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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Third Meeting of the Committee on
Sustainable Development (CSD-3)**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
7-10 October 2003**

**Progress Report on the
Implementation of the Activities of the
Sub-programme “Fostering Sustainable Development”
During the 2002-2003 Biennium**

I. Objectives

The objective of the sub-programme is to strengthen the capacity of member States of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to design institutional arrangements and implement national policies and programmes that reinforce the linkages within the nexus of food security, population, environment and human settlements in order to achieve sustainable development, and to contribute to building capacity of African countries to utilize science and technology to achieve sustainable development. Furthermore, the sub-programme seeks to raise awareness of African countries on the need to integrate concerns of the three pillars of sustainable development -- namely economic development, social development and environmental protection -- into national development planning and poverty reduction programmes; improve the stewardship of the natural resource base and the environment by strengthening the capacity of member States for sustainable exploitation, management and effective utilization of important natural resources such as minerals energy and water resources.

II. Activities Implemented during the 2002-2003 biennium

To accomplish the above objectives, the Sustainable Development Division (SDD) planned and implemented a number of activities during the 2002-2003 Biennium. The following activities have been implemented:

a) Servicing of Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings

The third meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the third meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST) have been merged to take place at this very session of the CSD in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7-10 October 2003.

(ii) Parliamentary Documentation

The following six reports have been prepared for submission to the third meeting of the merged CSD and CNRST:

- Report on emerging issues in science and technology for food security and sustainable development
- Progress report on the follow-up to major global, regional and international conferences related to food security and sustainable development
- Progress report on raising awareness and building analytical capacity to address nexus issues in Africa
- Progress report on the state of food security in Africa
- Reports on Selected Themes in Natural resources development in Africa: Artisanal and small-scale mining and technology challenges in Africa

- Reports on Selected Themes in Natural resources development in Africa: Renewable energy technologies (RETs) for poverty alleviation

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings

The Division organized and convened to date five ad hoc expert group meetings during the 2002-2003 biennium. The expert group meetings were on:

- Ad hoc expert group meeting on the implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration (DND) and the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PA), held in Dakar, Senegal, December 2002.
- Ad hoc expert group meeting on population, agriculture and environment: Indicators for measuring the state of food security in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2003.
- Ad hoc expert group meeting on population, agriculture and environment: Land tenure policies and their implications for food security and sustainable development in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 2003.
- Ad hoc expert group meeting on Science and Technology: Biotechnology for Africa's sustainable development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 2002.
- Ad hoc expert group meeting on Science and Technology: Towards a green revolution in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 2003.

The remaining and final expert group meeting programmed for the biennium on the implementation of the DND and ICPD-PA will consist in a technical roundtable to be held within the context of the African Conference on Population in Tunis in December 2003.

(E) Other Substantive Outputs

(i) Recurrent Publications

For the four (4) recurrent publications programmed for the Biennium, the status of implementation is as follows:

- Population and Development Bulletin: the 2002 issue has been released in December 2002. The 2003 issue of the same Bulletin is under preparation for release by December 2003.
- ESTNET Newsletter: The 2002 issue has been released in December 2002. The 2003 issue is under preparation for release by December 2003

(ii) Non-recurrent Publications

- The study on the State of transition in population, environment and agriculture in Africa has been completed.
- The remaining two studies on (a) land tenure systems and their implications for food security and sustainable development in Africa, and (b) science, technology and innovation policy in selected African countries will be completed in November and December 2003, respectively.

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts and Information kits

The Division completed the following two posters:

- World Environment Day 2002
- World Environment Day 2003

(iv) Technical materials and distance learning modules

- A CD-ROM on PEDDA technical manual has been produced
- ESTNET databases have been updated for 2002

(c) International Cooperation and Interagency coordination and liaison

In addition to delivering the above substantive outputs, SDD liaised and cooperated with key partners on sustainable development issues. Some of the agencies and organisations with which the division cooperated are the following: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations University Institute of Natural Resources and Agriculture (UNU-INRA), World Bank, African Union (AU), African Development Bank (ADB), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), some African universities/research institutions and Regional Economic Communities (RECS).

Below are, among others, some of the specific cases of collaboration:

- Consultation on Population, Reproductive Health, Gender and Poverty Reduction with Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, 30 September to 02 October 2002.
- Preparation of a joint UNFPA ECA Paper on Population, Poverty Reduction and NEPAD, October 2002.
- Collaboration with Princeton University on Population censuses: New Directions and Cost Savings Strategies and In-house capacity Building at a Meeting held at Princeton, New Jersey, 21-23 October 2002.
- Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand 11-17 December 2002, to draw lessons learnt from the Asia Pacific experience on the monitoring and evaluation of ICPD+10 and use them as inputs to the planning of monitoring and evaluation activities in the Africa region.

- Participation and presentation of a paper at the Workshop on Food Security and Sustainable Development organized for Journalists from English-Speaking African Countries by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Coalition of Africa Organizations on Food Security and Sustainable Development (COASAD), Nairobi, Kenya, 21-22 November 2002.
- Cooperation with the Division of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) on the preparation and servicing of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), 2002, and the 11th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-11), 2003.
- Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the preparation of the Action Plan for the NEPAD Environment Initiative.
- Cooperation with UNEP to peer review the "Africa Environment Outlook" published in July 2002.
- Cooperated with UN-Habitat to peer review three chapters of the "Global Report on Human Settlements, 2003".
- In partnership with other UN Agencies, collaboration with NGOs, Industry and the World Bank on the African Stockpile Program (ASP) to dispose of and destroy at least 50,000 tonnes of accumulated obsolete pesticides and to put in place measures to prevent future accumulation.
- Cooperation with IUCN on the revision of the 1968 African Convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources, Nairobi, Kenya, 14-18 January 2002.
- Cooperation with IUCN Eastern African Members and Partners to help with the implementation of development programmes in the region within the context of the WSSD and NEPAD processes.
- Cooperation and collaboration with FAO and the African Development Bank (ADB) in the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa.
- Cooperation with the WTO on the Advanced Training Workshop on Doha Development Agenda for senior government officials from English-speaking African countries, Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2003.
- Close collaboration with UNFPA in monitoring the implementation of regional and global conferences on population and development (especially the DND and ICPD), information sharing and exchange of experiences, capacity building and dissemination of the PEDDA model, and support of the implementation of the NEPAD.
- Collaboration with partners on food security research and policy priorities in Africa. In this regard SDD hosted the first Food Security Coordinating meeting within the framework of the third phase of the Cooperative Agreement between Michigan State

University (MSU) and USAID on Food Security in Africa (FSIII) on 20-21 January 2003. In addition to ECA, this meeting brought together partner participants from MSU, the Programme for Sustainable Food Security in Central West Africa (SADAOC), the Sahel Institute of CILSS (INSAH/CILSS), the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy Analysis Network of SADC (FNRPAN/SADC) and the Eastern and Central Africa Program for Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA/ASARECA).

- Cooperation with UNESCO in the formation of the UN/NEPAD Science and Technology sub-cluster and the preparation of the first expert group workshop in this process to take place in Nairobi, 13-15 October 2003.

(d). Advisory Services

The Division provided a number of advisory services to ECA member States on sustainable development issues. These services have include so far the following during the 2002-2003 biennium:

- At the request of IUCN, the Division participated in an experts meeting on the revision of the 1968 African convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources, contributed inputs to the review of the convention and helped in the preparation of the revised text of the Convention to be presented to African heads of State and Governments for adoption at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).
 - At the request of the government of Lesotho, SDD participated in the National workshop on Science and Technology policy and presented a paper at the workshop on "Effective Science and Technology Policies for Impacts on Sustainable development".
 - At the request of the University of Pretoria, SDD attended the Advisory Board Meeting of the Post-Graduate School of Agriculture and Rural Development.
 - At the request of the University of Zimbabwe, SDD provided advisory services on the implementation of a regional food security programme for countries in Southern Africa, a programme that is coordinated by the University of Zimbabwe.
 - At the request of the government of the Republic of South Africa, the Division provided advisory services on policies for managing environmental and natural resource management projects in Africa.
 - At the request of a Conference of Ministers of East Africa, SDD participated in a meeting to help identify sub-regional priority programmes in environment, energy and infrastructure for the NEPAD.
 - At the request of the Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity, the Division provided advisory services on the implementation of a project for technology generation and the commercialisation of smallholder agricultural production in Nigeria.
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- At the request of the West and Central Africa Sorghum and Maize Research Network, SDD prepared and presented a concept paper on a five-year proposal on marketing research priorities for sorghum and millet at the steering committee meeting of the network in Cote d'Ivoire.
- The Desert Locust Organization of Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) sought ECA's advise on the preparation of a sustainable financing mechanism for the organization. This need was expressed against the backdrop of persistent deteriorating contribution from member countries of the organisation. In response, SDD prepared and submitted two studies to the Organisation, one on Pest Control Aspects and the other on the establishment of an autonomous financing mechanism.

(e) Additional Activities

Some additional activities implemented by the Division during the 2002-2003 Biennium include the following:

Publications

- Parliamentary documentation: Two reports on selected themes in natural resources development in Africa ("Artisanal and small-scale mining and technology challenges" and "Renewable energy technologies (RETs) for poverty alleviation") have been completed for presentation at CSD-3.

Meetings

- An ad hoc expert group meeting on "Assessment of power-pooling arrangements" has been carried out in June 2003, following the transfer of work on natural resources from the former Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (RCID) to SDD.

International Cooperation:

- Regular assistance is being provided to SEAMIC, including hosting meetings of their policy organs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 2003.
- Advisory services have been provided to the International Centre for Training and Exchanges in Geosciences (CIFEG). ECA has been selected as member of the Board of Directors of CIFEG.
- Collaboration with UNCTAD and UNDP on mining has been sustained. A joint project in Tanzania on "National dialogue on the contribution of mining to poverty reduction" has started.
- Collaboration with the World Bank (through the Communities and Small-scale Mining (CASM) framework) in artisanal and small-scale mining is also proceeding as expected. A paper on "The Yaounde Conference: Conclusions and actions to date (A progress report) was presented to the CASM Annual General Meeting and Learning Event held in Ghana from 7 to 10 September 2003.i

Advisory services

- Advisory services were provided on the operationalisation of the Africa Mining Partnership (AMP) in a meeting held in Ghana on: 5-12 September 2003. Discussions on AMP were held with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Mines of Ghana and other high level officials of the Ministry of Mines.
- SDD contributed to organizing and servicing the ninth annual meeting of the Interagency Group on Water in Africa (IGWA), held in Nairobi in December 2002.
- ECA in partnership with other UN agencies contributed to the implementation of a major programme for Institutional Strengthening of the Inter-agency Group on Water in Africa for implementing the African Water Vision. Since January 2003, SDD has been serving as ECA focal point for the Secretariat of UN Water/Africa.

III. Perceived Impact of Activities on Beneficiaries

The above activities aimed at accomplishing the following: (a) awareness creation leading to better knowledge and increased discussion of the holistic treatment of population, agriculture and environment concerns in development planning and policy-making; (b) building national and local capacity to analyse and manage nexus issues in the context of sustainable development; (c) improved monitoring of the political and societal commitment to the implementation of particular programmes and global plans of action of various regional and global conferences; and (d) adoption of effective science and technology policies and strategies for addressing the nexus issues, and increased awareness and commitment of member States to apply science and technology to ensure food security and sustainable development.

IV. Indicators of Achievement

In order to ensure that the above objectives are achieved, the sub-programme endeavoured to meet the following criteria:

i) Meetings, workshops, seminars:

- The meetings, workshops or seminars are well organized and held as programmed and their objectives are achieved as evidence from the feedback from the participants/representatives of the member states. A post-meeting evaluation questionnaire was always completed by participant/representatives of member states and the Advisory bodies.
- High level of attendance (over 70% of invited participants)
- The reports of the meeting together with the conclusions are disseminated to the end-users within the agreed time frame.

ii) Policy analysis and Publications

- The publications are produced as programmed and are of high quality (through vigorous policy analysis) as evidenced from the comments of the in-house peer

review committees, the advisory bodies as well as from the feed back from the end-users.

- The issues discussed in the publications address contemporary food security and sustainable development problems in member countries and the recommendations made are considered useful and implementable based on the responses from member states in the feedback questionnaire sent with the publication.

iii) Training workshops

- The training workshops are well organized and well attended.
- Improved understanding by participants of the interrelationships among population, agriculture and environment (nexus issues) and the need to integrate them in food security and sustainable development programmes.
- Acquisition of improved skills in the analysis of the nexus issues
- Ability of trainees to use the PEDDA model.

iv) Advisory services

- Are provided on a timely basis.
- Are considered useful and implementable based on the feed back from the concerned countries or institutions. Letters have been received from clients expressing their appreciation for the services rendered).

v) Cooperation and collaboration with partners

- Cooperation activities are well implemented as agreed between ECA and its partners.
- Enhanced cooperation, collaboration and interactions between ECA and its partners as evidenced from increased exchange of letters, e-mails, faxes, etc, requesting various information and assistance from ECA and vice-versa.
- Activities implemented for the benefit of member States are considered useful based on the feedback in post-activity evaluation questionnaires completed by the countries.

Using the above indicators of achievement, it appears that the Division's policy analysis and advocacy activities are producing a noticeable impact on its clients, as their awareness of the need to integrate the nexus issues in development planning has increased. The activities have also improved the capacity of member States to analyse these issues. The Division's websites have provided improved sources of information particularly on science and technology issues, and contributed to increased connectivity and networking among policy makers in the areas of population, environment, agriculture and science and technology. The feedback received on some of the Division's recurrent publications and meetings/workshops has been favourable in terms of their utility for policy and capacity building. The Biennium has also witnessed enhanced cooperation and collaboration with partners in terms of increased interactions, joint activities and information exchange.