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ECA-MRAG

ECA Multidisciplinary
Regional Advisory Group

**REPORT ON UNECA-MRAG MISSION
ON SHORT-TERM TRAINING COURSES ON
REGIONALISM AND AFRICA DEVELOPMENT
AT THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE OF
CAMEROON, (IRIC) YAOUNDE, APRIL 1995**

By
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I. PURPOSE OF MISSION

1. At the request of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon [IRIC], Yaoundé, through the Cameroon Ministry of Higher Education, S.K.B. Asante, Senior Regional Adviser in Economic Cooperation and Integration, undertook a mission to Yaoundé, Cameroon, from April 10 to 21, 1995. The purpose of the mission was two-fold: first, to conduct special short-term training courses on regionalism and African development etc., for post-graduate students in the first year of doctorate degree programme in International Relations; and second, to provide an advisory service on enhancing the regional status of the Institute.

2. The short-term training courses were organised for 9 research trainees pursuing the doctorate programme of the Institute. The trainees comprised two Chadian nationals and seven Cameroonians. A detailed course time table, as well as list of course participants, are herewith attached as Appendices I and II respectively.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The International Relations Institute of Cameroon was established by a Presidential decree dated 24 April 1971, which affirmed the autonomy of the Institute and its international character. The international status of the Institute is guaranteed by the composition of the principal governing body of the Institute, the Management Board, whose membership includes representatives of the foreign agencies contributing to the funding of IRIC. It is also reflected in the composition of staff and students who are both Cameroon and non-Cameroon nationals. Specifically, IRIC is open to all countries, African and non-Africa. More than 800 diplomats and short-term trainees from more than 25 countries, predominantly Francophone, have graduated from the Institute since 1972. Almost half of the African diplomats presently serving as Special Representatives of their respective countries at the United Nations Headquarters in New York are graduates of the International Relations Institute of Cameroon.

4. The principal aim of the Institute is to provide higher studies and advance research in the field of International Relations in general and diplomacy in particular.

5. The Institute offers the following categories of training. First, Training in Diplomacy for a period of 9 months for professionals of foreign Ministries of Africa. Second, post-graduate training in International Relations with the following three options:

- (a) Diplomacy
- (b) International Marketing
- (c) International Banking, Money and Finance.

Higher post-graduate courses leading to doctorate degrees are also offered in the above three areas. The Institute is equipped with adequate documentation in the field of International Relations. It also provides an appropriate research centre for teachers and specialists of all nationalities.

6. IRIC, as an important aspect of its mandate, organises seminars, symposia and conferences on some uniquely topical issues in economic, cultural and social problems, which attract eminent scholars, specialists, experts and senior civil servants - African and non-African - who could make rewarding contributions to solution of such problems. IRIC's first seminar was organized between September 13 and 25, 1971. Senior officials from 13 African countries and 4 experts who participated in the seminar tackled the problem of regional cooperation and harmonization.

Acknowledgements

7. The mission would wish to acknowledge the warm welcome accorded it by the staff of the Institute, in particular the Director of the Institute, Dr. Lisette Elomo-Ntonga, Director of Studies, Dr. Ngole Ngole and the Secretary-General, Dr. Jean Emmanuel Pondi. The mission

very much enjoyed the hospitality and cooperation of these top officials of the Institute. Substantial acknowledgement is due to Professor Peter Agbo-Tabi, Minister of Higher Education and former Director of the Institute and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Yaoundé I, who, in fact, initiated the mission. The mission had the honour to exchange views with the Minister, especially on the need for enhancing the regional status of IRIC.

III. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

8. Given the range of participants' background, specializations, levels of experience and degree of familiarity with the subjects, as well as the duration of the training, it was necessary, from the outset, to be precise as to the objectives which the training should seek to attain. Towards this end, it was deemed more realistic to introduce the training course by raising some pertinent questions on economic cooperation and integration as an element of development strategy for Africa and other developing countries. The main objective was to provide, especially from practical experience, the challenges and constraints of the process of regionalism in Africa, the neglected factors, the institutional and human deficiencies at the subregional and national levels, the inappropriate approach and the lack of democratic imperative of African regionalism. The aim here was to provide the necessary tools to the participants, who were being trained as public officials to enable them to effectively manage foreign affairs ministries in their respective countries. This was followed by an overview of the European - Union - African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Lomé convention, highlighting the debate which it has generated among scholars, the provisions of the Convention, and confronting the question as to whether Lomé is beneficial to Africa, with particular reference to African regionalism and development in general. Special attention was paid to the significance of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The main trends and prospects for economic cooperation between the Indian Ocean Island States and mainland Africa, especially Southern Africa were critically reviewed. Similarly, attention was focused on current African economic issues highlighting the problems, challenges and prospects.

9. The training began with an overview of the study of Economic Cooperation and Integration highlighting its emergence in Europe since World War II, the impact it has had on the developing world and its linkage with the concept of development. The conceptual considerations of the term "economic integration", the relationship between the two competing terms "regional cooperation" and "regional integration", particularly within the African context, and types of regional cooperation and integration were critically examined. The purpose was to provide participants with a broad background to the study of this important subject.

10. A detailed appraisal was provided on the distinction between the old and the new regionalism, multilateralism (GATT) versus regionalism, and the challenge to Africa with special reference to the emergence of the brave new world of trading blocs in Europe, America and Asia.

11. This was followed by a detailed examination of the rationale for economic cooperation and integration, general and specific, with particular reference to the case of Africa; establishment and experience of economic cooperation and integration schemes in Africa, expectations and reality, as well as the challenges and constraints. Case studies to illustrate the performance of the main subregional economic groupings were also provided. Particular attention was focused on the new approaches to economic integration in Africa spearheaded by the World Bank/IMF/European Union and ADB and, very recently, by France in West and Central Africa.

12. The provisions of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community as well as those of Lomé IV were analyzed.

13. In general, the training course was divided into the following parts:
 - (i) An overview of the study of Economic Cooperation & Integration;
 - (ii) Rationale for Economic Cooperation & Integration;

- (iii) An overview of Economic Cooperation and Integration in Africa and other developing countries;
- (iv) Economic Cooperation & Integration : Expectations and Reality;
- (v) Economic Cooperation & Integration: Challenges & Constraints;
- (vi) Economic Cooperation & Integration : The Emergent Challenges;
- (vii) Economic Cooperation & Integration : Meeting the challenge of Marginalization - The African Economic Community;
- (viii) Economic Cooperation & Integration: Case Studies;
- (ix) Developmental Regionalism: Towards a New Direction;
- (x) Regionalism in Africa: Time for Action;
- (xi) The African Economic Community: Problems and Prospects;
- (xii) The Lomé Convention: Expectation and Reality;
- (xiii) The problems and challenges of Africa's recovery.

14. A summary of the training course, is attached as Annex III.

15. To enable the mission to appreciate the extent to which the trainees participants had understood the short-term courses, the participants were assessed by taking a special test after the training. The results were most encouraging. The test showed the extent to which the trainees had grasped the main trends of the course.

V. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The mission made a brief critical observation of the status of IRIC as a regional institution whose aim is to serve the whole of Africa, even though enrolment to date has been predominantly Francophone, despite desperate efforts being made towards bilingualism. To enhance its regional outlook, the Institute has sought consultative status with the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

17. The mission recommended that within the framework of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB secretariat, it would be necessary for IRIC to seek as early as practicable consultative and, indeed cooperation status, with both the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) as well.

18. A formal recognition of its regional status by the three major intergovernmental organizations in Africa [ADB, OAU, ECA] would enable the Institute to (i) embark on programmes which could be supported from regional funds available under the European Union - ACP Lomé Convention; (ii) benefit, through exchange of views and participation in relevant conferences etc., organized by these organizations, from the experience of UNECA, OAU and ADB in the fields of African development, diplomacy, negotiations and conflict resolution; (iii) enrich its documentation unit, library collection and research programmes, as IRIC would have access to relevant reports and publications produced by the ECA, OAU and ADB; and (iv) seek observer status for the annual meetings of these organisations.

19. As regional institution, it would be desirable for IRIC to highlight, also, activities that would serve public and private institutions, chambers of commerce, trade unions, diplomats accredited to Cameroon and the neighbouring countries, resident United Nations and other international agencies personnel and civil servants. Towards this end, the mission would wish to recommend that the Institute continue to organize training seminars and workshops, as well as open lectures, whenever possible. Such uniquely topical issues as the following, for example, could be suitable seminar/workshop/open lecture subjects:

- Environmental diplomacy
- Impact of the Uruguay Round on Africa's trade
- negotiation skills
- computer application in diplomacy
- Gender and International Relations
- Sources, prevention and resolution of African conflicts

- Impact of the Single European Market on Africa
- OAU and the settlement of intra- and inter-state disputes
- The Role of the United Nations in Africa: Meeting the Challenges of the twenty-first century
- Democracy, Development and Regionalism in Africa
- The African Debt Problem.

20. The mission observed that the staffing position of the Institute was quite adequate in terms of numbers, qualifications, experience and dedication. However, to enable the senior staff to enhance their expertise and resources so as to enable them to effectively meet the interlocking challenges of the present-day diplomacy and international relations, the mission would recommend establishment of exchange programmes with similar institutions in and outside Africa.

Conclusion

21. It is the view of the mission that given the dynamism of the Director and the dedication of the teaching staff, the International Relations Institute of Cameroon would continue to deliver the goods and offer distinguished services to Africa in the field of diplomacy. However, as much as possible, systematic efforts should be made to review the programmes of the Institute to reflect the major changes evolving on the international economic and political scene: the end of the cold war and the emergence of the new world order; recent trends in the global economy, especially the new era of liberalisation and global competition; the brave new world of trading blocs etc., etc. The mission has no doubt that the Institute has the resources in terms of competent staff to meet the emerging challenges. UNECA stands ready to collaborate with the Institute in providing services in the emerging new fields.

APPENDIX 1
EMPLOI DU TEMPS DU DEUXIEME SEMESTRE
DU 06 MARS AU 04 JUIN 1995
CYCLE : DOCTORAT 1ERE ANNEE

Jours Heures	Lundi	Mardi	Mercredi	Judi	Vendredi	Samedi
7H30 - 9H30		Problèmes choisis de droit intern. public <u>Pr. KAMTO</u>	Langues Renforcées II Mme Zang/Ayissi		Stage Pratique MINREX	Problèmes actuels d'économie Int. Pr. ASANTE du 10-21 Avril
9H30 - 11H30	Problèmes choisis d'Organisations Internationales <u>ZANG</u>	Problèmes choisis de droit intern. public <u>Pr. KAMTO</u>	Système Politique et Diplomatique Africain <u>NGOLLE NGOLLE</u>	Système Politique et Diplomatique Africain <u>NGOLLE NGOLLE</u>	Stage Pratique MINREX	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. ASANTE du 10-21 Avril
13H30 - 15H30	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Internationale Pr. ASANTE du 10 - 21 Avril	Langues Renforcées II <u>Mme ZANG/AYISSI</u>	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. ASANTE du 10 - 21 Avril	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Internationale Pr. ASANTE du 10 - 21 Avril	Stage Pratique MINREX	
15H30-17H30	Economie du Développement <u>Pr. NGANGO</u>	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. Asante du 10 - 21 Avril	Informatique Centre de Calcul	Droit Internat. Economique du Développement <u>KWIMO</u>	Droit International Economique du Développement <u>KWIMO</u>	

17H30 - 19H30	Economie du Développement <u>Pr. Ngangs</u>	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. Asante Du 10 - 21 Avril	Droit International des Affaires <u>Pr. MINKOASHE</u>	Droit International des Affaires <u>Pr. MINKOASHE</u>
19H30-21H30	Problèmes Actuels D'Economie Int. Pr. Asante du 10 - 21 Avril	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. <u>Asante</u> du 10 - 21 Avril	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. <u>Asante</u> du 10-21 Avril	Problèmes Actuels d'Economie Int. Pr. Asante du 10 - 21 Avril

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE OF CAMEROON

P. O. BOX 1637 YAOUNDÉ

1. SANGALE MEGBEKA Jule-Alain (Cameroon)
2. CHINTOUE SANATOU (Cameroon)
3. EBOLO MARTIN DIEUDONNE (Cameroon)
4. NGODWE Alain (Cameroon)
5. BINDZI EDZIMBI Gervais (Cameroon)
6. Antem Ako AGBOR-AMBANG (Cameroonian)
7. ASSOMO MEVA'A Noëlle Odile (Cameroonian)
8. ABBA Baidjoue Jean-Paul (Chadian)
9. SALNDJOUKOU Nodjitoloum (Chad)

Appendix III

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE TRAINING COURSE

A. CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION IN REGIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

(a) Historical background

Regionalism before and after the post-war period: the European experience and its impact on third world countries.

(b) Regionalism and concept of development

The linkage between regionalism and economic development, hence development regionalism.

(c) Economic Integration: Conceptual considerations

Distinction between cooperation and integration in terms of definition; relations between the study of integration and the study of cooperation; types of regional cooperation and integration: Free trade area; customs unions; common market and economic union.

(d) Rationale for regionalism

General, economic and political; the specific case of Africa: Problem of balkanization, problem of poverty and problem of population-economic size.

(e) Establishment of economic cooperation and integration schemes

Examples from Latin America and Asia; the case of Africa, 1960s-1980s.

(f) Regionalism: Expectations and reality

A review of achievements so far.

(g) Causes of paralysis of regionalism

Problem of approach; problem of institutional capacities both subregional and national: challenge of implementation; problem of overlapping; and mandates; political and economic insecurity; external orientation of African political leadership; Lomé Convention etc.

(h) Recent challenges to regionalism

New approaches, e.g., Cross Border Initiative; the challenge of structural adjustment; the challenge of world of trading blocs; the challenge of democratic South Africa.

(i) Meeting the challenge of regionalism

The Abuja Treaty: African Economic Community; towards a new direction: An alternative approach - infrastructure production, trade; multi-sectoral planning, financing regionalism; effective institutional mechanisms at national and subregional levels; democracy, development and regionalism; the role of the private sector etc.

(j) Conclusion

Time for Action.

B. PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND STATES AND MAINLAND AFRICA, ESPECIALLY SOUTHERN AFRICA

The exposé which focused on economic relations between the African Indian Ocean countries and Southern Africa and subsequent discussion highlighted the following areas of interest:

- (a) The rationale for fostering economic cooperation between the Indian Ocean countries and mainland Africa;
- (b) The existing and proposed cooperative arrangements, i.e., SADC, PTA/COMESA, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Cross Border Initiative: Their objectives, main features and areas of concentration; the overlapping in their membership and the related need for rationalization of their activities;
- (c) The relationships between the SADC and PTA/COMESA in the light of the recent transformation of the SADC into a full economic community;
- (d) Possible implications of South Africa and Mauritius joining the SADC;

- (e) Role and impact of South Africa in the subregion economic integration scheme;
- (f) The peculiar situation of La Réunion island in any cooperative arrangement, given its status as an integral part of France;
- (g) Possible scenarios for future cooperative arrangements:
 - SADC becoming the economic community for Southern Africa, the rest of PTA being transformed into an economic community for Eastern Africa. This would mean the current PTA being split into two entities;
 - Indian Ocean countries, with the exception of La Réunion, joining either SADC or the economic community for Eastern Africa;
 - SADC absorbing SACU;
 - Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles not joining SADC nor the Economic Community for Eastern Africa and concluding special arrangements with these two entities or their individual member States;
 - The member States of the Indian Ocean Commission revising profoundly the instruments of their mutual cooperation with a view to adapting them to the new institutional framework in the subregion, as envisaged above.

**C. CURRENT AFRICAN ECONOMIC ISSUES/
PROBLEMS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS**

**SECTION I: WHAT IS THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
PROBLEMATIQUE?**

**SECTION II: MEETING THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
CHALLENGES**

- (i) **APPER:** AFRICA'S PRIORITY PROGRAMME FOR
ECONOMIC RECOVERY (1995)
- (ii) **UN-PAAERD:** UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR
AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND
DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990 (1986)

(iii) UN-NADAF: UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990s (1991)

SECTION III: WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

SECTION IV: STRATEGIC AGENDA FOR AFRICA FOR 1990s AND BEYOND

SECTION V: CONCLUSION - AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICA: THE WAY FORWARD

**D. AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY:
INCHING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION**

1. Background to the Abuja Treaty

- The significance of the Treaty
- Main features of the Treaty.

2. Abuja Treaty and Other Subregional Economic Community Treating Treaties

- The approach and central objectives
- Institutional Structure
- Provisions of the Treaties
- Decision making process
- Scope of areas covered
- Fundamental principles underlying the Treaties
- Democratic imperatives.

3. Problems of Implementation

- The first Phase: Strengthening of subregional economic communities
- Rationalisation of IGOs
- Rationalisation of mechanisms for implementing the Treaty: Subregional and national
- Ministerial structures required for the management of the integration process
- Provision of core-competency skills to enhance capacity of staff at both subregional and national levels
- Problem of involving the private sector
- Popularization of integration process.

CONCLUSION

E. THE LOMÉ CONVENTION: EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY

1. Background

- Africa and Europe before the Lomé Convention
- Immediate background to Lomé
- The Lomé Convention: Objectives

2. The Lomé Conventions since 1975

- Provision of the Lomé System
- Highlights of the main provisions

3. The Lomé IV

- Significance of Lomé IV
- Lomé IV, regionalism and SAPs

4. Critical Assessment of the Lomé System

- Is Lomé towards perpetuation of dependence or promotion of inter-dependence?
- What have been the expectations?
- What have been the reality?

CONCLUSION

What next to Lomé.