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**PROGRAMMES TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE MINING SECTOR IN
AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THE YEAR 2010**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It is a well-known fact that Africa is richly endowed with natural resources. In particular, its vast potential in the domain of mineral resources need hardly be emphasized. This potential has diminished somewhat, in comparative terms, over several years -- owing to the depletion of some deposits as well as a marked decrease in the volume of investment in mineral exploration over the last two decades. None the less, on a global scale, a considerable proportion of known reserves of various mineral substances are still to be found in Africa. This includes, for instance, 47 per cent of the world's phosphates reserves, 26 per cent of bauxite, 14 per cent of copper, 12 per cent of uranium and manganese, and 6.8 per cent of iron-ore reserves. However, given the inadequacy and lack of precision which has thus far characterized mineral exploration across the continent, these figures are probably understated.

2. At any rate, Africa's mining sector accounts for a sizeable portion of world output of various minerals. In 1993, 50 per cent of the world's diamond production came from Africa; so did 32 per cent of gold, 31.5 per cent of uranium, 16.3 per cent of bauxite, 9.4 per cent of manganese, 7.8 per cent of copper, and 5.4 per cent of iron-ore produced in that year.

3. Despite this sizeable share of world production, the level of development of Africa's mining industry remains low; above all, it has not made a significant impact on the region's socio-economic development. Socio-economic indicators for the past thirty-year period reveal a steady deterioration in living standards across the continent. The main reason for this situation is that, far from helping to better the living conditions of Africans, the mining industry in Africa has mainly served the interests of users outside the continent. Africa's role in the sector has essentially been that of "producer-exporter" of raw materials.

4. Of course, there are a number of constraints -- such as inadequate indigenous financial and human resources, lack of experience, low levels of technological development, and the preponderance of sectors considered vital (health, education, water, nutrition, etc.) -- which limit the scope for the development of Africa's mining industry. This scenario is at once the cause and the effect of a weak planning framework for an integrated development of Africa's undeniably rich mineral potential to meet the basic needs of the people. Whether one looks at it at the national, subregional or regional level, there is a general lack of coherent development strategy in this direction.

5. Administrators and planners in Africa's mining sector have thus far not gone beyond the piecemeal cataloguing of known mineral resources. Such data has, in addition to certain criteria which often have little to do with social factors, served as the basis for the somewhat arbitrary identification of operational programmes in the mining sector, undertaken in isolation from other relevant socio-economic imperatives and devoid of any human-development agenda. In other words, the vast majority of African States have thus far not set cogent programmes, on a medium- to long-term basis, for the utilization and integrated development of mineral resources. Not surprisingly, therefore, the mining sector -- unlike other sectors such as transport and industry, in respect of which decades have been declared -- appears to be devoid of long-term perspective.

6. This anomalous and anachronistic situation must be reversed urgently. This can best be achieved by giving serious thought to and embarking on broad-based deliberations on the economics of Africa's mineral-resource base and, more particularly, how best it can be used in furtherance of development. The underlying objective must be to formulate programmes for the medium and long-term development of Africa's mineral resources, with a view to (a) meeting the basic socio-economic needs of as many of the people as possible and (b) providing support to the other sectors of the economy.

7. To that end, this paper, prepared by the ECA secretariat with 2010 as the target year, proposes primarily to:

(a) Examine the overall conditions and characteristics of development strategies and programmes in Africa's mining sector from the colonial period to the present day;

(b) Offer suggestions regarding guidelines and mechanisms which may be appropriate to programmes for the effective utilization of mineral resources to meet the essential socio-economic needs of the people as well as the continent's development imperatives; and

(c) Draw up a time-frame for specific actions over the relevant period, with a view to attaining the objective of integrated and sustainable utilization of mineral resources and coming up with a follow-up and evaluation mechanism.

8. Hopefully, the deliberations set in motion by these initiatives, enriched by contributions from participants at the Conference, will contribute to the effective elaboration of national programmes and international initiatives whose implementation will promote rapid economic progress. Should the 2010 target be achieved, the Conference will, by reason of having set the strategies to that goal, merit the accolade of having given Africa a significant impetus on the path of progress.

II. A PROFILE OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA'S MINING INDUSTRY

9. One abiding attribute of Africa's mining industry since the colonial period is a patent lack of planning in the strict sense of the term. Development programmes in Africa's mining industry have been characterized, during both the colonial and post-colonial periods, by inadequate planning. Well-defined, comprehensive programmes have been lacking in most cases. Instead, what one commonly comes across are isolated projects, divorced from both the needs of the people and the rest of the national or regional socio-economic milieu.

10. None the less, there have been a number of significant developments over the years. Four principal phases are discernible: (a) the colonial period, (b) the 1960s, (c) the period from 1970-1985, and (d) the period since 1985.

A. The colonial period

11. During their political connection with Africa, the colonial administrators did put in place programmes for the utilization of mineral resources. These programmes were essentially designed to ensure a regular line of supply to European industries. In this context, therefore, development programmes for the mining sector were mainly concerned with searching for and tapping the continent's vast mineral resources to feed industry in Europe.

12. To attain this objective more easily, prospecting work tended to be concentrated in territories situated along the coast, from which mineral products could most easily be transported to Europe. Thus, the earliest significant mining sectors developed in: (a) Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone (West Africa); (b) Cameroon, the Congo, Gabon, and Zaire (Central Africa); and (c) Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa (Southern Africa).

13. Transportation to Europe had to be by sea. The colonial administrators developed the necessary inland transport infrastructure to carry minerals from major mining areas (i.e. reserves that were economically viable by reason of quantity and content), often located at a great distance from the seaports. Thus, for example:

(a) In the case of mining areas located far inland in countries with a direct outlet to the sea, railways were built for transportation purposes (e.g. the Zouérate-Nouadhibou railway in Mauritania, constructed to transport iron ore; the railway line connecting the Mount Nimba iron-ore mines with the Liberian port of Buchanan; the railway lines built in Belgian Congo (now Zaïre) to carry copper from the Katanga mines to the river-ports of Ilebo, on the Kasai, and Kindu, on the river Zaïre; and

(b) In the case of mining areas located in landlocked countries, the transportation infrastructure often had to cross one or more other countries to reach the sea. Thus, a railway was constructed from the Zambian copperbelt to the port of Benguela (in Angola), through Zaïre.

14. It is therefore legitimate to conclude that some measure of intra-sectoral planning did exist in mining undertakings in Africa, though not particularly with the well-being of the indigenous peoples in mind. There was certainly a connection, on the one hand, between operational programmes within the mining sector and downstream industries and, on the other, between the opening up of mineral reserves and the establishment of important transportation infrastructure (notably, railway lines and port facilities).

B. The 1960s period

15. The situation described above did not change significantly during the years immediately after independence, because the new governments across the continent were mostly content to manage the situation inherited from the colonial period. However, a certain variation is discernible according to whether a given country, upon accession to independence, had mines in operation or not.

16. Countries which already had mines in operation at independence have generally maintained the status quo. They have continued to produce minerals in the form of unrefined primary commodities, for exportation to the same users. Precipitous nationalization measures, such as those instituted in Zaïre (GECAMINES), have not made any significant impact. Programmes to set up local refining facilities that would transform mineral products to meet the needs of local users have not gone beyond the drawing boards. Of course, certain governments (Guinea, for example, with respect to its bauxite mining sector) have made efforts to include the development of refining facilities in their operational projects with a view to increasing the added value of the mineral products, but the end-users have remained the same, and the local people have benefited little from these programmes.

17. On the other hand, countries which, at independence, had no significant mining undertakings in operation have tended to concentrate their efforts on managing or setting up geological and/or mining services at the national level. Such projects mostly began after about 1965 and continued into the 1970s. However, the priority given to administrative restructuring has often meant that administrators and experts across the continent could not give much attention to forward planning in the mining sector. The realization on the part of certain countries of the need for a more ample appreciation of the geological domain and of the mineral resource base is a relatively recent development.

C. The 1970-1985 period

18. In many African countries, the principal concern during the early 1970s was to establish and strengthen technical and management capabilities in the mining sector. However, the period from 1970 to 1985 may generally be considered as the period of stock-taking in the sector. This period was marked by efforts in a number of African countries to take stock of their respective mineral resources, in most cases with the benefit of bilateral development assistance (notably BRGM of France, Germany's BGR, Canada's CIDA, aid from the former USSR, etc.) and, in certain cases, multilateral aid as well (particularly, from UNDP).

19. Typically, these projects consisted in preparing national inventories of geological surveys and prospecting work already completed in each country in question, then identifying reserves deemed economically viable or strategic. In some cases, detailed studies were carried out on known reserves and established data. The product of such projects would normally be compiled in detailed documents, described variously as mineral potential (e.g. Burkina Faso's "Le potentiel minier de la République de Haute Volta", published first in 1972, and revised, with some additions, in 1975), or minerals programme (e.g. the "Plan Minéral de la République Islamique de Mauritanie", published in 1975, and the "Plan Minéral de la République Populaire du Congo", which appeared in 1983).

20. One possible inference from the different descriptions of these documents, which essentially deal with the same subject matter, is linked to the dual purpose of the projects in question. There was, on the one hand, the desire to take stock of the existing mineral reserves, and, on the other, to draw up an exploration programme over a period of several years. The latter objective would arguably have led to the elaboration of coherent development programmes in the mining sector; in fact, it did not. The programmes did not go beyond producing lists of exploration projects, devoid of any comprehensive development strategies. Nor even in the case of Mauritania, whose minerals programme document declared in the preface the intention of the planners to actualize the country's socio-economic development imperatives, was there any better result. Moreover, the draft projects, including those relating to products with a substantial local consumption, such as salt (mined in the Sebkhia d'Edjill) and phosphates (produced in the Taudeni Basin), make no reference whatsoever to local needs.

21. In sum, the overall pattern in Africa throughout the period between 1970 and 1985 was characterized by the lack of an integrated perspective for development of the mining sector. None the less, it should be noted that an awakening is observable in the domain of certain industrial minerals and building materials. Notable in this context (particularly in South Africa, which is well ahead of other African countries, in North Africa, and to some extent, in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Zimbabwe as well) are developments in local utilization possibilities of agro-industrial minerals, limestone, special clay for use in ceramics, as well as cement and brickwork, among others. These developments, though an encouraging sign that governments are making efforts to ensure that mineral resources contribute to development within the local socio-economic milieu, nevertheless remain sectoral in context, again devoid of an economy-wide perspective to fit the national or regional scope.

D. The period since 1985

22. Two main patterns have characterized Africa's mining sectors since 1985: (a) the opening up of mining to private investment, and (b) the gradual actualization of common strategies to enhance the role of the continent's mineral resources in the socio-economic milieu. In concrete terms the following have been undertaken:

- (i) Firstly, mining legislation and relevant codes have been revised to render them less rigid and more attractive to potential investors; national days devoted to the mining sector have been instituted in Namibia, the Niger, etc.; national supplements have been published in Mining Journal (Tanzania, April 1993; Burkina Faso, August 1993; Côte d'Ivoire, September 1993, etc.). The publication of these supplements has largely been realized with the benefit of World Bank and/or UNDP assistance;
- (ii) Secondly, as regards the formulation of common strategies to enhance the contribution of the mining sector in economic development, there have been: (a) consultative meetings, and (b) study projects organized by international institutions (particularly, regional centres concerned with the utilization of mineral resources), specialized units of regional economic communities (such as the Mining Sector Coordination Unit of the Southern African Development Community, SADC), and regional organizations (notably, the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA).

23. The two overall patterns described above have produced varying effects on development programmes in Africa's mining sectors depending on which factor is preponderant in each case. Thus, while the first factor (the opening up of the sector to private enterprise) has tended to be a drawback, the second one (strategies to enhance the contribution of the mining sector in economic development) has, on the contrary, been generally positive.

24. Although liberalization of the mining sector is an incentive to private-sector participation, the net result tends to be a return to the pre-independence position. The interest in development programmes in the mining sector is, naturally enough, subordinated to financial gain, and to the interests of individual industrial concerns--more often than not, foreign-based; national and regional socio-economic needs are relegated to the background. In other words, African governments, in the scheme of things, find themselves hardly able to freely formulate development programmes for the mining sector in tune with the socio-economic imperatives defined in their respective development plans.

25. Inter-institutional consultations and exchanges, on the other hand, are gradually bringing to the fore the need to optimize the utilization of mineral resources in meeting the needs of Africans, as well as the continent's downstream industries. One observable result of this new policy framework is that more and more appropriate initiatives are being introduced at the regional level, with due attention being given also to the industrial minerals. The Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre, for example, began a study project in 1987 to identify industrial minerals that could contribute to mineral resources development initiatives in Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. To this end, ESAMRDC set in motion research projects on industrial minerals at its laboratories in Dar-es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania, in 1993. Similarly, SADC has, since 1986, within the framework of its mineral resources programme, initiated a number of projects designed to meet the specific needs of its member States. In this context, the large number of projects devoted to the development of non-metallic industrial minerals is a pointer to the importance SADC attaches to this sub-sector.

26. The impact of inter-institutional consultations and exchanges at the regional level in actualizing the local socio-economic needs across the continent is therefore fairly evident. In that connection, the main priority must be to formulate mineral resources development programmes that are more relevant to national and regional development imperatives, and more intimately integrated with economy-wide development strategies. These consultations and exchanges ought therefore to be maintained and encouraged, despite the obvious drawbacks.

III. PROGRAMMES TO OPTIMIZE THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES TO MEET AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT IMPERATIVES

27. It may be legitimately deduced from the foregoing that Africa's mining sector has operated in a financial and political context in which governments across the continent have not had much leeway to autonomously formulate development programmes for the sector. That is, at any rate, the situation at present. Moreover, most African countries are facing a worsening political and economic environment, a fact which is likely to place considerable impediments in the way of any efforts to integrate development programmes for the mining sector into the overall framework of development strategies at the national level.

28. That scenario is rendered all the more probable by the natural tendency of local as well as foreign-based private investors in the sector to place greater emphasis on projects which, while not necessarily congruent with the development priorities defined by governments, nevertheless appear promising to the private entrepreneurs from the standpoint of profit. Consequently, African governments must, in formulating mineral resources development programmes, not lose sight of this disparity of objectives. Indeed, the policy frameworks they adopt in this context should be governed by certain general principles.

A. General principles for mineral resources development programmes to the year 2010

29. Forward planning for the mining sector in Africa, particularly to the year 2010, should have as its key objective the need to ensure that the sector contributes adequately to improving living conditions locally. To this end, every project should, as a prerequisite to its integration into the national and/or regional development programme, and in addition to the preliminary prognosis of its environmental impact, be committed to meeting at least one of the following goals:

- (a) Meeting at least one of the basic socio-economic needs in the local context;
- (b) Supporting other sectors of the national economy and/or of the pertinent regional economies, including existing connected industries;
- (c) Increasing intra-African trade in minerals (refined or unrefined) and in mineral-based consumer goods; and
- (d) Contributing to the improvement of the financial position of the producing country.

30. In other words, the assessed level of contribution of each project to the realization in the short or medium term of the key objectives mentioned above would be a criterion in deciding whether or not it should be integrated into the mineral resources development programme. A point system, based on assessments of the project's contribution, in the context described above, in a given determining sector, could be used to assess and accordingly credit the project. The averages derived from these sectoral points could then serve as a basis for prioritizing various projects for the purposes of the overall mineral resources development programme.

31. The schema might be better represented in a table to be filled from data relating to each project being considered for integration. The various sectors to which the project is expected to contribute would be listed in the table. Since, however, such contribution may vary qualitatively, a point system might best serve as a mode of assessment. The specific sectors selected for the purposes and the scale of the assessment will depend on country - or region - specific factors and appropriate criteria.

32. The system described above is shown in table 1, only for purposes of illustration. Four determining sectors are mentioned. These are the sectors the project in question is expected to benefit. The scale of assessment represented here consists of four degrees of contribution (above average, average, below average and negligible), represented respectively by the points 3, 2, 1 and 0. For each project, a mean is worked out in relation to each of the determining sectors. The cumulative mean for all the four sectors is then calculated.

33. Though this method might appear complicated and painstaking, the selection on this basis of projects for integration into the overall mineral resources development programme should have a positive socio-economic impact. In addition, such projects are appropriate from the standpoint of the objectives envisaged by the regional conference, namely: (a) promoting and strengthening cooperation among African states; and (b) optimizing the utilization of minerals by increasing the level of local processing. The system of assessment described above should therefore be adopted and improved upon.

Table 1: System of assessment of mining projects for integration in the overall development plan

Determining sectors	Level of contribution			
	above average (3)	average (2)	below average (1)	negligible (0)
1. Meeting basic needs: - food - health - shelter - employment - other (specify)				
2. Strengthening the economy as a whole: a) <u>national</u> - agriculture - housing - education - transport - industry - other (specify) (b) <u>subregional and regional</u> - agriculture - housing - education - transport - industry - other (specify)				
Increasing trade among African countries				
Boosting the financial sector				

B. Outline of mining resources development programmes to the year 2010

34. The modalities concerning the implementation of mineral resources development programmes by the year 2010 to meet the set objectives, relate to national as well as subregional development strategies.

C. National programmes

35. Owing to variations in the socio-economic contexts obtaining in different countries as well as the fact that the mineral potential of each country is a factor of specific geological conditions, no single development strategy can be formulated to apply to all countries in general. None the less, the proven success of certain national programmes can legitimately serve as a model. In this context, the Conference is a valuable forum where various national experiences will emerge.

36. The Republic of South Africa may be cited as an exceptional example of an African country which is making concrete efforts to integrate the mining industry into the overall national socio-economic milieu. Mineral resources development programmes are formulated on the basis of inputs from producers, industrial concerns and end-users. There are a number of well structured organizations centred on specific mining interests, for example: the Copper Development Association, the Aluminium Federation of South Africa, the South Africa Ceramic Society, etc..

37. Working in concert with the relevant industrial enterprises and end-users, these organizations define appropriate priorities which are ultimately integrated into the production and import plans relating to the mineral products concerned. In the case of mineral products such as gold, which cannot be entirely absorbed by the internal market, market trends in the subregional and international context are taken into account in the production plans, which also emphasize the value-added component in the production process.

38. Organizations connected with the mining sector are amply represented in the Chamber of Mines, a forum for consultation and exchange of ideas which serves as an important source of medium- and long-term mineral resources development policy at the national level. Studies, orientations and programmes relating to the mining sector are intimately linked with the chamber of mines. In 1993, for instance, it released a key document, "Mining into the next century, a context for survival and growth", which is a virtual handbook in South Africa's mining sector.

39. Similar sectoral organizations exist in other countries, such as Namibia and Zimbabwe (both major producers of minerals), and even in several countries with no significant mining sectors. In all cases, the chamber of mines plays the same role, i.e. a forum for consultations and exchanges serving the commercial and industrial sectors, including small-scale industries. There is therefore room for expansion of the South African model in the context of national mineral resources development programmes.

D. Subregional and regional programmes

40. The lack of a multinational mineral resources policy framework at the subregional or regional level is a blatant defect of the mining industry in Africa, although the work of a number of regional economic institutions, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the now-

defunct West African Economic Community (CEAO)¹ and the Liptako Gourma development authority (ALG), in joint training and research programmes, is noteworthy. Another positive step in the direction of an integrated mineral resources development strategy, in the Southern African context, is of course the system of consultations instituted recently by SADC.

41. Such programmes are certain to enhance the role of Africa's mineral resources in helping improve living standards across the continent. It should therefore be a distinct priority, between now and the year 2010, to set up integrated mineral resources development programmes for other subregions, preferably within the framework of existing regional economic institutions. To this end, and possibly on the SADC model, an appropriate course of action would be to (a) carry out detailed studies on mineral products requirements and (b) make a thorough survey, by subregion, of existing mineral resources. This two-pronged exercise should provide a clear picture of the regional mineral-resource base in a context of complementarity, thus establishing a basis for prosperous intra-African trade in the domain of mineral products.

42. Evidently, the realization of this objective depends upon close cooperation amongst the pertinent bodies or institutions, particularly governments, producers, industrial entrepreneurs, manufacturers of mineral-based equipment and consumer goods, businessmen and other users of mineral products and derivatives. In this context, detailed studies (such as those carried out by ECA, in collaboration with UNIDO, on aluminium and copper) may prove to be of major significance, especially as regards the following areas: (a) the geographical distribution of mineral resources and dependent industrial enterprises, (b) mineral products requirements and level of commerce, in the subregional context as well as continent-wide, (c) political, institutional, technological, financial, social and environmental factors relevant to industrialization in the subregional context, and (d) suggested strategies for the sustainable development and promotion of mineral products and related trade in the subregional and regional contexts.

43. Notwithstanding their national agenda, the chamber of mines and similar institutions should, through the entire process of regional mineral-resources development programme formulation, complement the role of the relevant units of subregional economic and other international institutions concerned with the mining sector.² The national chambers should, accordingly, form subregional federations with the object, initially, of providing a forum for consultations and exchanges and, subsequently, acting as focal points for studies and orientation, in the context of regional mineral resources development programmes. There would ultimately be a regional institution, a federation of African chambers of mines, with the following objectives: (a) coordinating the activities of the national and subregional chambers, and providing a forum for consultations and exchanges as well as a source of expert advice in the formulation of mineral-resources development strategies, policies and programmes; and (b) complementing the activities

¹ The CEAO, whose member States were drawn from French-speaking West Africa, was dissolved in 1994 and replaced by the West African Monetary Union (UMOA).

² Such as the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC) and the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC).

of the national chambers in the continental and global context, particularly in the promotion of Africa's mining sectors and the strengthening of contacts with similar institutions the world over.³

44. The work of a regional or subregional chamber of mines should be significantly facilitated through collaboration with international organizations, such as the African Copper Development Association and the African Iron and Steel Association, concerned with the development and/or utilization of specific mineral resources. Indeed, the establishment of criteria for the integration of selected mining projects in national mineral-resources development programmes is likely to be based on the same principles throughout a region or subregion. In other words, it is expected that the primary consideration in the formulation of a mining project, whether at the regional or subregional level, must be its potential contribution to other aspects of the socio-economic milieu, particularly employment, housing, transport infrastructure, agriculture, health, industry, research and training, commerce, etc.

IV. MAIN ASPECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS: NATURE, TIME-FRAME, FOLLOW-UP AND ASSESSMENT

45. The foregoing review of the principles, modalities and institutional mechanisms relating to mineral resources development programmes from the standpoint of an integrated, sustainable continent-wide development agenda must in the end be placed within a context of concrete action. Translating set objectives into action is at once a national and a regional challenge. However, the identification of such actions in national and regional programmes does not in itself suffice. To actualize the strategies set, the component steps have to be implemented, and this can best be done within the context of a clear time-frame, and clearly defined follow-up and evaluation mechanisms.

A. Suggested actions

1. At the national level

46. At the national level, the implementation process should include:

(a) Updating and re-verifying the available data and other information relating to the country's mineral resources potential;

(b) Setting up (where they do not already exist) national chambers of mines, or mining-sector units within the chambers of commerce/industry;

(c) Defining and/or critically reviewing formulation strategies and national selection criteria relating to mineral resources development projects;

(d) Prioritizing mining projects, so that, say 2 to 5 major ones are selected, on the basis of their likely positive impact on the socio-economic milieu;

(e) Facilitating the selected projects.

³ These were the recommendations of ECA, in the document, Associations africaines d'opérateurs miniers et d'industries connexes (ECA/NRD/FIRCDUMRA/3, November 1993)

2. At the subregional level

47. The main components of the implementation process at the subregional level should include:

(a) Compiling and distributing to other regional economic institutions the institutional instruments of the mining-sector coordinating unit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC);

(b) Establishing and facilitating similar units within other regional economic institutions, such as the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA);

(c) Deputing familiarization missions of the units described in (b) to the SADC counterpart;

(d) Establishing subregional federations of chambers of mines or equivalent bodies;

(e) Formulating guidelines for mining-sector programmes which are designed to promote sustained development in the subregional context;

(f) Compiling the available information pertaining to the subregional mineral-resource base;

(g) Selecting, on the basis of feasibility studies and an informed order of priority, 2 to 4 multinational mineral resources development projects, using as a basic criterion their likely contribution to regional integration, including integration in the continent-wide context, as well as to development in other socio-economic aspects;

(h) Facilitating the selected projects.

3. At the regional level

48. At the regional level, the actions envisaged relate to:

(a) follow-up and evaluation of the implementation process connected with the recommendations contained in:

(i) The document, "Prospects for the Increased Production of and Intra-African Trade in Aluminium Commodities and Metal Products" (ECA/UNIDO/AFRICALUM/TP/1/94) (a study project);

(ii) The document, "Prospects for Increased Production of and Intra-African Trade in Copper Metal and Copper-Based Products" (ECA/UNIDO/AFRICOP/TP/2/94) (a study project).

(b) Establishment of a federation of African chambers of mines;

(c) Detailed study projects (such as those which have been carried out on copper and aluminium) on:

(i) Iron and steel;

(ii) Agro-industrial and agro-chemical minerals;

(iii) Building materials.

(d) Follow-up and evaluation of the implementation process connected with the recommendations of the studies mentioned in (c) above.

4. Programme of activities

49. The programme of activities envisaged covers a period of 15 years, i.e. 1996 to 2010. The activities concerned are shown in table 2, which also shows the bodies and institutions that would be responsible for the implementation process, as well as the time-frame.

5. Follow-up and evaluation mechanisms

50. It is suggested that the following bodies/institutions be charged with the different aspects of the programme of activities indicated:

(a) For actions at the national level, the ministries responsible for mineral resources development of the respective member States;

(b) For actions at the subregional level, the relevant divisions or units of regional economic institutions and ECA;

(c) For actions at the regional level -- ECA, ADB, OAU and intergovernmental economic organizations.

51. To facilitate the follow-up process by member States, one of them should be designated to coordinate a specific aspect of the implementation process, preferably at the subregional level. This would ensure the involvement of every member State in the implementation process, thus invigorating it and contributing to regional cooperation.

52. For its part, ECA would be charged with overall coordination of the follow-up process. For this purpose, the bodies and institutions mentioned above would forward annual reports on a regular basis. In addition, ECA would institute follow-up and evaluation missions, once every two years, to monitor and assist the subregional/regional bodies and institutions charged with the implementation process. It will, on the basis of these missions, forward pertinent reports to the conference of ministers responsible for energy and mineral resources development and utilization, so that the latter may, where appropriate, take any necessary action.

53. Finally, a meeting of all countries charged with coordinating specific aspects of the programme of action, as well as ECA, ADB and OAU, should be organized every five years, with the object of assessing the progress and impact of the implementation process.

V. CONCLUSION

54. Evidently, the secretariat is by no means inclined towards imposing a mineral resources development programme on any party. This must remain the prerogative of individual states, who are best able to identify the programme most suited to them.

55. The interest of the secretariat is to provide guidelines and lay the groundwork for such programmes. It is to be hoped that the Conference will use that base as a source of informed, clear-cut decisions, the implementation of which should involve all concerned. One will then be able to speak, in the context of mineral resources development in Africa, of a veritable "Accra plan of action".

Table 2: Programme of activities

Activities	Time-frame											Responsible body/institution				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		2007	2008	2009	2010
<u>Regional</u> gathering data setting up chambers of mines defining projects strategy and mechanism identifying 2 - 5 main projects facilitating the projects																Ministry resp. for mining sector (member States)
<u>Subregional</u> disseminating the experience of SADC setting up/strengthening mining-sector units the regional economic institutions familiarization missions to SADC establishing subregional federations of chambers of mines defining guidelines for subregional mineral resources development programmes compiling the available information on the regional mineral-resource base identifying 2-4 priority projects facilitating the selected projects																SADC/ECA ECOWAS/CEEAC /UMA/PTA/ECA

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