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**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**Distr.: LIMITED  
TRANSCOM/1034**

**January 1996  
English  
Original: French**

**SECRETARIAT NOTE IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION  
ECA/UNTACDA/RES.95/96 ON UNCTAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE SECOND PHASE OF UNTACDA II**

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**Transport, Communications and Tourism Division**

**Secretariat Note in Support of Resolution**  
**ECA/UNTACDA/RES.95/96 On UNCTAD's Contribution to**  
**the Second Phase of UNTACDA II**

Since 1991, Africa has endeavoured, among other things, to implement a regional programme for the development of the transport and communications sector, particularly through the work programme for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II).

As its name indicates, UNTACDA II (1991-2000) is a continuation of UNTACDA I which covered the period 1978-1988.

**Objective of UNTACDA II**

The main objective of the UNTACDA II programme is to build an integrated transport and communications system which would form the basis of Africa's physical integration and facilitate national and international traffic with a view to developing intra-African trade.

UNTACDA II was designed with the goal of mobilizing all African States, their main intergovernmental organizations as well as the entire international community to make a concerted effort to develop the transport and communications sectors in Africa from 1991 to 2000.

Indeed, experience has shown that without an adequate transport and communications infrastructure to backup production structures and their distribution and marketing systems, there can be no genuine progress in regional cooperation.

### **The UNTACDA II Programme**

In preparing the UNTACDA II programme, it was agreed to place the emphasis on key problems whose solution required regional or subregional cooperation. Accordingly, the following areas were identified as needing especial attention:

- the improvement of infrastructural facilities and equipment through the implementation of viable projects;
- the improvement of transport and communications by way of institutional and financial reforms, human resources development and efficient management;
- the removal of non-physical barriers through the harmonization and simplification of laws and regulations;
- the development of manufacturing industries through the promotion of multinational enterprises and industries; and
- the improvement of transport and communications services through business promotion, the liberalization of services and the creation of an enabling environment to encourage private sector involvement.

On the basis of these guidelines, an initial list of 669 projects was selected for implementation during the programme period.

### **The Role of UNCTAD in the Preparation and Implementation of the UNTACDA II Programme**

In order to secure the contribution of all interested and potential parties to the socio-economic development of Africa in the preparation and implementation of this sectoral

development programme, an institutional framework was set up comprising, mainly the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications which is the supreme policy organ for the Decade; an Inter Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC), the lead agency for the Decade; a Resource Mobilization Committee, later to become the advisory committee on UNTACDA II programme promotion; National Coordinating Committees (NCCs); and subregional and subsectoral working groups.

With reference to the subsectoral working groups, it should be pointed out that eight of them were set up to address the issues of: (i) roads and road transport; (ii) railways and rail transport; (iii) air transport; (iv) maritime, inland waterway and multimodal transport; (v) urban transport; (vi) telecommunications and radio broadcasting; (vii) postal services; and (viii) transport and communications equipment manufacture.

UNCTAD is the coordinating agency for the maritime, inland waterway and multimodal transport working group.

Both in that capacity and as a member of IACC, UNCTAD participated actively in the preparation of strategy papers for the UNTACDA II programme.

In the framework of implementation of UNTACDA II programme in general, and of its normal work programme in particular, UNCTAD has already conducted a number of studies and organized training seminars for African officials particularly in the areas of maritime transport facilitation, port management and multimodal transport.

Cases in point are:

(i) In the area of maritime transport

The UNCTAD study on maritime transport conducted in 1992 to analyze Industry and Policy Developments in World Shipping and their impact on Developing Countries;

(ii) In the area of ports

- Cooperation among ports in developing countries;
- Port equipment maintenance; and
- Establishment of transshipment facilities.

Briefly, the activities UNCTAD that has carried out within the context of transport development generally and the facilitation of international transport and transit in particular, have been many and significant.

Considering the very important contribution that UNCTAD makes to the development of transport systems in the developing countries generally and in Africa in particular, and in the concern to see UNCTAD activities continued and strengthened, especially during the implementation of the second phase of the UNTACDA II programme, the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications, during its 10th meeting held in March 1995 in Addis Ababa, adopted a resolution inviting Africa's development partners to seize the opportunity of UNCTAD IX to strengthen UNCTAD's capacity to implement transport programmes and, with particular reference to Africa, to pursue the objectives of the UNTACDA II programme (see Resolution in the Annex).

It is in this context that the current meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade is invited to support and endorse the aforementioned resolution so that it can be considered at UNCTAD IX.

**RESOLUTION  
ECA/UNTACDA/RES.95/96  
UNCTAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II OF THE SECOND UNITED  
NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DECADE IN AFRICA (UNTACDA II)**

**The Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-21 March 1995**

**Recalling** its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/84 February 1991 by which it adopted the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1991-2000 (UNTACDA II);

**Recalling also** its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89 of 13 March 1993 on implementation of the programme of UNTACDA II;

**Referring** to United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/456 of 20 December 1991 launching the implementation of the Decade programme and decision 48/456 of 20 December 1993 on the implementation of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

**Having Considered** the mid-term evaluation of UNTACDA II and the action programme derived therefrom;

**Conscious of** the recent rapid changes in international economic relations reflected in such concepts as globalization and liberalization;

**Recognizing that** these changes pose both opportunities and challenges to governments, particularly those of developing countries;

**Recognizing** the important role that UNCTAD can play in addressing the problems posed by globalization and liberalization in the transport sector, especially in Africa;

**Appreciating** the important contribution that has been made by UNCTAD in the realization of the objectives set out in the UNTACDA II Programme in the past, and is expected to play in the second phase of the programme;

**Having taken note of** the preparatory work that is currently underway towards the Ninth Session of the conference of UNCTAD scheduled to take place in 1996;

1. **Invites** Africa's development partners to use the occasion of UNCTAD IX to reinvigorate UNCTAD to enable it to carry out its programmes in the transport sector and as far as Africa is concerned, its programmes in the transport sector, that advance the objectives of the UNTACDA II programme;

2. **Urges the Secretary General of UNCTAD** (i) to ensure that UNCTAD IX formulate a comprehensive policy in UNCTAD's future work programme in the area of information technology in the transport sector with a view to making it possible for developing African countries to take advantage of the enormous economic development opportunities inherent in this emergent technology;

- (ii) with the support of the donor community to extend the benefits of management information systems and logistics applied to the transport sector, such as the Advance Cargo Information System on major transport routes, to developing countries, especially to African countries that may request it;

3. **Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA** (i) to transmit this resolution to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the African Group in Geneva (Kenya) and the Secretary-General of UNCTAD;

- (ii) to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution during its next meeting in 1997.