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E/ECA/TRADE/95/28
Annex 3

**PROPOSALS FOR AN EIGHT YEAR INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE
DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN**

The following institutions would be involved in the preparation and implementation of programmes derived from the proposed Action Plan: ECA, AATPO, AEC, ADB, ITC, UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, Subregional economic groupings, World Tourism Organizations, World Bank, National Investment and Trade Development Centres

Year 1-8: Workout and disseminate standard industrial project profiles and support national investment and trade development centres to this end.

B. Trade Information

Year 1-5: Establishment of a fully fledged harmonization formation and documentation system with focal points at ECA; AATPO, AEC and subregional communities Headquarters (including revitalizing existing subregional trade information systems and networks at COMESA, ECCA and ECOWAS);

Year 2-3: Establishment of a regional Fax/computer referral service linkage ECA, AATPO Headquarters and other African trade promotion offices on offers and demand - preparation of a North Africa Trade Directory in cooperation with national chambers of that subregion;

Year 4-5: Preparation of a trade directory in cooperation with Eastern and Southern Africa's Association of Chambers of Commerce and ECA;

Year 5-6: Preparation of a West Africa Trade Directory in cooperation with the West African Federation of Chambers of Commerce;

Year 1-8: Advisory services to member-countries on the organization and computerization of their trade information centres - preparation of a up-dated version of the Regional Trade Directory.

C. Trade fairs, exhibitions, missions investment fora

3. This calls for a thematic approach to subregional trade fairs and the OAU All Africa Trade Fair fit in the following:

Year 1: Preparatory activities in view of the organization of "Food Africa" a specialized trade fair on food and food production.

Year 2: "Food Africa" for food items, food technology research and finding agro-industrial equipments - Agricultural implements and inputs, investment projects in the food sector.

Year 3: Preparatory activities for "Industry Africa".

Year 1-8: Workout and disseminate standard industrial project profiles and support national investment and trade development centres to this end.

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Year 3: Preparatory activities for "Industry Africa".

- Year 4: "Industry Africa": Industrial trade fair including exhibition of raw materials, equipments, semi-finished and finished industrial items, investment projects - Forum of African investors.
- Year 5: Preparatory activities for Transport, Transit, Tourism Africa "Africa 3T".
- Year 6: "Transport, Transit and Tourism Africa" - Studies on the feasibility of the "African exhibition of textiles and garment" "GATEX Africa" and on "Leather and leather goods Africa" "LEATHER Africa".
- Year 8: "GATEX Africa" takes place.

4. These fairs are expected to usher investment in support of the diversification programmes.

D. Trade and investment financing - Export credit and insurance

- Year 1: Review of existing clearing and payments arrangements with a view to seeing how increased intra-African transactions could be channelled through them. Preliminary research on the feasibility of establishing clearing trading houses.
- Year 2-5: Follow-up and support the ABR investment bank project. Studies on export credit facilities existing in selected African countries popularization/strengthening of such facilities and reflecting with AFREXIM Bank on modalities for networking of activities of the bank.
- Year 3-5: Preliminary research and contacts for the establishment of an AFRO-ARAB investment Fund in cooperation with BADEA, ADB, ABR and various Arab Funds (Kuwait, ...).

E. Trade Facilitation

- Year 1-2: Undertake preparatory activities with the AEC secretariat for the adoption of an African agreement on temporary admissions of samples, creation under the auspices OAU-AEC and ABR of an African carnet for temporary admission of samples "ACTS".

- Establishment of an arbitration mechanism under AATPO to settle trade disputes.

Year 3-4: Studies and proposals for the creation of a Guarantee of African Transit Carnets (GATC) with membership extended to Road Transport Associations and Automobile Associations operating in African countries. GATC will fill the gap in transit arrangements of subregional groupings and pave the way for the future African common market - in close cooperation with subregional economic groupings.

Year 5: Launching of GATC in selected subregions - Preparation of a uniformed set of trade documents for Africa in cooperation with UNCTAD and the African Economic Community (AEC).

Year 6-7: Follow-up "ACTS" and "GATC".

Year 6: Launching of the unified set of documents.

F. Manpower development, training and technical cooperation

Year 2: Training of trade information officers of member countries on the harmonized trade information systems layout and modalities for its operation.

Year 1-5: Advisory services on request to member countries on the structures, functions and management systems of the National Investment and Trade Development Centres.

Year 1-3: Training of trade information officers on the establishment and operation of computerized trade information systems and documentation techniques.

Year 3-5: Technical cooperation and consultations with existing subregional management training institutions with a view to studying ways and means of establishing a multilingual (French-English) African postgraduate management programme.

Year 6: Follow-up African postgraduate management programme's establishment.

El Funding: Member countries, african business communities are the prime sources of the funding of the proposed programme - donors' support will be sought to supplement african contributions.

Monitoring: A biennial review meeting will be organized by a committee of five to be appointed by the Conference of Ministers of Trade, Regional integration and Tourism.