduce organizational costs.

53. The meeting adopted the report.

F. ENERGY COMMITTEE

54. The representative of the ECOWAS presented the report of the energy committee meeting (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/10) and laid stress on the need to prepare the draft constitution of this committee and exchange information among the IGOs on their activities in the field of energy. The CEAO, lead agency of this committee, also informed the meeting about the activities it had undertaken just after the energy committee meeting held in November 1990 at Ouagadougou. In compliance with the recommendations of this meeting, the CEAO informed the participants to the various meetings of the UPDEA, ADB and the World Bank on the significance of the activities of the Energy Committee.

With respect to the meeting of the national policy makers held from 11 to 14 March 1991 at Lagos, on the identification of multinational projects likely to be financed by the European Development Fund (EDF), within the framework of Lome IV, the representative of the CEAO pointed out to the participants that priority was not accorded to energy at the above-mentioned Lagos meeting.

55. During the discussions that followed, the participants congratulated the CEAO for its efforts at promoting the energy committee and decided to formulate a special recommendation to accord the same priority to energy as other projects adopted at the meeting held at the ECOWAS headquarters in Lagos. The meeting adopted the report.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WEST AFRICAN DOCUMENTATION
AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (WADIS)
(Agenda item 6.II. A).

56. The Secretariat gave a short background to the WADIS. It informed the participants that WADIS was one of the regional and national information centers created by the PADIS. Initially, the government of Niger provided a building for the WADIS, but could not be renovated for lack of funds.

57. The ECA agreed to house the organization in a recently renovated library at the MULPOC after installing a stabilizer and two split air-conditioning systems. However, problems of staff were not resolved until 1990.

58. The government of Niger responded favourably to the MULPOC's request for staff to manage the center and provided one computer specialist and one agricultural economist remunerated from UNDP subventions to the country (CIP). In addition, the UNDP provided a building to the MULPOC to house the WADIS after renovation works had been financed by the UNDP.

59. The computer specialist, who is already at post, explained the benefit that the various information centers in the subregion could derive from the WADIS network by hooking up with it in due course.

60. In this connection the Secretariat recommended that a resolution expressing the Association's support to the WADIS center should be adopted and presented to the conference. This action was necessary in view of the adverse report on the centre prepared by the evaluation team commissioned by the funding agencies.

61. The computer specialist explained the technicalities involved in hooking up with the WADIS network.

62. The Committee of experts demanded that a familiarization tour should be organized in the sub-region in that connection.

63. Having congratulated the MULPOC for the encouraging results achieved, thus far, the meeting requested the specialist to prepare a written summary of his intervention on account of the technical nature of his work.

PUBLICATION OF THE DIRECTORY

(Agenda item 6 11 B)

64. The Secretariat presented the document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/13) on the above-mentioned issue and recalled the mandate given to it by the 4th conference of the Association to publish the directory. It also stated that the directory had been updated and printed for the first time at the expense of the Association.

65. During the discussions, certain errors and omissions were discovered in the directory and the Secretariat was called upon to correct them.

66. The meeting requested the IGOs to communicate to the Secretariat, changes they would like to effect in the directory on 31 July of each year, at the latest.

PUBLICATION OF LIAISON BULLETIN

(Agenda item 6 11 c)

67. The Secretariat introduced the document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/14) and recalled that despite the successive mandates given to the Secretariat by the various IGO meetings to publish the bulletin, it had still not been published. For that reason, and in compliance with the MULPOC's mandate to be involved further in the implementation of work programmes of IGOs, the meeting called on the MULPOC to include this project in its 1992 - 1993 work programme.

68. Furthermore, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the main obstacle to the publication of the bulletin was lack of a qualified staff for that purpose at the MULPOC and proposed the recruitment of a journalist locally as soon as funds had been provided by the Association in accordance with the recommendations of the meeting of the Follow-up and Evaluation Committee.

69. The meeting adopted the report.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Agenda item 6 II D)

70. The Secretariat presented document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/91/V/15), and informed the meeting about the progress made in the signing of the Co-operation Agreement and stated that, so far, twenty one IGOs had already signed it.

71. The meeting took note of the report and called on the defaulting IGOs to sign the Agreement without further delay.

REPORT ON THE FINANCING OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES OF WEST AFRICAN IGOs

(Agenda item 7)

72. The Secretariat presented the document (ECA/MULPOC/NIA/IGO/90/V/II) and pointed out that in accordance with resolution 1/IGO/IV/89 which institutionalized the annual contribution of 1,400 dollars by each member of the Association only 2 IGOs had, so far, paid up.

73. The situation was deplored by the Secretariat which stated that, that could hinder the implementation of the work programme of the Association.

74. The lengthy discussions which followed revealed the preference of the majority of IGOs to pay their contribution once every two years to facilitate payment, on account of financial difficulties facing them.

75. The meeting requested that a draft resolution on the issue should be prepared and submitted to the members of the 5th conference of Chief Executives.

REFLECTION ON THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

(Agenda item 8)

76. The Chairman of the meeting introduced this agenda item and informed the meeting that his organization had prepared a document to be submitted directly to the 5th conference of Chief Executives of the IGOs.

77. After exchanging opinions on the issue, the meeting recommended that an ad-hoc committee should be created to prepare a report for the meeting of the Follow-up and Evaluation Committee of the Association. This report should be discussed at a special session of the Chief Executives.

REORGANIZATION OF THE MULPOC : FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE EVALUATION TEAM OF THE MULPOCs WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THEM

(Agenda item 9).

78. The Secretariat gave a brief background to the evaluation team, its conclusions and recommendations as well as the decisions of the ECA's conference of Ministers held in May 1990 at Tripoli.

79. The evaluation team had highlighted the ineffectiveness of the MULPOCs due mainly to a mismatch between the financial and human resources and the role played by the MULPOCs. The evaluation team reiterated, however, that the initial mandate of these centers is more valid today than it was 12 years ago.

80. The recommendations of the evaluation team were adopted by the Conference of Ministers held at Tripoli and included the need for closer co-operation with the IGOs at the level of operational activities and those concerning the Association. Their implementation was already included in the MULPOC's 1992-1993 biennial work programme which had also taken over some of the activities that the Association could not carry out due to lack of resources.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE MULPOC FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1993
(agenda item 10)

81. The Secretariat presented briefly those parts of the programme that concerned the Association. He pointed out that the publication of the liaison bulletin of the IGOs and the seminar on production-led integration based on comparative advantage had been fully incorporated into its 1992-1993 biennial work programme and had been submitted to its decision-making organs.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE 5th
CONFERENCE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
WEST AFRICAN IGOs
(Agenda item 11)

82. The meeting adopted, after amendment, the agenda and programme of work for the meeting of the Chief Executives.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS
(agenda item 12)

83. The meeting proposed that the next meeting of the Association should be held at the same venue and just before the meetings of the Niamey-based MULPOC policy organs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(agenda item 13)

84. There was no discussion of this issue.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
(Agenda item 14)

85. The report and five draft resolutions were adopted, after amendment, to be presented to the 5th Conference of Chief Executives of the Association.

CLOSING SESSION
(agenda item 15)

86. In his closing speech, the representative of the OMVS, on behalf of the current Chairman of the Association, also expressed his gratitude to the host country for providing all those facilities which contributed immensely to the success of the meeting. He then thanked the participants for their effective participation in the proceedings of the meeting.

87. Having congratulated the Ministry of Planning for its constant assistance to the MULPOC in organizing this Conference, he finally expressed the hope that the present meeting would be seen as a crucial step-forward in the strengthening and revitalization of the Association.

88. The representative of the Government of Niger, the Deputy Director of Research, Economic Analysis, and Projections on behalf of the Minister of Planning, warmly congratulated the participants to the meeting for the extent of work done under difficult circumstances. He expressed his conviction that the proposals and the recommendations arising from the deliberations would be useful to the Chief Executives when deciding, especially on the resources to be provided to the Association.

89. Finally, he declared the 5th meeting of the Committee of Experts of West African Intergovernmental Organizations closed.

ANNEXES

- I - PRESENTATION OF THE WADIS
- II - DRAFT RESOLUTION
- III - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX 1

PRESENTATION OF THE WADIS

1. The WADIS is a subregional centre for the development of information system in West Africa. It forms part of the Pan African Development Information System (PADIS) and has the following as its main functions :

- To educate users of documentation centers in the subregion, on the importance of information ;

- To promote activities connected with information and documentation ;

- To provide, when necessary and on request, advice on data management ;

Future prospects

2. The PADIS organized, from 23 February to 4 March 1991 in Addis Ababa, its first course in computer science network in Africa. In response to the need to hook the regional centers with this network, the participants underwent an intensive course on informatics and computer-aided telecommunications technology.

3. The implementation of the project would enable :

- the various documentation centers to gain general access to scientific and economic data bases ¹ or banks ²

¹ Data bases : A unique source for storing all the information needed for the automatic processing of data on enterprises.

² Data banks : Structured and complete source of data on a particular subject.

- the equipment installed at the centres (computers, terminals, transmission equipment) to liaise among themselves through the use of all types of codes (voice, data, images).

Support for PADIS

4. In order to implement the project, the PADIS provided gratis, all the centres with appropriate software meant for the transmission of information (Frontdoor, Mte, Procomm) and other types of equipment such as Modems.

~~Suggestions and recommendations~~

5. The importance of such a subregional project could not be underestimated. That was why, officials at the meeting needed to :

- Support the project by offering advice and concrete proposals to the staff of the various centres.

- Explain the essence of the project and the related advantages.

- Explain the information revolution through computer-aided documentation and research.

- Encourage the staff of the various local documentation centres to co-operate with the WADIS.

ANNEX II

DRAFT RESOLUTION N°1/IGO/V/91 ON FINANCING THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
THE PERIOD 1992-1993

The fifth Conference of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations held on 25 and 26 March 1991 at Niamey,

Recalling resolution 4/IGO/IV/89 of the fourth conference of the Association,

Aware of the problems facing the Secretariat in its efforts to mobilize external resources and the need to conduct the activities of the Association,

Considering the financial difficulties plaguing most of the intergovernmental organizations;

DECIDES:

- 1) to call on all the intergovernmental organizations to continue to contribute to the activities of the Association ;
- 2) scale down the contribution of each intergovernmental organization to 1,400 dollars payable every two years ;
- 3) to appeal to members of the Association to pay up their contributions regularly ;

DRAFT RESOLUTION N°2/IGO/V/91 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE WEST AFRICAN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION
SYSTEM (WADIS)

The fifth Conference of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations held on 25 and 26 March 1991 at Niamey,

Considering the importance of information in the process of development,

Considering further that the creation of the West African Documentation and Information System (WADIS) had reached an advanced stage,

DECIDES :

1) To congratulate the Government of Niger, the UNDP and the MULPOC for the efforts made towards the establishment of the WADIS centre ;

2) To call on the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to involve all the intergovernmental organizations in the activities of the Centres.

DRAFT RESOLUTION N° 3/IGO/V/91 ON PRIORITY TO BE
ACCORDED THE ENERGY SECTOR UNDER THE LOME IV
CONVENTION ON WEST AFRICAN
ENERGY PROGRAMME

The fifth conference of the Association of West African
Intergovernmental Organizations held on 25 and 26 March 1991.

Considering the role energy plays in economic development,

Considering the various decisions of the council of Ministers of member States of the Niamey-based MULPOC relating to the establishment of sectoral committees by the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations, particularly in the field of energy,

Considering further that at the second meeting of national policy makers of countries and intergovernmental organizations of the West African Subregion held from 11 to 14 March 1991 at Lagos, energy was not accorded the same priority as other sectors under the EDF African programme,

DECIDES :

1) to launch a constant appeal for the energy sector to be accorded the same priority as other sectors by the meeting of the national policy-makers and intergovernmental organizations held at the ECOWAS headquarters in Lagos;

2) to call on each intergovernmental organization to contribute towards the realization of this objective.

DRAFT RESOLUTION N°4/IGO/V/91 ON THE CREATION OF A SECTORAL
COMMITTEE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RIVER AND LAKE
BASINS

The fifth conference of the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations held on 25 and 26 march 1991 at Niamey,

Considering the importance of water resources for development in member States of the Subregion,

Considering the need to harmonize the work programmes of the organizations responsible for the development of river and lake basins,

Aware of the need to reverse the negative economic trend prevailing in the sub-region ,

DECIDES :

- to create a sectoral committee to be responsible for the development of river and lake basins.

DRAFT RESOLUTION N°5/IGO/V/91 ON THE CREATION OF AN AD - HOC
COMMITTEE TO REFLECT ON THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The fifth conference of Association of the West African Intergovernmental Organizations held on 25 and 26 March 1991 at Niamey

Considering the problems connected with the implementation of activities of the Association ;

Considering further the need to re-vitalize the Association and enable it play the role assigned to it ;

DECIDES :

1) to create and ad - hoc committee to reflect on the future of the Association ;

2) to raise the number of the committee members to 10 including the CEAO, ECOWAS, CILSS, EIER, CIEH, BOAD, ASF, FAGACE, OMVS, CEBV with the MULPOC acting as the Secretariat ;

3) to consider the report of the OMVS as the working document of the ad - hoc committee ;

4) to convene a meeting for the ad - hoc committee at the end of May 1991 at the headquarters of the current Chairman of the Association

5) to convene a special meeting of the Conference of Chief Executives in July 1991 to deliberate on the achievements of the Committee.

ANNEXE III

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS / LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AUTORITE DU BASSIN DU NIGER (ABN)

Monsieur OULD ALY OUMAR, Hydrologue principal

BANQUE CENTRALE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (BCEAO)

Monsieur GAGERE OUMAROU, Sous Directeur du Service des Etudes

BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT (BOAD)

Monsieur HASSANE SEYNI GANDA, Ingénieur Agronome
Monsieur FAYAMA ANDRE, Chargé de la Coopération

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEAO)

Monsieur IDE ISSAKA, Directeur du développement industriel

Monsieur OULD KHALIFA, Directeur du développement rural

COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)

Monsieur FRANCK OFEI, Directeur Recherche et Statistiques

COMITE INTER - AFRICAIN D'ETUDES HYDRAULIQUES (CIEH)

Monsieur CHABI - GONNI DANIEL

COMITE PERMANENT INTER-ETATS DE LUTTE CONTRE LA SECHERESSE DANS LE SAHEL (CILSS)

Monsieur THIAM AMADOU, Chef de Service

COMMISSION MIXTE NIGERO - NIGERIANNE DE COOPERATION (CMNNC)

Monsieur GADO BOUREIMA, Directeur des Affaires Economiques

FONDS AFRICAIN DE GARANTIE ET DE COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE (FAGACE)

Monsieur SAMB LIBASSE, Chef de Service Administratif

FONDS DE SOLIDARITE AFRICAINE (FSA)

Mlle SIDIBE RAMATOU. Juriste

Monsieur NOUDJALTA ALLASRA Analyste des Projets

ORGANISATION POUR LA MISE EN VALEUR DU FLEUVE SENEGAL (OMVS)

Monsieur WANE MAMADOU, Chef Service communication et Relations Extérieures

OBSERVATEURS

NIGER

Monsieur ABDOUSALE ABDOULAHY, chef division réformes du secteur rural

Monsieur MAHAMANE ABDEL KADER, chef de service aménagement du territoire
Ministère du Plan