



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Multinational Programming
and Operational Centre
Gisenyi (MULPOC)**

**Distr.
LIMITED
ECA/GSY/MUL/C.I.E./III/23
April 1995
ENGLISH
Original:FRENCH**

**Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts: 18-21 April 1995
ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

**REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE GISENYI-BASED MULPOC
ADDIS ABABA, 18-21 APRIL 1995**

Corrigendum

Page 1:

Paragraph 3 (ii)

Instead of " Permanent Secretary (SEP/CEPGL)
To read " Permanent Secretariat (SEP/CEPGL)

Page 4:

Paragraph 25

Instead of "..... Tanzania, the representative of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of CEPGL (SEP/CEPGL)"

To read " Tanzania, Zambia, Belgium, Russia, and the representative of the permanent Executive Secretariat of the CEPGL (SEP/CEPGL)."

Page 12:

Paragraph 67

Instead of " the meeting took drew attention"
To read " the meeting drew attention"

Page 20:

Paragraph 143 line 4

Instead of " national carrier"
To read " national carriers ..."

Page 21:

Paragraph 146

Instead of " Bulletin no. 8 in its, an editorial"
To read " Bulletin no. 8 in its editorial"



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PART ONE: OPENING OF THE MEETING

I. ORGANIZATION

1. The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC was held from 18 to 21 April 1995, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and provisional headquarters of the Gisenyi MULPOC.

II. OPENING

(Agenda Item 1)

2. The opening session was chaired by the head of the Burundian delegation and the outgoing chairman of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts, **Mr. Ndikuriyo Egide**, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Burundi in Ethiopia.

3. During the opening ceremony, four statements were made by, respectively :

- i) His Excellency, **Mr. Bomina-N'soni**, Zairian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Dean of ambassadors of the three states covered by the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire which constitute the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes (CEPGL);
- (ii) **Mr. Vundji**, Acting Executive Secretary of the CEPGL Permanent Secretary (SEP/CEPGL)
- (iii) **Mr. M.D. Sarr**, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;
- (iv) **Mr. Ndikuriyo Egide**

4. His Excellency, **Mr. Bomina-N'soni**, Zairian Ambassador, welcomed the delegates and thanked the Ethiopian authorities for their warm welcome. He also thanked, on behalf of CEPGL member countries, the ECA Secretariat for having temporarily hosted the Gisenyi-based MULPOC in Addis Ababa, to enable it to implement its activities.

5. He stressed that in accordance with the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Acts of Lagos and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, MULPOC is in the vanguard with regard to the Great Lakes subregional development activity programmes and regional socio-economic integration.

6. He appealed to the participants, despite the gloomy situation prevailing in the Great Lakes countries in particular, and throughout Africa in general, to commit themselves to efforts aimed at substantially improving the welfare of the populations of the subregion which should be considered as part and parcel of the African Economic Community.

7. **Mr. Vundji** thanked MULPOC for the contribution it had made to enable CEPGL to attend the meeting and commended it for the quality of work undertaken in such difficult circumstances.

8. He stressed that the activities presented by MULPOC reflect the ideas adapted by the BDEGL SEP/CEPGL - MULPOC consultative meeting on the execution of joint CEPGL and Community projects and involving the principal sectors of food and agriculture, industry, energy, commerce and finance, transport, communications and tourism.

9. For his part, he stated that SEP/CEPGL will take the necessary measures to alleviate obstacles to the implementation of this project, for example discrepancies in the interpretation of terms of reference for studies, non-estimation of budget lines for the completion of these studies and non-involvement of the communities' specialized organs in such projects.

10. He informed the meeting of the resumption of activities of the SEP/CEPGL, which managed to organise the second Extraordinary Summit of Heads of States which focused on the following two essential items:

- joint security in the three countries for which appropriate solutions have been found;
- the definition of the domains of SEP/CEPGL intervention that need to be intensified to make them more effective and to facilitate rapid resumption of its activities. A unit for the re-launching of activities has been established, it comprises the staff of 15 - 20 persons instead of the previous 80, divided into three basic departments responsible for:
 - (i). commerce, payments, the movement of persons and security;
 - (ii). agriculture, industry, the environment and scientific research;
 - (iii). transport and communications, energy and tourism.

11. Mr. Vundji draw the meeting's attention to the fact that the recent restructuring of the SEP/CEPGL requires everybody's support to enable it to discharge its mission. He therefore appealed to the meeting to assist SEP/CEPGL in accomplishing its responsibilities.

12. In his speech, the **Acting Executive Secretary** of the ECA underscored the persistence of the recession which has characterized world economic activity and among other things brought about the decline in developed countries' demands for raw materials, a surplus of certain export crops and a stagnation in world market prices.

13. For African countries, the implications of this hostile international environment were compounded by domestic factors that considerably jeopardized their development efforts: turbulent political transitions, social upheavals and civil wars, substantial devaluation of some national currencies, drying up of public development aid, increasing indifference among foreign investors. While the growth rates for the entire continent remained very low -between 0.4 and 1.6 per cent - the population growth rate exceeded 3 per cent. For the member States of the Great Lakes subregion, the growth rate declined from -7.3 to -7.8 per cent between 1990 and 1992, owing to internal conflicts which accounted for hundreds of thousands of deaths and injured persons, millions of refugees and displaced persons and extensive destructions of economic and social infrastructures.

14. Regarding the commercial sector, he strongly stressed the importance of the conclusions of the Uruguay Round, the creation of the World Trade Organization and the establishment of regional groupings among developed countries, all of which compel African states to speed up their economic integration process to avoid being marginalised on the world market.

15. Concerning States of the Great Lakes subregion, he defined some priorities for sustainable economic recovery:

- return to peace and normal institutional life;
- aid for rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- acceleration of the process of integration and,
- implementation of development policies aimed at re-establishing macro-economic balances,

improved complementarity of production machinery and winning back their markets for food products and other perishable consumer goods.

16. He highlighted the efforts made for the countries of the subregion by the ECA through the Gisenyi-based MULPOC during the 1994-1995 biennium and which culminated in the realization of several studies to be discussed by this meeting.

17. Finally, he restated the Commission's commitment to continue working in this spirit to facilitate the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, the rationalization of African institutions for regional cooperation and urged States of the subregion to resolutely follow suite.

18. Having thanked the ECA Executive Secretariat for enabling the Gisenyi-based MULPOC to realize its activities in the wake of the unfortunate events that afflicted Rwanda, the outgoing Chairman of the Committee reiterated the priority areas of MULPOC assistance to the CEPGL countries, notably, agriculture and rural development, industry, energy, transport and communication, trade, and matters concerning human resources.

19. He stressed that, in spite of a rather hostile international economic environment and numerous socio-political, financial and structural problems, a number of activities had been or were in the process of being conducted.

20. In the area of food and agriculture, a study on the harmonization of agricultural policies within KBO member countries was conducted. Concerning the industrial sector, a study was carried out on technologies designed to increase the production of edible oils. As for energy and natural resources, a study was conducted on the mineral potential of the Kagera Basin and its exploitation-related transport needs. Pertaining to trade, representatives of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC attended a national workshop on the implementation of the joint programme of action designed to facilitate cross-border trade, payments and investments in Eastern and Southern Africa. And MULPOC conducted a study on cross border trade in food products in CEPGL countries.

21. Regarding the area of transport and communication, MULPOC was represented at the national workshop on inland water transport in Rwanda and conducted the following five studies: the study on CEPGL water ways as from the Kisangani Port, the study on Fleet-planning and the financial study on the joint CEPGL Airline, the study on subregional cooperation between CEPGL countries and other riparian countries concerning the maintenance and navigability of the channels of Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika, the study on the harmonization of the national transport policies of KBO countries and the Northern Corridor and the study on the need to dredge the Lake Kivu port. As part of the programme to integrate women in development, the Gisenyi-based MULPOC published bulletin No.8 and No.9 of Newsletter "Women in Development". Concerned about the continuing deterioration of the socio-economic situation in CEPGL countries, the Gisenyi-based MULPOC drafted a progress report on the socio-economic situation of the subregion.

22. He then summed up the socio-political and economic situation prevailing in the Community characterized by unprecedented uncertainty and turmoil.

23. He stressed that while carrying out its mission, MULPOC had encountered numerous, situational, structural and financial difficulties arising from this state of affairs; these did not however hold back the efforts made to strengthen subregional collaboration and integration in conformity with the objectives of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community.

III. ATTENDANCE

24. Representatives of the three member States of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire attended the Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

25. Also attended the meeting, in an observer capacity, Tanzania, the representative of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the CEPGL (SEP/ CEPGL).

26. The ECA also attended the proceedings.

27. The complete List of participants is hereto attached as Annex 1.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(Agenda Item 2)

28. The following officers were elected:

CHAIRMAN	:	ZAIRE
VICE CHAIRMAN	:	RWANDA
RAPPORTEUR	:	BURUNDI

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

(Agenda Item 3)

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Report of the Director on the implementation of the work programme and priorities.
ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/04.
5. Evaluation report on the socio-economic situation of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), within the framework of the strengthening of subregional economic integration. Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/05
6. Thorough review of the implementation of the work programme for the biennium:
 - 6.1 Food and Agriculture
 - 6.2 Industry
 - 6.3 Energy and Natural resources
 - 6.4 Trade
 - 6.5 Transport and Communications
 - 6.6 Women and Development
7. Information notes
 - 7.1 Information note on activities of the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group in the Gisenyi-based MULPOC Subregion. (CEPGL and KBO). Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/18
 - 7.2 Report on the BDELGL-SEP/CEPGL-MULPOC consultative meetings on reflections for the execution of joint CEPGL and Community projects.
Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/19

- 7.3 Information note on cooperation between CEPGL and KBO in 1994. Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/20
8. Draft work programme and priorities for the 1996-1997 biennium. Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/21.
9. Preparations for the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole/Twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning. Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/22.
10. Any other business
11. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.
12. Consideration and adoption of the report and recommendations. Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/23.
13. Closing of the third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC.
29. Regarding its work programme, the Meeting decided to hold its sessions as follows:
- Mornings : from 10:00 to 13.00
Afternoons: from 16:00 to 18:30

PART TWO

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES

(Agenda item 4)

(DOC. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ ICE/III/O4)

30. The Director of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC presented a report on the implementation of the work programme and priorities, notably for the year 1994 of the biennium 1994-1995.

31. These activities were partly financed by the ordinary ECA budget, and by extraordinary funds allocated to the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, supplemented by UNDP Multisectorial Assistance Funds and the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD).

These activities are distributed among the principal development priority areas as follows:

-	General activities	:	3 projects/activities
-	Food and Agriculture	:	1 project/activity
-	Industrial development	:	1 project/activity
-	Energy and Natural resources	:	1 project/activity
-	Trade	:	3 projects/activities
-	Transport and Communications	:	6 projects/activities
-	Women and Development programme	:	2 projects/activities

32. General activities were featured in the following three documents:

- evaluation of the socio-economic situation of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL), within the framework of the strengthening of the subregional economic integration;
- the BDEGL/SEP/CEPGL-MULPOC consultative meeting on reflections for the execution of joint CEPGL and Community projects;
- draft work programme and priorities for the 1996-1997 biennium.

33. Concerning sectoral activities, the Director's report revealed that 12 study reports were either completed or in progress. The meeting was also informed about the difficulties that led to the delay in the initiation of the activities contained in the work programme and priorities of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC for the 1994-1995 biennium.

34. Following the sad events of April 1994 that brought both political and economic life to a standstill in Rwanda, the host country, the Gisenyi-based MULPOC and its staff were evacuated and stayed away from the headquarters until July 1994. He stated that in order to enable MULPOC to carry out its activities, it had been subsequently decided to transfer its headquarters to the ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. To this

end, the ECA provided MULPOC with facilities that enabled it to efficiently implement its work programme.

The Committee took note of the report.

II. EVALUATION REPORT ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION OF CEPGL COUNTRIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF STRENGTHENING OF SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

(Agenda item 5)

35. The Secretariat made a detailed presentation on the macro-economic and social trends in the Great Lakes countries during the 1990 -1993 period. This report reveals that the compounded effects of the world recession, and in particular the political turmoil that broke out in the subregion, considerably affected the economy of the Great Lakes countries, resulting in a perceptible decline of the GNP from approximately -7.3 to -7.8 per cent, and a deterioration of all other macro-economic indicators: national savings, investments, public finances, national and external debts, balance of payments, cash reserves, and inflation rates.

36. Concerning major export products in particular, production declined substantially towards the end of the period, -38.4 % and -25% for coffee in Rwanda and Burundi respectively, and -87% for copper in Zaire. There was a general downward trend in the market prices owing to the decrease in developed countries' demand for raw materials and basic commodities, and the breakdown over a long period of time of international agreements on the stabilization of prices.

37. The study highlighted the return to civil peace and normal institutional life in the three countries, assistance from the international community for rehabilitation and restoration programmes in Rwanda and Burundi, and the rationalization of subregional IGO activities within the framework of the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, as prerequisites for the achievement of prompt recovery and strengthening of the integration process.

38. Having stated these prerequisites, the study, *inter alia*, recommends the formulation of an agricultural policy aimed at solving the food deficit through projects and programmes designed to improve productivity in all CEPGL States, and through the expansion of cultivated areas in Zaire.

39. Pertaining to industries, the study recommends that the Community policy be aimed at the promotion of production units for perishable foodstuffs, textiles, hides and its by-products, household items, etc..construction materials, fertilizers and agricultural machinery, both to meet the populations' immediate requirements, to develop land and mineral resources and to reduce member States' foreign dependency.

40. The implementation of this policy would require the definition of a minimal level of tariff protection to be negotiated with the Bretton Woods institutions, industrial specialization among member States, regions and existing units, and more discriminate use of national and Community economic promotion structures.

41. Concerning commercial transactions, emphasis was laid on the negligible level of intra- CEPGL trade. Suggested solutions concern the ratification and effective enforcement of all the agreements concluded to this effect, the set up of a mechanism for offsetting fiscal revenue losses attributed to preferential regulations, the opportunity to substitute the single tax with a modified preferential system, and the collection and dissemination of commercial data, through a regional centre with an information exchange scheme.

42. Concerning institutions, the study underscores the need to refocus the action of the CEPGL Executive Secretariat on the definition and management of sectoral policies on integration and convergence criteria for macro-economic indicators. Its role would be strengthened by its involvement in negotiations

and in the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, and by the adoption of an equity mechanism that is necessary to make the integration process irreversible.

43. The Meeting took note of the clarity of the presentation and adopted the report with its recommendations.

**III. THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM
(AGENDA ITEM 6)**

6.1 Food and Agriculture (Agenda item 6.1)

**(a) The Food and Agricultural Situation in the two member States of the Kagera Basin
Organization (KBO): Tanzania and Uganda**

(Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ ICE/III/O6a)

44. Generally, the food and agricultural sector plays a dominant role in the economy of both countries. In Tanzania, it employs 85 per cent of the country's labour force and accounts for over 50 per cent of GNP and 75 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. In Uganda, it accounts for well over 55 per cent of the recorded GNP and practically 80 per cent of employment.

45. Recent developments with respect to food and agricultural activities in both countries appear to have predominantly focused on policy liberalization, production diversification and environmental protection. In liberalizing their policies, both countries tend to enhance the role of the private sector in agricultural development, with Tanzania treading more cautiously on the path of reforms.

46. In diversifying their agricultural production, both countries also lay pronounced emphasis on traditional and non-traditional cash crops. The principal cash crops include coffee, tea, cotton, sisal and tobacco while the non-traditional crops consist mainly of groundnuts, cowpeas, wine grapes, sunflower, soybeans, sesame, palm oil trees and copra.

47. In both countries, food security and food self-sufficiency constitute paramount objectives. Nonetheless, the strategies adopted to achieve these differ. In Tanzania, the government plays some role in the promotion of food security, while in Uganda, its responsibility is one of a purveyor of support services like research and extension with the private sector being a major actor.

48. During the last few years, the level of food production in Tanzania has been oscillating. It plunged to a low level in 1993/1994 and recovered slightly in 1994/95. The same trend was apparent for cash crops. After experiencing similar vicissitudes over the years, overall production in Uganda has manifested an upward trend for both food crops and cash crops, particularly so, since 1992. The country's liberalization policy and a rise in international prices (especially for coffee) have been contributory factors.

49. Notwithstanding this, export earnings from primary commodities (coffee, cotton, tea, etc.) have either stagnated or plummeted to lower levels. In Tanzania, export earnings have averaged US D 435 million annually, over the last few years. In Uganda, they flagged from US D 266 million (1988) to US D 150 million (1992).

50. The performance of the livestock sector in both countries has not been satisfactory. Among the pivotal reasons for this are the shortage of animal feed, the lack of suitable water points, the occurrence of drought and prevalence of endemic diseases such as rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). The level of fish harvest in Tanzania has shrunk while it has surged upwards in Uganda. For the most part, the inappropriateness of fishing equipment in Tanzania and the accelerated liberalization measures in Uganda have been contributory factors.

51. Both countries are busy finalizing or launching the implementation of environmental action plans, emphasizing the conservation, rational exploitation and expansion of natural resources like forests, soil, water and wildlife. A prominent feature of the plans is the formulation and execution of tropical forestry action plans. The problem with these plans is that there is a certain amount of feet-dragging in their implementation due to, partly, to the lack of ample resources and to bureaucratic impediments.

52. The priority areas identified in the sector for policy harmonization encompass adaptive agricultural research, environmental protection, production and utilization of agricultural inputs, inter-country trade and resettlement and inter-country movement of refugees.

53. On reviewing the study, the meeting made general observations aimed at improving harmonization of statistical data. It then sought to determine whether concrete examples on the harmonization of refugee policies to serve as a model in that domain could be proposed.

54. The Secretariat made note of the remarks and stated that specific examples of issues related to the harmonization of refugee policies are the selection of sites for the resettlement of these and the border control of their movements.

55. The study was adopted by the meeting.

(b) Study on the harmonization of agricultural policies in KBO member States

(DOC. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/O6b)

56. The study on the harmonization of agricultural policies in KBO member States responds to the need to provide information on the agricultural situation in the subregion to the entire international community, especially to enable it to review assistance designated for the development of the agricultural sector which is a great priority for the subregional States. This is a very important sector in subregional States' economies, in view of its contribution to the Gross National Product, export earnings, job creation....etc. The study in addition enables member States to define national and subregional priorities for the sector and harmonization mechanisms for the implementation of the economic and social integration programme recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action and Final Acts as well as the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

57. The study reviewed existing development prospects, policies, strategies, programmes and activities of the agricultural, forestry and pastoral sector both at national and subregional levels. The sector's policies, regulations and mechanisms pertaining to the marketing of commodities, as well as the production systems, factors and levels including the limitations and institutional framework are likewise analyzed. On the basis of this review, the study proposes a process for the subregional harmonization of the production and marketing of agricultural commodities.

58. Four areas of harmonization were identified: agro-pastoral production, forestry, rural development and the marketing of agricultural/forestry/pastoral products. To this end, the study formulates proposals for agricultural/forestry/pastoral development in the KBO subregion; marketable food and agricultural products, the process of this harmonization as well as their priorities and the provisional programme of implementation.

59. In response to the need for support and strengthening of institutional mechanisms for policy harmonization, coordination of production and trade pertaining to the agricultural sector, the study proposes a support mechanism based on the following four structures: a project for the implementation of the subregional agricultural policy harmonization process; a joint Commission of Agricultural Experts from member States; a joint specialized Commission and a Round Table drawing together donors, intergovernmental organizations represented in the subregion and member States.

60. The meeting stressed the need to incorporate agricultural development in that of the industrial sector within the socio-economic context of KBO subregional States. The meeting approved the study and requested KBO member countries to take all the measures required to effect the recommendations made by the report.

6.2 INDUSTRY

(Agenda item 6.2 (ii))

Technologies designed to increase the production of edible oils

61. Having reviewed this document, the Secretariat stated that it consisted of the introduction and four chapters. The introduction makes reference to the lack and insufficiency of proteins in the diet of the populations in the CEPGL countries. This protein insufficiency explains member States' concern in seeking to improve the processing of oil-yielding plant seeds or legumes with a view to improving the edible oil supply. The first chapter describes the ecology and uses of the oil palm and legumes such as peanuts, soybeans and sunflowers, and analyses the raw materials used in the production of palm, peanut, soya and sunflower oils.

62. The second chapter discusses the edible oil market with respect to supply and demand, and subsequently examines CEPGL member States' requirements. The third chapter is devoted to technological procedures for the processing of palm nuts and leguminous oil seeds.

63. The fourth chapter formulates certain actions and recommends technologies for the increased production of palm oil. The document states that low acid-content palm oil is edible. It is used in large quantities for the production of edible fats (margarine). Palm oil with acid-content exceeding 4% is mainly used in soap-making and metal works. As for palm wine, it is derived from palm sap.

64. In general, a distinction is made between high-yielding peanuts with a high oil content of 50% and peanuts for direct consumption whose oil content is less than 50%. Regarding soybeans which are high protein grains that could substitute meat in the human diet, their composition was stated as follows: water 5 to 9.5 per cent; proteins 30 to 50.5 per cent; fats 12.5 to 24 per cent; glucide 14 to 24 per cent; cellulose 3 to 6.5 per cent. As for sunflowers, they are mainly cultivated for their seeds which contain between 35 and 55 per cent of edible oil. Sunflower oil is used in the canning industry, soap-making and various other processing industries.

65. Regarding supply and demand, the document states that there is a distinction on the world market between industrial fats and oils and edible fats and oils. But the world production of fats supplies 80 per cent of palm, palm-kernel, peanut, soya, sunflower, coconut, cotton seed, colza and olive oils. The document likewise indicates that with regard to Africa, Nigeria and Zaire, which were the principal African producers between the 60's and 70's, have since been surpassed by Malaysia and Indonesia. Concerning CEPGL countries, Burundi and Zaire have the potential to develop industrial and small-scale palm plantations. whereas Burundi is initiating hydrological, pedological and sociological field studies in Ruzizi to facilitate the creation of modern high-yielding oil palm plantations, Zaire has neglected the project launched in 1978 to encourage the regeneration and modernization of the palm oil production potential. Owing to Zaire's lack of a promotion policy, its palm oil output plummeted from 76,000 tons in 1986 to 13,198 tons in 1994.

66. According to the document, increased production of edible oils in CEPGL countries depends on a series of conditions, among them the cultivation of oil producing plants and legumes, harvest and storage of oil seeds and technological production processes. It recommends the installation of a small Community oil mill using the modern technological process for the extraction of palm oil from palm nuts based on the

water method. Regarding the extraction of peanut and soya oils, the study also recommends the installation of a small Community oil mill using the direct heat process which has the advantage of not being very costly and not requiring very skilled labour.

67. The meeting took drew attention to the inexistence of a policy on eating habits that could encourage regular consumption of certain oils such as sunflower oil.

68. With regard to recommendations on surface areas to be put under cultivation, the meeting was of the opinion that the proposed 300 hectares per year for a five-year period are inadequate to meet the peanut and soya oil requirements of the people in the CEPGL countries.

69. The Secretariat took note of the remark on the change in eating habits. Regarding the insufficiency of the surface area recommended for cultivation, the Secretariat informed the Committee of the lack of reliable data on peanut and soya oil production in CEPGL countries. Member States could contribute to the Secretariat's improvement of statistics pertaining to the area to put under cultivation. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that cotton-seed oil will be covered by another study.

70. The report was approved by the meeting.

6.3 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (agenda item 6.3)

Report on the study on the mineral potential of the Kagera Basin Organization and its exploitation-related transport needs.

Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/O7

71. The objective of the study is to make an inventory of the mineral resources of the Kagera Basin, production programmes envisaged by KBO member States and to determine the pertinence of an infrastructure for the extraction of local mineral products.

72. Because of the prevailing political situation in Burundi and Rwanda, two KBO member countries, the report presented to the Experts only covered the Kagera region of Tanzania and Uganda. Mineralization in these two regions is associated with precambrian rocks (2600 to 27 million years) of the Karagwe-Ankolean and Nyanzian systems. The minerals in question are cassiterite (tin ore) and wolfram (tungsten ore), nickel, copper, cobalt and gold which occur in both regions, and iron, bismuth, beryllium, tantalum, niobium and industrial mineral (limestone) deposits found in the Kagera region of Uganda.

73. According to gathered information that is available to the Commission, at least two metallogenic provinces exist in this part of the Kagera Basin. These are a nickel-copper-cobalt province which apparently extends over Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania and a cassiterite-wolfram province which covers Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and perhaps Burundi.

74. With the exception of nickel, copper, cobalt, iron and limestone, the potential of these mineral substances is unexplored.

75. Some of these substances - cassiterite, wolfram, gold, limestone - have been exploited in the past or are being exploited exclusively by small-scale miners (artisans) who have yet to receive any financial assistance from governments of the countries concerned. No semi-industrial or industrial extraction programme for the Kagera region is in evidence. Nonetheless, the governments of Uganda and Tanzania have opened their mining industry to the local and foreign private sector within the framework of the liberalization of the economic sectors and the privatization of production units.

76. A thorough study on access roads to, and feeder roads for the transportation of the mineral products from the mines is to be carried out jointly by the Division of Transport and the Division of Natural Resources. It should be noted however that, at present, the problem of transportation of the gold, cassiterite concentrate and limestone does not arise.

77. In the mining industry, there have always been negotiations between mining operators and governments. These negotiations will play an even more important role within the framework of new mining development policies and strategies currently being implemented in Tanzania and Uganda.

78. In conclusion, the study suggests the following actions:

- a compilation of data and information on the mineral resources of the Kagera region. This would involve extensive exploration of the Kagera Basin, which could be undertaken by a team of multinational experts within the context of multinational projects.
- the Kagera Basin Organization could organize workshops/seminars for the experts and decision-makers of its member States to debate investments and privatization issues. The countries concerned are, likewise, encouraged to attend international meetings on issues concerning the African mining industry.

79. On reviewing this study, the meeting expressed concern about the mobilization of resources required for the development of the mineral sector, particularly after the States' abandonment of privatization policies. This situation could be aggravated by the lack of streamlining in the private sector which is currently dominated by small miners.

80. In response to these concerns, the Secretariat indicated that if state mining enterprises are privatized, the State is paid taxes by the latter. These revenues could be reinvested partially or in full within the mineral sector and thus promote it by supplementing loans acquired from financial institutions.

81. The meeting took note of the section of the report presented and requested the Secretariat to complete the study by covering the two other KBO States as soon as the situation permits.

6.4 TRADE

(Agenda item 6.4)

- (a) **Report on the study on cross-border trade in food products within the Gisenyi MULPOC subregion.**
(Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/13a)

82. The objective of this study is to identify the major trends in cross-border trade in food products within the subregion as well as the major actors involved. It discusses the major constraints still facing this type of trade, with a view to formulating recommendations on measures to be undertaken to intensify and standardize the trade.

83. The study which is divided into six parts, including the introduction and the conclusion, led to the following observations and recommendations:-

- Concerning agricultural production, there is evidence of poor performance despite the considerable agro-ecological potentialities of the three countries, owing to the major constraints listed below:

- Predominance of traditional farming methods;
- Demographic pressure on the land (notably Rwanda and Burundi);
- Lack of adequate preservation and storage facilities;
- The rural exodus phenomenon, especially with the consequent aging of the agricultural population;
- Insufficiency or inappropriateness of agricultural research and technology;
- Cross-border trade in food products between the three states is likewise hampered by numerous infrastructural, institutional and financial obstacles.

84. Institutional factors pertain to the misapplication of agreements with which the players are often unfamiliar. States are reluctant to ratify and / or apply conventions, which jeopardizes the development of subregional trade. Financial constraints, which are also related to the inconvertibility of the currencies used in the three states exist. Consequently, the study recommends:

85. **Regarding subregional cooperation agreements,** member States should ratify all Community agreements and treaties pertaining to fiscal and customs regulations aimed at the elimination of tariff and non-tariff obstacles to the cross-border trade in foodstuffs, and to ensure the application of these provisions, the adaptation of regional legislations, fiscal and customs conventions. The elimination of restrictions to cross-border trade in food products will lead to the streamlining and legal recognition of the currently informal cross-border trade.

86. **Regarding market information,** management of a central Community market observation unit, responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of information that would be relevant for subregional trade.

87. **Regarding mechanisms to facilitate funding and payments,** CEPGL should facilitate the funding of cross-border trading activities through the establishment of credit facilities for the players in this area of trade, and create a single subregional payment unit.

88. **Regarding infrastructures,** states should update projects on the rehabilitation of infrastructures and equipment to facilitate domestic and external trade.

89. In conclusion, the Secretariat observed that the study should be complemented by data contributed by field experts, in order to determine the scope of cross-border trade and the comparative advantages for each country.

90. Subsequent to this presentation, the meeting expressed the hope that the difficulties arising from the crisis would, as far as possible, be solved and that the situation would return to what it was before. In addition, they observed that the diversification of products, with the emphasis on complementarity, constitutes an essential factor in the promotion of inter-CEPGL state trade which must be supported by adequate measures for the development of the requisite human resources and by the normalization of economic activities.

91. The Secretariat drew the meeting's attention to the study's proposals in response to these concerns, notably the need to support it with more dependable data.

92. The meeting adopted the study and consented to appropriate the recommendations.

b) Report on MULPOC Participation in the National Workshop on the Implementation of the Joint Programme of Action designed to Facilitate Cross-border Trade, Payments and Investments in Eastern and Southern Africa.

(Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/13b)

93. This document was presented to the meeting for information.

94. In its presentation, the Secretariat made a brief recollection of the background of the Joint Programme of Action (JPA). Within this context, it noted that for Eastern and Southern African countries covered notably by SEP/COMESA, SADC and IOC, the World Bank and EEC in conjunction with other donors, had funded a study to identify obstacles to cross-border trade, payments and investments.

95. A joint programme of action had resulted from this study and it should be useful, particularly to donors, as a basis for intervention in these domains within the subregion.

96. Before the final adoption of the JPA by a ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in Brussels, it was recommended that each country concerned thoroughly review it in order to ensure that national concerns regarding the issue are taken into account, and to make the necessary amendments.

97. Within the context of its assistance-related collaboration, the Gisenyi-based MULPOC had been invited by the Rwandan government to attend a national workshop organized to facilitate a thorough appraisal of the JPA.

98. The workshop was held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 7 and 8 June 1993. Three working groups were set up to appraise the JPA;

- a working group on trade matters in which MULPOC had involvement;
- a working group on issues pertaining to investments and institutions
- a working group responsible for reviewing the JPA component related to payment procedures.

99. Findings of each working group's proceedings had been reviewed during a plenary meeting and their relevance and coherence had been established..

100. The national workshop had made proposals and recommendations on each of the three JPA components. These are presented in the annex to the document.

101. Reference to this annex reveals that the proposals deal with a variety of aspects of the numerous problems discussed.

102. The meeting took note of this information.

6.5 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda item 6.5)

a) Report on the improvement of the CEPGL waterways as from the Kisangani Port for the facilitation of Community integration
Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ ICE/III/15

103. A progress report was made on this study whose compilation is in progress. While presenting the report, the Secretariat first reiterated the fact that the countries of the CEPGL, being landlocked, both in Community terms and in relation to the outside world, have always sought to find an adequate solution to this problem.

104. The search for solutions to the problem caused by being landlocked in relation to the outside is a focus of these countries' attention in view of the structure of their economy. But as the Community develops and integrates, it becomes increasingly important to focus on the major problems that impede the development of intra-community trade and jeopardize CEPGL socio-economic integration.

105. The study is part of this effort to find solutions. It is a follow-up on a study that indicated that the Bujumbura-Kigali-Kisangani-Kinshasa route can facilitate rapid and effective improvement of internal waterways within CEPGL States and thus promote their integration.

106. The study's goals are as follows:

- to assess the condition of infrastructures whose terminal is Kisangani Port; to evaluate the need for their rehabilitation and maintenance;
- to analyze the coordination of transport services on these routes and make proposals for their improvement;
- to assess training needs of actors in the economic sector; and
- to examine the possibility for the promotion of multimodal transport.

107. A field mission for data collection was conducted. The study is currently in the compilation stage. Nevertheless, it is already apparent that transport infrastructures are in an advanced stage of dilapidation, particularly in Zaire, which should make an effort to mobilize resources locally to offset the withdrawal of aid resulting from the suspension of technical collaboration with external partners.

108. With regard to this, the study proposes that Zaire promptly envisage the creation of a special fund for transport infrastructures in order to meet this domain's enormous needs.

109. The meeting took note of this information

b) Report of the study on subregional Cooperation between CEPGL Countries and other riparian States concerning the Maintenance and Navigability of the Channels of Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika

(Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/10)

110. The Secretariat informed the meeting of the recent launching of the study subsequent to the events that recently jolted the CEPGL subregion. Compilation of the report is currently under way and the Secretariat has submitted a progress report that summarizes the study's main points.

111. The study consists of three main parts.

112. The first part examines the situation and analyses current maintenance requirements for navigation security on the two lakes.

113. The second part analyses prospects for the development of internal navigation on these navigable waterways and brings to light the related new security requirements with a view to adapting them to future maintenance needs.

114. The third part of the study concerns the creation and analysis of various forms of collaboration involving maintenance and the beaconing of navigable waterways of the two lakes. Concrete proposals for the creation of an adequate mechanism of cooperation in these domains have been formulated. Among other things, the study recommends that these proposals be reviewed by the permanent Committee of national transport officials for Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika (COPTRALAC)

115. The meeting took note of the progress report submitted to it.

- c) **Report on the national workshop on water transport in Rwanda: general aspects of inland water transport and its importance to national economy (doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/19)**

116. While presenting the document, the Secretariat noted that on the invitation of the Rwandan Ministry of Transport and Communications, MULPOC had attended the national workshop on inland water transport. The Secretariat had been requested to compile and present a study on the first theme of the workshop concerning "General aspects of inland water transport and its importance to national economy." This document in two parts, one of which deals with general aspects of inland water transport and the other on their economic role in Rwanda, while taking into account the specific characteristics of this country, was submitted to the meeting for the purpose of information.

117. The meeting took note of the document:

- d) **Study on the harmonization of national transport policies of KBO countries and the Northern Corridor. (Doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/11)**

118. This being a study whose compilation is still under way, the Secretariat presented the following progress report on it. The study on the harmonization of national transport policies of countries belonging to the KBO and the Transit Transport Coordination Authority (TTCA), was initiated by the KBO with the TTCA's consent.

119. The KBO is a subregional organization that comprises Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania.

120. The TTCA comprises Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Zaire.

121. The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) consisting of Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire is also interested in this report.

122. The report's aim is to identify a mechanism for the harmonization and coordination of national transport policies of KBO and TTCA countries, and develop a joint strategy for the elimination of physical and non-physical bottlenecks that constrain the transportation of merchandise towards Indian Ocean Ports.

123. Subsequent to the analysis of the situation at national and subregional levels, the study will attempt to examine subregional transit transport by presenting the various transit transport corridors and identifying transit policies contained in the treaties, agreements and conventions establishing the subregional organizations of which the six countries interested in the study are members.

124. The study will determine the major physical and non-physical obstacles to subregional transit transport and make proposals on measures to alleviate these impediment.

125. The conclusion will contain proposals on measures aimed at harmonizing national and subregional transport policies for KBO and TTCA countries. Consideration will be taken of measures that have been proposed already but not effected. Concrete and realistic actions will be formulated to facilitate the implementation of recommendations.

126. The meeting took note of the progress report.

**e) Report on the study on the need to dredge the Lake Kivu Port
(doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/12)**

127. During the presentation of this document, the Secretariat reiterated the fact that the efforts undertaken by the study are similar to those concerning Lake Tanganyika, whose initiation was jointly coordinated by the COPTRALAC, SEP/CEPGL and MULPOC. The document contains three main parts.

128. After a brief overview of the economic role of Lake Kivu, as an infrastructure for the opening up of one of the most important regions of the CEPGL, the first chapter analyses the factors responsible for the shallowing of Lake Kivu ports, which were visited during the mission.

129. A persistent drop in the lowest water levels and sedimentary activities that are permanently bolstered by the deposits released by the rivers that flow into the lake, and that are influenced by hydrodynamic factors, are responsible for this shallowing.

130. In view of the required depth of 3,000m to guarantee total safety in manoeuvring all vessels operating on the lakes, the second chapter estimated that a total of 15,500m³ of material should be dredged from the lakes.

131. Because hydrographic data necessary for determining the precise volume to be dredged was unavailable, the study, as was the case with the survey on Lake Tanganyika, recommended the strengthening of collaboration within the framework of COPTRALAC, for the compilation of such data.

132. The third part deals with measures to be undertaken, particularly after the dredging operations, to protect Lake Kivu port facilities against the dropping water levels. The intervention of the COPTRALAC ad-hoc working group, to undertake the rehabilitation of water levels and to develop appropriate protection actions, was recommended.

133. The study stresses the urgent need to overhaul COPTRALAC. A review of this study by the meeting revealed that certain facilities of Rwandan coasts of Lake Kivu had not been visited. The meeting sought to know what had been recommended for the assessment of the need for dredging here.

134. Additionally, the meeting wanted to know the extent to which an intervention priority could be defined and who would be responsible for the implementation of such a programme.

135. In response to these questions, the Secretariat noted that:-

136. The recommendations formulated are based on the restructuring of COPTRALAC whose ad-hoc working group on dredging can, based on the report summary presented, assess the visited port facilities' need for dredging.

137. A preceding study undertaken by MULPOC, on the development of transport on Lake Kivu, established the relative importance of Lake Kivu port facilities which will help COPTRALAC identify priorities for intervention with regard to these infrastructures.

138. The follow-up on the implementation of the programme of intervention will be the responsibility of COPTRALAC with SEP/CEPGL and MULPOC jointly forming the Secretariat. In this regard, the revamping of COPTRALAC constitutes a focal point for the coordination and follow-up of the study's realization.

139. The meeting approved the report and appropriated the recommendations contained in it.

**f) Study on fleet-planning and financial analysis of the Joint CEPGL Airline
(doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/II/09)**

140. The Secretariat recalled the objectives of the study as per terms of reference. The aim of these is to establish a joint airline to respond to the CEPGL subregion's air transport needs. These objectives are as follows:

- to determine the passenger and cargo traffic potential of the CEPGL countries;
- to design the air transport network to meet the requirements of the subregion for scheduled air services;
- to identify the best alternative legal formula for creating a jointly owned CEPGL airline that operates the said route network;
- to develop a fleet plan in order to determine the aircraft types and categories which will best suit the planned route structure and the traffic density;
- to develop the investment plan;
- to draw the financial plan for the first six years (1997 - 2002).

141. The study was divided into the following seven parts:

- **the background** discussing industry trends and the efforts undertaken by the CEPGL countries to cooperate in air transport;
- **part two** deals with the profile of the CEPGL countries;
- **part three** treats the national airline's evolution and operational assessment;
- **part four** discusses the formation of the CEPGL joint airline through the analysis of available alternative options;
- **part five** deals with the operational aspects of the joint airline. Traffic forecast, route network and fleet plan are discussed in this chapter;
- **part six** treats the financial analysis including investment plan and profit and loss accounts;
- **in part seven** conclusions and recommendations are made.

142. The study reveals that:-

- CEPGL international market can support a medium size airline.
- The international route of the joint airline will be
 - CEPGL - Europe
 - CEPGL - East Africa
 - CEPGL - West Africa
 - CEPGL - Southern Africa
- further route expansions within Europe, to the Americas, to the Gulf Asia and Far East and within Africa could be added easily to these structures;
- the initial fleet requirements of the joint airline are: one B767-200ER, one B757-200PF and one B737-200ADV or their equivalent. Fleet requirements will increase to 6 during the plan period.
- total investment required during the six year plan period is estimated at 474.4 million US dollars of which 217.4 million US dollars is required at the inception of the joint airline.
- the legal form of the airline is recommended to be a share company with strong participation of the private sector in addition to the three national carriers;
- to start the wheel moving, a board of promoters should be constituted;
- to be able to raise 80% of the fund required, a loan document based on this technical paper should be prepared.

143. After the presentation was made, certain questions were raised and observations made by the delegates on:

- the need for an economic study,
- whether the national carrier should continue or not, after the establishment of the joint airline;
- whether the study has taken previous studies on the subject into consideration;
- whether the national airlines should be privatized first, before the formation of the joint airline.

144. Responses were made concerning these issues, particularly the fact that national airlines should operate on their respective internal routes.

145. The meeting reached a consensus on the need for the study to make reference to updated statistics, and to be studied more thoroughly.

6.6. WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 6.6)

- a) Report on the publication of bulletin no. 8, "Women and Development"
(doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/16)

146. Bulletin no. 8 in its, an editorial, compiled a strong protest from CEPGL women against the widespread outbreak of violence in the subregion, and particularly the fact that it is women and children who are the victims and whose future is especially threatened.

147. The bulletin presents the objectives of the 4th World Conference on Women which will be held in September 1995 in Beijing, China.

148. The formulation, planning, implementation and evaluation of development efforts should take into special account women's specific problems. Planning in Africa should, therefore integrate women's contribution in domains such as environmental protection, energy resource development as well as health, education, human rights, peace and the establishment of institutions.

149. In preparation for this 4th World Conference, the preparatory 5th Africa Regional Conference was held in Dakar. One of its resolutions is echoed in bulletin no. 8.

150. The bulletin also features an article on the situation of women pygmies in the rural areas of the Great Lakes countries, and draws attention to their marginalization in the societies of the subregion. According to estimates, they represent 1% of the Burundian population, but their number is higher in Zaire.

151. The article observes that NGOs and governments, unfortunately, pay inadequate attention to the integration of these people in the development process, and recommends the initiation of adequate policies.

152. The article also proposes a programme of action to benefit pygmies; this should focus particularly on:-

- an education and sensitization action
- improvement of the environment
- potable water supply
- allocation of arable land
- establishment of agricultural cooperatives
- construction of health centres and schools

153. Experiences of women's cooperative movements in the subregion are, likewise, featured in bulletin no. 8.

154. The objectives of these groups are generally socio-economic in nature, seeking as they do, to improve the living conditions of the members, alleviate isolation and ignorance, poverty and famine.

155. The article identifies the various problems encountered by these groups, such as:

- disintegration of groups
- inadequacy of communication means
- poor management methods
- misappropriation of funds
- poor accounting
- marketing problems
- little commitment and involvement of women owing to their full-time employment,

156. Based on national experiences in the integration of women in development, the bulletin identifies major constraints to the promotion of this effort;

- illiteracy
- discrimination in law and deed (inequality with regard to access to education, unfair division of labour within families)
- women's inadequate representation in decision-making administrative and political bodies.

b) Report on publication no. 9 "Women and Development"
(doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/17)

157. Publication no. 9 of "Women and Development" is a special issue devoted to women's contribution in CEPGL countries to preparations for the 4th World Conference on Women scheduled to be held from 4 to 15 September 1995 in Beijing, China.

158. The publication reviews women's situation in CEPGL countries from the beginning of the 80's until to day, with regard to action strategies defined by the Women's Conference held in Nairobi in 1985. Thus, after a statement on CEPGL member countries and the World Conference on Women, it analyzed women's situation within the CEPGL, as well as future national action plans for the promotion of women and the preparation initiated by member countries for the women's active participation in the 4th World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing (China) in September 1995.

159. The meeting took note of the contents of these two publications.

IV. INFORMATION NOTES (agenda item 7)

a) Information note on activities of the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group in the Gisenyi- based MULPOC subregion (CEPGL/KBO). (agenda item 7-1)
(doc ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/18).

160. The document presented at this point in the agenda indicates that the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group of the ECA, MRAG is an advisory group under the direct supervision of the Commission's Executive Secretariat, and responsible for strengthening the links between ECA research and analyses and their effects on African development. One of the main objectives of MRAG is to formulate coherent and flexible solutions to the problems afflicting the Africa region in general, and in particular those resulting from external debt, structural adjustment, the marketing of commodities, energy crises and environmental degradation.

161. The MRAG group provides consultancy and advisory services to member States and their intergovernmental organizations, freely and at all times. The group

- assists countries in converting regional approved policies into strategies and practical programmes;
- provides multisectorial analyses on African needs in relation to priorities and strategies for the implementation of objectives contained in these priorities;
- develops, in conjunction with member States and subregional economic communities, annual regional multidisciplinary technical assistance programmes;
- provides multidisciplinary technical assistance teams to African countries on the basis of the above-mentioned programmes.

162. Requests for MRAG services are made through the ECA Executive Secretariat or the MULPOC office covering the country or intergovernmental organization making the request.

163. While taking note of the document, the meeting highlighted the limited promotion of services that MRAG can provide to member States and their intergovernmental organizations. The Secretariat provided the Committee with information on the ties of collaboration between MRAG and the Gisenyi-based MULPOC and expressed the hope that CEPGL countries would present a lot more projects to the MRAG group in order to benefit from its services. The Secretariat stressed that measures will be taken to strengthen actions already initiated to inform States and IGOs on MRAG's activities and the modalities for their access to its assistance.

b) Report of the BDEGL - SEP/CEPGL - MULPOC Consultative meeting on reflections for the execution of joint CEPGL and Community projects (agenda item 7.2) (doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/20)

164. The Secretariat informed the meeting of the consultation conducted between BDEGL, SEP/CEPGL and MULPOC concerning reflections on sustained involvement of all the actors in the economic cooperation and integration projects.

165. The main objectives of such sustained involvement are: (i) to ensure from the onset that the project responds to the concept of integration and to real and priority needs of the CEPGL; (ii) to ascertain that each stage in the formulation of the project has been conducted in a manner deemed satisfactory for the client and/or user (CEPGL), donor (BDEGL) and the executing agent (SEP/CEPGL) and/or MULPOC; (iii) to ensure that the next stage in the project formulation process has every chance to win the support of donors; (iv) the Secretariat reiterated the fact that several priority actions had been defined for the realization of Community objectives in sensitive areas such as production, infrastructures and services.

166. With regard to all these issues and many others, the main problem, the Secretariat stressed, is to mobilize the necessary and adequate financial resources for the execution of identified actions. It observed that African and European economic operators should become significantly involved in the move to energize the entire integration process.

167. The starting point of such a policy would be to organize a consultative meeting among the Executive Secretariat of the CEPGL, African and European operators, NGOs, donors and other funding bodies. In this respect, a study will be conducted to identify the ways and means which make it possible to sensitize, attract, mobilize and involve private partners in the execution of the Community's major integration projects. Such a study should serve, concurrently, as a conceptual framework for a general policy on project promotion and Community programmes and as a working document for the first consultative meeting among the parties mentioned above on more specific actions.

168. Regarding the meeting's desire to know the current CEPGL situation and the status of Gisenyi-based MULPOC's headquarters, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the CEPGL had already returned to its headquarters in Gisenyi, Rwanda where it continues to operate. With regard to the status of the MULPOC headquarters, the Secretariat told the meeting that the MULPOC Bureau was temporarily situated at the ECA headquarters, until further notice. It also informed the Committee that the Gisenyi-based MULPOC Bureau still maintains permanent contacts with CEPGL headquarters and governments of the Community's member States.

169. The Committee took note of the report.

V. Work Programme and Priorities for the 1996 - 1997 Biennium for ECA Eastern Africa Bureau (Agenda item 8) (doc. ECA/GSY/MULPOC/ICE/III/21)

170. Secretariat presented the document defining the work programme and priorities for the 1996 - 1997 biennium for the ECA Eastern Africa Bureau. During the first phase (5 years) of its implementation, the Secretariat noted, the Abuja Treaty in its article 6, para 2 recommends the strengthening, rationalization and creation of subregional institutions as a way of building critical capacities for the socio-economic development of Africa.

171. The Secretariat stated that the work programme and priorities for the 1996 - 1997 biennium for the ECA Eastern Africa Bureau is part of the effort to put the Abuja Treaty into effect. Thus, in accordance with the priorities set for this period under the economic cooperation and integration programme, the activities of the ECA subregional office will focus on:-

- i. strategies for economic recovery, widening and strengthening subregional economic cooperation and integration to cover the entire economic zone of the Eastern Africa subregion.
- ii. the promotion of programmes likely to assist countries concerned in the identification and selection of projects and areas which can strengthen economic cooperation and integration in the subregion.
- iii. strengthening effective support to subregional economic cooperation and integration institutions under the jurisdiction of ECA's subregional office.
- iv. developing cooperation through consultations on economic integration projects between economic operators and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of countries of the Eastern Africa Subregion.
- v. assisting ECA substantive divisions in the implementation of their work programmes, including the decade programmes in the subregion.

172. During the ensuing discussion, the meeting observed that the new name, "ECA Eastern Africa Bureau", was suitable and eliminates the confusion created by the name "MULPOC". It will be clear to member States to understand that the ECA with its decentralized resources is right on site, to help them.

173. In response to the meeting's expressed desire to know the member States of the ECA Eastern Africa Bureau, the Secretariat stated that it was the place of member States to reveal their membership to the economic area that will be covered by this Bureau, and this is to be done in consultation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

174. While supporting the work programme and priorities for the 1996 - 1997 biennium of the ECA Eastern Africa Bureau, the Zairian delegation expressed reservation on the bureau's name.

175. The meeting adopted the work programme and priorities for the 1996 - 1997 biennium.

VI. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE WHOLE/TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

176. The Secretariat informed the meeting of these preparations and stated that the central theme to be discussed is: "Promotion of increased growth and sustained development in Africa through the set up of essential capacities".

177. The meeting took note of this information and agreed to sensitize the States to ensure that they actively participate in these important activities especially those related to the implementation of the Abuja Treaty.

VI. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS

178. No specific question was raised at this point in the agenda.

VIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT ICE MEETING

179. The Secretariat will consult with the States on this issue at an appropriate time.

IX. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

180. The meeting adopted the present report with the 4 appended recommendations.

X. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

181. Proceedings of third meeting of the ICE of the Gisenyi-Based MULPOC was closed by the Chairman of the Committee accompanied by the Acting Executive Secretary of the ECA.

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATION No. 1 PERTAINING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE), of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 21 April 1995:

Concerned about the collapse of the economies of Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) member States',

Convinced that the process for the strengthening of economic integration is an inevitable means of reestablishing durable development and ensuring significant regional stability,

Requests that the MULPOC Secretariat in close collaboration with the CEPGL Executive Secretariat,

- (i) undertake studies to identify a minimal level of tariff protection necessary for the promotion of national industries;
- (ii) study and establish macro-economic convergence criteria to achieve greater cohesion within the zone of integration;
- (iii) evaluate the performance of structures established for the promotion of trade, and study the prospect of complementing them, especially through a mechanism for offsetting losses of fiscal revenues, the creation of a commercial information centre and other appropriate facility;
- (iv) involve CEPGL in ECA initiatives pertaining to the review and set up of mechanisms for equity funds in African regional communities;

Recommends that member States:

- (i) ratify and put into effect Community agreements on the development of trade;
- (ii) involve the CEPGL Executive Secretariat in the negotiations on and implementation of structural adjustment programmes;
- (iii) pursue the reforms initiated for the restoration of macro-economic balances.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 PERTAINING TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE), of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 21 April 1995:

Conscious that development of the food and agricultural sector plays an essential role in the national economy of the member States of the Kagera Basin Organization (KBO) and consequently constitutes the pillar for the socio-economic development of the subregional States,

Conscious that the harmonization of subregional agricultural policies is part and parcel of the collaborative measures defined by the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and that as such it should be incorporated in the programme for the strengthening of sectorial integration and the harmonization of the African Economic Community's development strategies and policies,

Conscious of the contents of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, in its article 6 devoted to the modalities for the development of the Community, particularly its second and third phases,

Concerned about the fact that, in spite of the strategies formulated and the activities programmes initiated by KBO member States for the development of the food and agricultural sector, both in areas of production and trade, these states continue to be dominated by an insecure food situation attributed to the persistence of certain natural and demographic, physical and technical, economic and financial, institutional and structural as well as psychological and human constraints,

Concerned about the insignificant levels of trade in agricultural/forestry/pastoral products within the subregion, owing notably to inadequate determination and commitment on the part of member States to promote mutual trade in these commodities, this being equally true for the promotion of agricultural/forestry/pastoral production and food security,

Acknowledging on the one hand, the need and urgency to promote the development of the food and agricultural sector at the national level, and on the other hand the harmonization of KBO subregional agricultural policies,

Commends the MULPOC/ECA Secretariat for the efforts it tirelessly puts forth in the promotion of development in the food and agricultural sector of KBO member States.

Recommends that KBO member States in close collaboration with the MULPOC/ECA Secretariat:

- (i) promote policies and strategies particularly focusing on subsistence farming, pastoralism and fishing;
- (ii) promote agricultural regionalization at national level, within a subregional context;
- (iii) strengthen subregional food security;
- (iv) harmonize forestry laws and regulations on forestry development;
- (v) develop mechanisms and regulations pertaining to the development of forests and natural resources as well as afforestation;
- (vi) improve living conditions in rural areas;

- (vii) promote and strengthen women's role in agricultural/ forestry/pasoral production;
- (viii) promote the coordination of agricultural, pastoral and fishing activities;
- (ix) promote the liberalization of trade in agricultural/ forestry/pasoral products both at the national and subregional levels;
- (x) promote and strengthen the private sector within countries of the subregion;
- (xi) set up an institutional mechanism for the harmonization of agricultural policies, coordination and marketing of agricultural commodities in the KBO subregion comprising, inter alia:
 - a project for the implementation of the programme on the harmonization of agricultural policies and the coordination of the production and marketing of agricultural commodities in the KBO subregion;
 - a joint commission for the agricultural sector;
 - special joint commissions for the agricultural sector and;
 - a round table consisting of donors, governmental and non-governmental organizations represented in the subregion and member States.

RECOMMENDATION No. 3 PERTAINING TO THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

The third meeting of the ICE of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18 to 20 April 1995,

Recalling that the opening up of landlocked countries and physical integration in the subregion are among the basic priority objectives of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) comprising, Burundi, Rwanda (landlocked countries) and Zaire (semi-landlocked),

Further acknowledging the vital role of transport in the economy of landlocked and semi-landlocked countries,

Reaffirming in accordance with the global and subsectorial objectives of the second United Nations Decade for Transport and Communications in Africa, the need to establish efficacious interstate collaboration between transport operation enterprises and national institutions responsible for the maintenance of transport infrastructures,

Having taken note from studies submitted to it, of the constraints facing CEPGL economies due to poor development of the transport sector in the subregion,

Having further noted the appeal launched by Rwanda, for instance, for the rehabilitation of its infrastructures and the restoration of its transport sector,

Commends the Secretariat of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC for the efforts it continues to put forth in the transport domain evidenced, particularly, by the activities it has undertaken within the framework of its work programme for the biennium 1994-1995,

Further commends the permanent Committee of heads of national transport officials for Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika waterways, and the Permanent Committee of national airlines, as well as their Secretariat formed jointly by the Permanent Secretariat of the CEPGL (SEP/CEPGL) and the Secretariat of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, for the substantial progress and concrete results they have achieved in the promotion of cooperation in the subregional transport sector,

Requests that the Secretariat in conjunction with these two committees urgently take measures to energize their activities, and particularly to promptly initiate efforts that will culminate in the convening, the soonest possible:

(a) of the thirteenth meeting of COPIC whose proceedings will mainly focus on the thorough review of the study on Fleet-Planning and the financial study on the joint CEPGL Airline (document ECA/GSY.MULPOC/ICE/III/09), and on the follow-up on the relevant recommendations formulated in the study;

(b) of the third meeting of COPTRALAC which, notably through its specific technical working groups:

(i) will review and define practical modalities for the assistance that it can extend and implement for the rehabilitation of navigation infrastructures and the re-establishing of inland waterways in Rwanda;

(ii) will review and ensure the follow-up and execution of recommendations contained in the studies on:

- the need to dredge Lake Kivu;
- the cooperation between CEPGL and other riparian States concerning the maintenance and navigability of the channels of Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika;
- the improvement of the waterways as from Kisangani Port for the facilitation of CEPGL integration.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 4 PERTAINING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECA
EASTERN AFRICA BUREAU:**

The third meeting of the ICE of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC,

Referring to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (ECA), notably in its first articles (d) and 4-2 (a) (b),

Convinced of the need to further the process of regional integration with a view to promoting balanced development in all regions of the African continent,

Bearing in mind the objective of facilitating efficacious coordination and harmonization of regional economic communities for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty,

Fully appreciating the assistance extended by the ECA through MULPOCs for the implementation of these objectives,

Having noted the decision taken by the United Nations General Secretariat to create a Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa,

Requests the ECA Executive Secretary to initiate consultations with the relevant member States for the implementation of the Regional Bureau,

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