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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of the  
Regional Technical Committee  
for PADIS

15-16 April 1987  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

REPORT ON THE FINANCING OF PADIS

1. Since the last meeting of the Regional Technical Committee, PADIS has made intensive efforts to secure financing for the continuation of the project. A major effort has been the preparation and submission of a project to the United Nations Development Programme/Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP/RBA) for the PADIS Phase III project in countries of sub-Saharan Africa, in the amount of \$5,271,000.

UNDP - Regional Bureau for Africa

2. The immediate objectives of the project, which will cover five years, 1987-1991, corresponding to the UNDP fourth programming cycle are to promote:

- The formulation of information policies by Governments and their translation into on-going activities
- Availability of an information resource base
- Increased access to available information;
- Improved levels of information utilization;
- Generation of income to support certain activities of the project;
- Participation of national focal points and African regional and subregional institutions in the PADIS network;
- Production of information processing norms, standards and tools and the use of compatible norms and standards by participating centres;
- Upgrading of skills and know-how of staff of participating centres and the introduction of up-to-date information handling techniques;
- Increased efficiency of the PADIS Central Co-ordinating Office to execute the programme and promote the programme and to co-ordinate the network.

3. The major outputs of the project are to be advisory services, continued development of computerized data bases, information products and services, establishment and strengthening of national, subregional and regional participating centres, development and promotion of norms, standards and tools, training, and upgrading of CCO computer and document delivery facilities and substantive servicing of regional and subregional meetings.

4. In the budget of US\$ 5,271,000, experts and training account for 37.5% and 22.9 % of the total budget, respectively; expendable equipment, 7.8%; non-expendable equipment, 7.6%; miscellaneous, 5.1%; administrative support, 11.4% and travel, 7.7% of the project budget. The project has not yet received final approval. This is expected to come before the end of

the first half of 1987. However, PADIS has received an advance authorization of US\$ 373,000 for its Phase III activities for sub-Saharan Africa for the first half of 1987. These funds are to cover activities to be carried out at the Central Co-ordination Office (CCO) and in member States covered by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (sub-Saharan Africa).

#### UNDP - Regional Bureau for Arab States

5. After four-and-a-half years of negotiation with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States, an agreement has been reached according to which PADIS activities for North Africa during the period 1987-1991 will be incorporated into the proposal for ARISNET and subcontracted to PADIS/ECA under UNESCO/ECA agreement. The project venue will be the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) in Tunis, where NADIS will be housed. Under it, PADIS will implement its activities in the North Africa subregion, which follow the objectives of the UNDP project for sub-Saharan Africa. More details will be found in the "Report on progress in programme implementation," (E/ECA/RTCIII/3). This project is also currently under review, with approval expected by May 1987. The projected budget for the PADIS segment of the project is US \$320,000, which will cover project personnel (consultants and support staff), group training, installation of Arabic script microcomputer systems, printing costs and miscellaneous.

#### ECA Contribution

6. Despite the United Nations financial crisis, PADIS continues to receive a substantial contribution towards its activities from the ECA regular budget. For 1987 the ECA contribution to project activities is estimated at US \$379,700. The financial crisis has prevented ECA from absorbing any of the project posts under the regular budget in 1987. The ECA contribution provides execution and monitoring of the project; administrative backstopping; technical and secretarial support staff; some computer equipment and maintenance; computer and office supplies and stationery; office space and utilities. In the context of the Medium-term Plan for 1990-1995 PADIS will work towards regularizing more of the activities.

#### Inputs from Member States

7. With regard to the implementation of the UNDP-funded projects, African governments are expected to provide inputs (i) in cash and in kind towards the implementation of the national components of the PADIS programme; (ii) assign national counterpart staff to project personnel and consultants for the duration of advisory missions and training programmes, (iii) nominate trainees to undergo training programmes; and (iv) send representatives to PADIS-sponsored policy, technical and advisory meetings.

8. It is significant that the first cash contribution to PADIS from a member State was received in 1986, through the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD). The Government of Zaire contributed US \$30,000 to PADIS for training and advisory services to be delivered to the countries of the Great Lakes Subregion in 1987. It is hoped that other states will make similar contributions. In this regard, a project is being prepared for presentation to the 1987 UNTFAD Pledging Conference to secure additional member States' contributions.

International Development Research Centre

9. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada) has approved a project for US\$201,368 for 1987-1988 assistance to PADIS. The project will fund the post of training co-ordinator for one year and provide funds for training and training-related publications.

Other donors

10. PADIS has submitted a project proposal to the African Development Bank in the amount of US\$1.4 million, which is presently under review. The project would support establishment and strengthening of subregional centres.

11. PADIS is also preparing projects for submission to other multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors, including the European Economic Community and the Governments of Federal Republic of Germany, France and Japan. The projects will request assistance in the strengthening of the subregional centres as well as programme and institutional support. They will also be designed to respond to specific requests from member States which are not covered from other sources. No commitments have yet been received from these donors; however, PADIS will continue to undertake extensive efforts to identify new and diversified sources of funding for the project.

Income generated by the project

12. As recommended by the Evaluation Mission, during this project PADIS intends to investigate the legal and functional feasibility of implementing revenue generating products and services, including marketing of training programmes and information services. The investigation will begin in 1987, centering on the possibility of introducing a fee structure for on-line data base access via public data networks, marketing of technical publications and data bases (offline service) to users outside the region and to profit-making institutions within the region, and development and marketing of new information products. No estimate can yet be made of the amount of revenue the strategy will generate for the project. However, it will be a major emphasis during the period of the project to be pursued as a means to solidify the future of PADIS.