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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Report of the 19th Meeting of the Inter-Agency
Coordinating Committee (IACC), UNTACDA II
Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)
18 - 19 November 1994**

A. Introduction

1. The 19th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) of UNTACDA II was held in Abidjan at the African Development Bank's Headquarters from 18 to 19 November, 1994.
2. The following members of the IACC participated in the Meeting: African Development Bank (ADB), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA, Chairman of IACC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA); Maghreb Arab Union (UMA); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC), The Northern Corridor and Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR).
3. The list of participants is attached herewith as annex I.

B. Opening of Meeting

4. Mr. Mpekesa BONGOY, representing the Executive Secretary of ECA who is Chairman of IACC, opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants and thanking them for having made their participation to the Meeting possible and effective. He thanked ADB in particular for having made appropriate administrative and logistic arrangements for the conduct of the 19th IACC Meeting in ADB's Headquarters.
5. Mr. Bongoy said that at the launching of UNTACDA II in 1991, there was much hope and optimism about the Decade Programme since its preparation had been meticulously and professionally made by all the major partners concerned such as the World Bank, UN Specialized Agencies and African IGOs and NGOs. In March 1993, during the 18th Meeting of IACC held in Addis Ababa, the following major issues were considered: establishment and functioning of the National Coordination Committees (NCCs); admission of new projects into the UNTACDA II programme; resource mobilization; linkage between UNDP National and Regional IPFs; prioritization of Decade Projects; terms of reference of the sub-sectoral working groups and participation of working groups in RMC activities.
6. Concerning NCCs, he said that all indications available up to then continued to show that NCCs were still largely ineffective. Out of about 40 NCCs so far established, fewer than ten could be considered as fully functional and effective. The main problem which seemed to hamper their functioning was said to be the lack of financial resources or, more specifically, the lack of support by member States.

7. With regard to new projects, no new projects had been admitted into UNTACDA II programme; however 39 projects had so far been recommended by the RMC for admission. In that connexion and without preempting the recommendations of the UNTACDA II mid-term evaluation, it was timely and advisable that the IACC should think seriously about the content of Phase II of the UNTACDA II programme: wasn't it advisable that Phase II were focused only on sub-regional and regional projects and activities? The past experience ought to be instrumental in formulating new and promising ideas to the Ministers in March 1995.
8. Regarding the mobilization of resources, the meeting would have the opportunity to be informed on the outcome of the RMC meeting held on 16-18 November 1995. Notwithstanding that, the IACC was required to seriously consider the implications of the lack of resources for the implementation of the Decade activities on future course of their efforts and proposals.
9. The idea of linking UNDP national and regional IPFs had not been successful in view of the fact that such linkage was to result from initiatives by member States, the main beneficiaries. Unfortunately, such initiatives and/or support had not been forthcoming.
10. With respect of the terms of reference of the sub-sectoral working groups, be indicated that all the sub-sectoral working groups - eight in all, namely: roads, rail, air, urban transport, water-based transport, telecommunications, postal services and manufacture industries - had adopted their respective terms of reference. Some of them had launched activities but were handicapped by lack of funds.
11. Regarding the participation of working groups in the RMC, all the lead agencies of the working groups were being routinely invited to meetings of the RMC. However, despite the clear understanding that agencies and organizations were to bear the cost of their participation in activities of the RMC, most of them had been able to participate only because ECA was able to fund them.
12. In view of the fact that ECA had exhausted the little funds it had for support to organizations and institutions, all organizations were being requested to regard activities of the Decade as part of their routine operations and to budget for these in their programmes. That and other matters relating to resources for the efficient functioning of the organs of UNTACDA II and the implementation of the programme in general was to be critically examined by IACC within the context of its review of the mid-term evaluation report.
13. The main agenda item of the 19th Meeting of IACC dealt with the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II. In that respect, a report had been prepared by three independent consultants recruited by ECA and examined by RMC during its meeting that

had just ended. Future progress of UNTACDA II would crucially depend on the outcome of the review and implementation, by the IACC and other organs of the Decade, of the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation report.

14. While there should be some concern about the situation of the Decade, there was no need to panic because the actual implementation of UNTACDA II was barely three years old, and there was still an opportunity to take urgent corrective measures to steer the programme back to the desired course. It was therefore the responsibility of the IACC to make appropriate recommendations to the Ministers on the way forward for the Decade Programme, taking fully into consideration, inter alia, the analysis, findings, proposals and recommendations contained in the mid-term evaluation report.

C. Account of proceedings

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

15. The following agenda was proposed by ECA and adopted by the Meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Reports on the implementation of UNTACDA II:
 - (a) Report of the lead agency;
 - (b) Report of the RMC;
 - (c) Reports of sub-regional working groups;
 - (d) Reports of sub-sectoral working groups.
4. Consideration of the report of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II programme
5. Draft agenda for the meeting of experts
6. Any other business
7. Date and venue of next meeting
8. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

16. The following organization of work was also proposed and adopted.

Friday, 18 November 1994

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| 08:00 - 09:00 | - | Registration |
| 09:00 - 11:00 | - | Opening session (agenda item 1) |
| | - | Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (agenda item 2) |
| | - | Reports on the implementation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 3) |
| 11:00 - 11:30 | - | Coffee break |
| 11:30 - 12:30 | - | Consideration of the report of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 4) |
| 12:30 - 14:30 | - | Lunch break |
| 14:30 - 16:00 | - | Consideration of the report of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 4 cont.) |
| 16:00 - 16:15 | - | Coffee break |
| 16:15 - 18:00 | - | Consideration of the report of the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 4 cont.) |
| | - | Draft agenda for the meeting of experts (agenda item 5) |
| | - | Any other business (agenda item 6) |
| | - | Date and venue of next meeting (agenda item 7) |

Saturday, 19 November 1994

- | | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Morning | - | Preparation of draft report of the meeting |
| Afternoon | | |
| 15:00 - 17:00 | - | Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 8) |

Reports on the implementation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 3)

17. During the Fifteenth Meeting of RMC held in Abidjan on 16-18 November 1994, a number of participating agencies presented their reports on the implementation of UNTACDA II programme. These were: ECA, UNCTAD, ADB, ECOWAS, UNDP, PTA, UMA, ACP and UPU. Since the report of that RMC meeting was available to IACC, it was felt that those agencies which had presented their reports to the RMC would not present them again to the IACC. Therefore, under this agenda item, only ITU, MINCONMAR, the Northern Corridor and ECCAS presented their reports.

Northern Corridor

18. The permanent Secretariat of the Transit Transport Coordinating Authority of the Northern Corridor (Northern Corridor) was very supportive of the UNTACDA II Programme. Without repeating the progress of the programme in the subregion (Eastern and southern Africa) which had been presented by the PTA, the lead organisation, the Northern Corridor representative drew the participants' attention to two considerations:

- (i) The Northern Corridor's current priority was to establish an information system (objective no. 5 of the Decade) which appeared to be imperative for the assessment of the results achieved in different projects. The programme of the activities, currently being finalised was to be sent to ECA through the lead agency, before the next meeting of Ministers.
- (ii) According to the consultant's report (page 10 of the English version), the Northern Corridor wasn't a member of any of the subsectoral working groups. It was advisable that the Northern Corridor should be a member of the roads and road transport, railways and the inland water transport working groups. The meeting had no objections to the proposal.

MINCONMAR

19. The MINCONMAR representative informed the meeting that eight (8) projects of the organisation approved by the UNTACDA II programme were considered in the SSATP programme and that funding has been secured.

20. In other aspects, the MINCONMAR representative informed the meeting of the recommendations made by his agency, that in order to better promote Decade projects and seek the necessary funding, the ECA as a lead agency, should continue to initiate pertinent actions to raise the awareness of member States, Intergovernmental Organizations and donors.

ECCAS

21. The representative of the General Secretariat of ECCAS apologised for not having a written statement or report for the meeting. He however promised to provide ECA with such a document before the next meeting of Ministers in Addis Ababa.

22. He informed the meeting that National Coordinating Committees had been established in all ECCAS States. The Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, mentioned in the Decade's mid-term evaluation report as not having established its NCC, had indeed its NCC and its national coordinator.

23. Concerning the activities of the working group of the subregion, it had not met since its establishment. However, concerning the list of approved projects in 1991, the ECCAS representative reported that all Member States of the subregion had presented projects and that the projects of Gabon had been approved by the last RMC meeting.

24. The representative expressed concern regarding one of the projects that had funding but had not started. He called upon the donors, especially the European Union, to facilitate the functioning of the monitoring committee of the project, by providing financial support from the allocated funds.

25. The ACP Group representative suggested that ECCAS could contact the EDF subregional Director who might authorise the financial support required for the monitoring committee referred to above. In case of difficulties, the ECCAS General Secretary could then directly contact the European Union.

ITU

26. The Representative of ITU, Mr. Mademba Cissé, stated that ITU had done its utmost to implement the decade activities assigned to it. However, lack of necessary funds prevented ITU from completing all the activities. In that connexion, he said that the IACC should closely look at ways and means of mobilizing funds necessary for the running of UNTACDA II's activities.

27. He gave an exhaustive account of the main events that had occurred in the areas of telecommunications and broadcasting (elections and nominations at ITU, ad hoc report on Rascom, etc.) to the meeting.

28. In conclusion, he suggested that effort should be made by those in charge of the implementation of UNTACDA II programme to involve the private sector in its issues.

Consideration of the Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of UNTACDA II (agenda item 4)

29. As already stated above, the report of the mid-term evaluation had been extensively examined by RMC during its meeting of 16-18 November 1994. Furthermore, since most of the members of IACC present in Abidjan on 18 November, 1994 had also participated in the meeting of RMC of 16-18 November 1994, it was resolved that the Chairman of the RMC would present to the IACC his committee's report on the issue of evaluation of UNTACDA II. Subsequently, Mr. K. Apetey, the Chairman of RMC, presented the RMC's report on evaluation of the Decade.

30. The recommendations which were reviewed and adopted by the RMC and endorsed by IACC are reproduced below:

1. **Recommendation 1:** The Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa should be considered as a framework for the development of transport and communications in Africa through a coordinated and cooperative effort among African countries and their organizations, and between Africa and the international development partners. In view of the fact that this framework already contains global and subsectoral objectives and strategies, an action programme for implementation at national, sub-regional and regional levels should be drawn up clearly specifying the following elements:
 - (i) time frame for implementation;
 - (ii) resource requirements, availability and their prospective sources;
 - (iii) allocation and delineation of responsibilities among the various parties.
2. **Recommendation 2:** The projects which are included in the current UNTACDA II document, "Volume II: Projects Approved in 1991", should be re-evaluated by the responsible executing agencies and organizations, in light of their regional impact as well as realistic assessment of resource which are likely to be available for their implementation.
3. **Recommendation 3:** Each participant in UNTACDA II should derive its biennium work programme from the relevant sections of the action programme for implementation. A consolidated publication will be prepared every two years by ECA as a compendium of the individual work programmes under the title "UNTACDA II: Biennium Work Programme". It will include all projects to be implemented at the sub-regional and regional levels by all the partners such as: policy formulation, restructuring, regional integration programmes, and coordination of different programmes in the region.

4. **Recommendation 4:** Information on UNTACDA II should be disseminated in a systematic manner among all its partners. In this regard, regular publications should be prepared and widely disseminated. Workshops, Seminars and symposia should be conducted on UNTACDA at national, sub-regional and regional levels. UNTACDA II Newsletter should more effectively utilized as a means for two-way communication of the Decade in which topical contributions from all partners are published. Similarly, Transport and Communications Forums should be organized in order to discuss issues of development of these sectors and disseminate information on UNTACDA II.
5. **Recommendation 5:** All possible sources of finance should be explored to support the operation activities of UNTACDA II mechanism in order to improve mobilization of resources for investment oriented projects of the countries and Africa IGOs. Specific appeals should be launched through the United Nations Trust Fund for Africa Development, in addition to requests for increased funding from the UN General Assembly from the regular budget of ECA and, if conditions change, UNDP should also be approached to continue its assistance to UNTACDA II through its regional IPF allocations. At the national level, governments should support NCC activities.
6. **Recommendation 6:** The RMC should reconsider the whole strategy of resource mobilization for the UNTACDA II programme. Specific plans of action and methods must be developed to mobilize resources, taking into account the availability of funds for Africa development projects in the various international financial institutions. Special attention must be given to financial planning and appraisal of reasonable level of funding targets to be available for project financing within the framework of the Decade Programme. Alternative sources of financing must be explored and courses of action must be mapped that incorporate a systematic linkage between the programme, projects and regional action programmes developed for the implementation of the Decade Programme.
7. **Recommendation 7:** Member States should, to the extent possible, internalize the functions of coordination within existing structures and only establish new mechanisms where no coordination organ exists and must provide both the necessary financial and human resources to enable them function effectively. Composition of the coordination organ should be broad-based, including the private sector, operators and users. In order to enable the focus of the coordination organ to remain relevant throughout the UNTACDA II programme, its terms of reference should be reviewed whenever necessary. In this regard, ECA should work closely with the subregional organizations in assisting the member States.

8. **Recommendation 8:** The future work programme of the RMC should be modified and reoriented to strictly focus on assisting countries in searching, arranging and securing funds for projects approved within the framework of the programme. The mandate of the RMC should be reviewed and its role clarified to the Decade partners, particularly the member States and IGOs.
9. **Recommendation 8:** The RMC must stay away from technical activities related to project preparation, studies, etc. Projects should be presented in a format and quality that is acceptable by the RMC in order for the committee to concentrate on effectively marketing the projects. In this regard, all institutions of the RMC must be encouraged to take a much more active role in support of the mandate of the RMC by availing their technical resources. Clear delineation of responsibilities between technical support and resource mobilization must be made in the mandate of the RMC.
10. **Recommendation 10:** The underlying reasons for the poor participation by some members in the activities of the RMC should be looked into more seriously. Any reservation and potential institutional conflicts with respect to the Decade Programme should be explicitly discussed and possibly resolved. Their participation in the activities of the RMC on a substantive level should be ensured for the remainder of the Decade.
11. **Recommendation 11:** Subregional strategies are the major constituent parts of the Decade strategy. Subregional Working Groups are to be entrusted with the assignment to draw up the regional action programmes and their role has thus to be strengthened and supported by the Subsectoral Working Groups.
12. **Recommendation 12:** The technical expertise and resources of SSWGs should be tapped systematically for the Decade Programme. These working groups should assist in the evaluation of projects in their fields of competence at the sub-regional levels. All possible efforts should be made to coordinate and integrate the African regional work programmes of the UN agencies with that of UNTACDA II.
13. **Recommendation 13:** ECA should clarify the persistent misperceptions that UNTACDA II is mainly a vehicle for external finance for national and sub-regional activities; that projects once included in the programme are automatically funded by the RMC; or the UNTACDA II is an ECA programme and as such the UN should provide the necessary funding for its implementation. In this regard, it should launch an information campaign to educate all the relevant Decade partners of its role in UNTACDA II. Furthermore, ECA should take a much more active role in its leadership of the Decade Programme while at the same time strengthening its capacity to provide the necessary technical assistance to support the

implementation of the programme.

14. **Recommendation 14:** The Sub-regional Working Groups, assisted by the Sub-Sectoral Working Groups, should urgently review and up-date their respective monitoring goals and targets and where appropriate, establish qualitative variables for some activities.
15. **Recommendation 15:** Firm commitments must be made by member States and the principal IGOs to strictly monitor and report on implementation status of all their projects.
16. **Recommendation 16:** All purely national projects which are designed to enhance the achievement of the UNTACDA II objectives should be handled completely at the subregional level by the principal IGO under its operating mandate. Information on such projects and their status of implementation should be contained in the reports of the principal IGOs to the IACC.
17. **Recommendation 17:** The various regional action programmes should be further refined to focus on priority topics for which financing can be obtained either from the budgets of participating organizations or from non-traditional sources. This category of projects should constitute the core of the programme.
18. **Recommendation 18:** Regional action should be initiated by the subsectoral working groups in order to develop a framework and range of options for countries that are considering commercialization or privatization of specific transport and communications sectors (such as port or ports operations, telecommunications, inland waterways, etc.)
19. **Recommendation 19:** In order to enable future assessments to be meaningful, it is imperative that complete and systematic monitoring indicators encompassing both quantitative and qualitative variables and covering both investment related and non-investment related projects and activities be instituted at each level of action. In addition, mid-course targets should also be defined.

Draft agenda for the meeting of experts (agenda item 5)

31. The following draft agenda for the meeting of experts in March 1995 was approved:
 1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Election of the Bureau

3. Adoption of the agenda and work programme
4. Report of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee on UNTACDA II (IACC)
5. Report on implementation of resolutions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications
6. Report of the first Mid-Term Evaluation of UNTACDA II Programme
7. Consideration of the Protocol on Transport and Communications of the Abuja Treaty (1991) establishing the African Economic Community (AEC)
8. Report on major regional projects of UNTACDA II:
 - (a) Single Bureau of the Trans-African Highways Authorities;
 - (b) Yamoussoukro Declaration on a New African Air Transport Policy;
 - (c) Human Resource and Institutional Development Programme;
 - (d) Transport Data Programme.
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of the report and closure of meeting.

Any other business (agenda item 6)

32. No matter was raised under this agenda item.

Date and venue of next meeting (agenda item 7)

33. The next IACC meeting will be held in Addis Ababa at the ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa from 13 to 14 March, 1995.

Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 8)

34. Since the main agenda item of the 19th IACC meeting dealt with the report of the mid-term evaluation of the Decade, and since the report and recommendations of RMC were approved and endorsed, the meeting agreed that its report approved in its substance, would be finalized by ECA and sent to all IACC members well in advance of the next IACC meeting.

35. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Mpekesa BONGOY renewed ECA's thanks to all the participants and to ADB and invited all IACC members to participate in the 20th meeting of IACC which would be held in Addis Ababa and closed the 19th Meeting of the IACC.

List of Participants

African Development Bank (ADB)

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