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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON AIR TRANSPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 9th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications held in Addis Ababa on 12 and 13 March 1993 adopted the resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 93/89 defining, *inter alia*, the terms of reference of the subsectoral working groups for the decade programme implementation phase. In 1994, the working group comprising AFCAC (Chairman), ECA (Lead Agency), ASECNA (Rapporteur), ICAO, AFRAA, ADB, ILO and NCATO undertook a number of activities in order to carry out its terms of reference.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP

2. In order to assist African countries to implement the Decade programme, the Working Group on Air Transport planned to carry out several activities including:

- (a) Updating of Air Transport subsectoral strategy;
- (b) Dissemination of the strategy to member States;
- (c) Organization of seminars and assistance to member States for the preparation of common positions;
- (d) Assistance, if requested, to the NCC's;
- (e) Setting up of structures and associations whose purpose is to improve the quality of Air Transport Services in Africa; and
- (f) Resource mobilization for the implementation of the work programme, etc....

3. In 1994, all members of the working group individually and collectively fielded technical assistance mission in order to popularise the subsectoral strategy.

4. On the regional level, the members of the working group undertook the following activities:

A. Fifth meeting of the working group

5. The group held in Cairo, Egypt, on 3 and 4 February 1994 its fifth meeting under the auspices of NCATO in order to consider the following items:

- (a) Evaluation of the work programme;
- (b) Preparation of a special meeting in Mauritius on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration; and
- (c) Consideration of new projects.

6. The conclusions of the fifth meeting of the Committee on the Work Programme Evaluation is attached in annex to this report.

B. Legal experts' seminar

7. ECA obtained financial assistance from the Egyptian Fund for Cooperation with Africa for the organization of a seminar for Air Transport Legal Experts. Two legal experts from each African country were hired with the funds thus secured.

8. The purpose of the Seminar was to familiarize the legal experts with the various concepts of liberalization, to draw their attention to the issues of human resources management and institutional development and to lay the ground work for future air transport regulations. This seminar was initiated by ECA and AFRAA and organized by the working group on air transport.

C. Meeting of the African Ministers Responsible for Civil Aviation

9. During its fifth meeting organized in Cairo, the Working Group discussed the organization of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation as required by resolution E/ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 93/89 of the ninth Conference of the African Ministers of Transport and Communications. The group decided to set up a preparatory committee, which met in Tunis under the auspices of the Department of Civil Aviation to finalize the documents to be presented to the Ministers. This consultation between members of the working group, air transport authorities and African airlines made it possible to better prepare the meeting of the Ministers responsible civil aviation. The report of the said meeting was specially presented to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers. The major decisions taken therein focused on the following:

(a) Strengthening air transport cooperation. In this respect, it was pointed out that governments and airlines should continue with their efforts towards the establishment or development of multinational airlines. Furthermore, they should take necessary measures to complete Phase III by the year 2000;

(b) The gradual liberalization of traffic rights within Africa. Guidelines were adopted on the granting of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth air freedoms within and between the African subregions;

(c) The incorporation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration in the national policies as the foundation for an African air transport policy. To this effect, African countries have one year to finalize the procedure;

(d) The revamping of the coordination machinery. A regional, subregional and national coordination machinery was set up. ECA will assist the coordinating ministers to organize and implement the activities of all these machineries; and

(e) The adoption of the African positions on the salient issues of the fourth ICAO Special Conference on air transport. The 42 countries which attended the meeting adopted African positions on the ICAO World Conference on air transport. These positions were defended by AFCAC in Montreal.

III. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

10. It was envisaged that the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC), would assist the working groups in implementing their work programme. Furthermore, there was a consultation between ECA, the decade lead agency, and the working group regarding the development of programme of action to be financed by UNDP. Unfortunately, it has not been possible despite efforts by the RMC and ECA to mobilize funds required for the implementation of the activities of the working group. Against this background, the working group asked ECA to rethink the resource mobilization strategy and diversify its traditional financing sources which have hitherto participated in the Decade programme. Actions are under way to include some of the working group's activities in the ECA's regular programme.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

11. Despite the above-mentioned problems, the working group undertook some activities for the promotion of the decade programme through individual and collective efforts. The Egyptian Government and the Tunisian Department of Civil Aviation provided significant financial assistance for the implementation of the group's assignments. Additional efforts should be made to obtain funds for the future activities of the working group. In this connection, ECA has included in its 1996-1997 work programme some of the working group's activities with a view to financing them within its regular budget.

Title	Organizations in charge	Implementation Status	Remarks/Decisions
NATIONAL 1. Organization of 4 seminars on air transport services	ECA, AFRAA	ECA prepared a document on measures to improve air transport services and the organization of seminars is planned for 1994	Organization of seminars depends on financial assistance from UNDP to UNTACDA II programme. However, a seminar was organized in Cairo with funds provided by the Egyptian Fund for Cooperation with Africa.
2. Assistance to NCC's for policy formulation and identification of projects	ICAO, NCATO	1994	Projects submitted ICAO and included in UNCTAD II are yet to be funded
3. Promotion of training programme for civil aviation and air lines officials	AFCAC	HRID Phase II has not yet taken off	AFCAC Technical Committees considered this issue. However, UNDP has just agreed to finance the human resources development project. Activities to be undertaken will commence in Madagascar and Sierra Leone.
SUBREGIONAL 1. Formulation of flexible policies for the granting of traffic rights.	AFCAC	AFCAC intends to organize 4 workshops in order to consider traffic rights policies regarding the Yamoussoukro Declaration	ECA suggested a flexible policy in its study on measures to improve air transport services. This proposal was submitted to the Working Group's meeting. This document was evaluated and will be submitted to various AFCAC and AFRAA's working groups and then to African countries.
2. Studies at the request of subregional organizations.	ECA, working group	Conducted in 1992	ECA conducted two studies at the request of ECCAS and ECOWAS.
3. Participation in the organizations' statutory meetings	ECA	1994	Actions continued
4. Regrouping and coordination of air transport activities	Working group		No action was undertaken. A meeting of all organizations concerned could be planned in the future. An organization to carry out this assignment will be appointed at a later stage.
5. Identification and formulation of subregional projects to be included in UNCTAD II programme	ICAO	Action continued.	No new project is planned for the moment.
6. Organization of two seminars in the Africa/Indian Ocean Region on future air navigation system	ASECNA	AFRAA plans to organize in May 1994 in Abidjan an exhibition on CNS/ATM equipment.	ASECNA held two seminars (Nairobi and Casablanca)
REGIONAL 1. General study on operation costs and tariffs	AFRAA	1994	Due to difficulties in data collection, AFRAA focused actions on reconciling the differences in tariff structures.
2. Setting up of an air transport services consumers association	ECA	AFCAC was in contact with IAPA	ECA and AFCAC should continue with their consultations
3. Organization of two seminars under the auspices of AFRAA	AFRAA, NCATO	A seminar was organized in 1994	ECA in concert with AFRAA and NCATO organized with the Egyptian funds, a seminar for legal experts

Title	Organizations in charge	Implementation Status	Remarks/Decisions
4. Establishment of a leasing company	OAU	ADB plans to organize a consultative meeting	Consultative activities under way. ICAO prepared the terms of reference for ADB.
5. Autonomous civil aviation authorities	ICAO		ICAO produced a draft document. To date, there are 13 autonomous civil aviation authorities and 5 airport authorities
6. Dissemination of air transport data	AFCAC		AFCAC plans to hire 2 consultants and organize 2 seminars.
7. Review and widespread application of the strategy.	ECA	1994	Consultations are underway with member states
8. Ministerial conference.	Working group	1994	Meeting planned for Mauritius in September 1994. ECA's proposal for organizing the conference was presented to the working group's meeting.
9. Meeting of training center directors.	ECA	1994	NCATO offered to host the said meeting, but it cannot be held in 1994 due to the lack of financial resources.
10. Meeting of the working group	ECA	A meeting will be organized in 1994	The meeting was organized in Cairo on 3 and 4 February 1994
11. Evaluation of parameters laid down in the strategy	AFCAC	AFCAC should endeavour to assess some of the parameters	AFCAC should monitor this activity with the secretary of the APIRG and ASECNA group
12. Seminars on maintenance centers and spare parts	ADB	AFRAA established spare parts pool arrangements	ECOWAS will organize in 1994 a follow up meeting to the ADB/AFCAC study.
13. Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration	ECA	1993	ECA produce a document. The Ministerial Meeting is planned for September 1994 in Mauritius.
14. Report on programme implementation.	ECA	1993	The document was presented to the Conference of Ministers, held in March 1993 in Addis Ababa.
15. Promotion of research and development activities	NCATO	Action continued	It was proposed to establish a center for the collection and circulation of studies conducted on civil aviation in Africa. NCATO offered two carry out this assignment in the context of the Decade. All members of the working group should send copies of available studies to NCATO.
16. Exchange of experience between African countries in order to improve safety standards.	ICAO	Action continued	None has yet been undertaken