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**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR  
SOUTHERN AFRICA (ECA/SRDC-SA)**

**BACK TO OFFICE REPORT:**

**STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE ON THE POVERTY  
REDUCTION STRATEGY PAPER (PRSP)**

<b>Staff Member:</b>	<b>Z.W. Kazeze, Population Affairs Officer</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To participate at the Conference to launch the process on the preparation of the Zambia Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Lusaka, Zambia,</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29-30 June 2000</b>
<b>Programme Element:</b>	<b>Technical Support to National Government Programmes</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The Sub-Regional Development Centre for Southern Africa (SRDC-SA) was invited to the two day Conference of Stakeholders at the launching of the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ), Lieutenant General Christon Tembo addressed the Conference. I represented the SRDC-SA at the Conference.

In 1997 the Government of the Republic of Zambia, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, initiated the preparation of a National Poverty Reduction Strategic Framework (NPRSF) to reduce poverty from over 73 per cent to 50 per cent by 2004. The NPRSF was drafted by May 1998 after consultations with key stakeholders in government, civil society and the donor community. Subsequently, a National Poverty Reduction Action Plan (NPRAP) was prepared in November 1998 to facilitate the implementation of the NPRSF. The NPRAP was expected to be approved by Cabinet. Before this could be done, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had instituted a new requirement of the PRSP before a country can access concessional financing, including debt relief.

The Enhance Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) of the IMF is being replaced by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) and the PRSP will be a basis for consideration to access funds from the PRGF. Countries which seek assistance under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative are now required to have a PRSP before consideration for accessing assistance. On a transitional basis, a country can be considered for inclusion in the HIPC Initiative without a PRSP provided the country demonstrates its commitment to the preparation of the PRSP on a timely basis. An Interim PRSP could serve as an intention and commitment to prepare the full PRSP. The PRSP is to be country driven emphasizing country ownership and broad-based participation of civil society in its formulation and monitoring of the poverty reduction strategy to enhance sustained implementation. The GRZ, in order to be considered at the

earliest stage for the HIPC Initiative, has drafted an Interim PRSP (I-PRSP) with consultations limited to government institutions.

## THE CONFERENCE

A number of presentations were made at the conference and they included:

- A poverty profile on Zambia;
- Presentation on PRSP and PRGF;
- Guidelines on PRSP process;
- United Nations view on the PRSP process;
- Linkages between the NPRAP, PRSP, PRGF and HIPC;
- The Consultative Group (CG) process;
- Status of the PRSP process in Zambia.

Presentations were followed by commentaries and questions from the civil society and there were plenary discussions on each presentation. The Draft Conference Work Programme in the Annex gives details on items presented. During the second day of the conference participants went into three working groups to discuss themes for inclusion and modalities on the preparation of the PRSP which has to be completed by May 2001. Each group reported to the plenary the outcome of its discussions.

The PRSP will focus on issues including: Macro and micro-economic measures to accelerate growth and reduce poverty; agriculture development; tourism; social sectors (health and education). Several working groups will be formed to prepare the inputs for the PRSP through a consultative process including those in the rural areas through workshops at provincial headquarters. The draft will be reviewed at a National workshop. The final version will then be presented to the Cabinet for approval and thereafter presented to the World Bank and IMF.

The civil society organizations welcomed their involvement in the PRSP process and hoped that their views would be taken into account. They also requested that an impact assessment of previous IMF/World Bank programmes be conducted in order to avoid making the same mistakes.

## CONCLUSION

The approach on comprehensive consultation in the process on the preparation of the PRSP is a must if poverty reduction programmes are to have a positive impact and gain the much desired ownership of the programme when it comes to implementation and monitoring. The ECA has over the years been advocating popular participation in socio-economic development. Unfortunately, governments are sometimes forced to comply to IMF/World Bank conditions, e.g. the case of comprehensive consultations on the PRSP process without their own conviction that this is important. As a result the consultations may only be a formality and not done thoroughly. Once the governments obtain funding for programmes, consultations may not continue in the implementation process of the programmes. Nation-wide consultations require adequate time. Zambia has very little time for a thorough comprehensive consultative process. Thus the outcome may fall short of expectations.

The civil society organizations are quite correct in demanding the conduct of impact assessment studies on past IMF/World Bank programmes so that lessons from those programmes can guide new programmes.

## ANNEX I

## DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1	Activity	Presenter	Chairperson
08:00 - 08:45	Registration of participants		
08:45 - 08:55	Participants take their seats		
09:00 - 09:15	Opening speech and official launching of PRSP process for Zambia	President F. J. T. Chiluba	Minister-MoFED
09:15 - 09:30	Vote of Thanks	Cabinet Minister	"
09:30 - 09:40	Departure of the guest of honour		"
09:40 - 10:05	A Poverty Profile for Zambia	Prof. Oliver Saasa (INESOR)	"
10:05 - 10:20	A Commentary	PAM	Deputy Minister (MOFED)
10:20 - 10:35	TEA BREAK		"
12:10 - 12:35	Presentation on PRSP and PRGF Principles and Linkages	Joint presentation WB/IMF	"
12:35 - 13:00	Guidelines on PRSP process	Joint presentation WB/IMF	"
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 - 14:30	UN View on the PRSP Process	UN Resident Coordinator	
14:30 - 15:00	Questions from Civil Society Regarding PRSP	Jubilee 2000	
15:00 - 15:30	Overview of Country Experiences from WB/IMF	World Bank/IMF	
15:30 - 15:45	TEA BREAK		"
15:45 - 16:30	Plenary Discussion		
16:30 - 17:15	Overview of the NPRAP	PS (MCDSS)	
Day 2	Activity	Presenter	Chairperson
09:00 - 09:15	A Commentary on the NPRAP	Economics Ass. of Zambia	
09:15 - 09:40	Linkages between the NPRAP, PRSP, PRGF and HIPC	Dr. S. Musokotwane (MOFED)	"
09:40 - 10:05	The Consultative Group (CG) Process	ST	"
10:05 - 10:30	Status of PRSP Process in Zambia	Dr. S. Musokotwane	"
10:30 - 10:45	TEA BREAK		
10:45 - 11:15	Plenary discussion		
11:15 - 13:00	Formation of Working Groups and commencement of group work		Group chairpersons
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 - 15:30	Report Back	Group rapporteurs	Group chairpersons
15:30 - 16:00	Plenary discussion on group work		Chairman (NEAC)
16:00 - 16:15	TEA BREAK		
16:15 - 16:30	Tentative way forward for PRSP preparations	One of working group chairpersons	"
16:30 - 16:45	Closing speech	Minister of Finance and Economic Development	"

## ANNEX II

### DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE

1. The Face of Poverty in Zambia - Realities, Mounting Challenges and Prospects, by Prof. Oliver Saasa, Director of the Institute of Economic and Social Research, University of Zambia.
2. The PRSP Process - World Bank/IMF.
3. Halving Extreme Poverty - An Action Strategy for the United Nations - UNDP.
4. Draft Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) - GRZ.
5. Zambia's Efforts in Poverty Reduction - GRZ, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.
6. Discussion Draft on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: Internal Guidance Note. - World Bank Group, 10 December 1999.
7. Commentary on the Presentation by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services on Zambia's Effort on Poverty Reduction - Albert M. Muchanga, Economic Association of Zambia.
8. Poverty Reduction Strategic Process: Opportunities and Threats as Perceived by Civil Society, by Chrispin Mphuka, Jubilee 2000 - Zambia, CCJP/JCTR Debt Project.
9. Civil Society's Role in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Process - Joyce C. Nonde, President of the Federation of the Free Trade Unions of Zambia.
10. Commentary on the National Poverty Reduction Action Plan - Mrs. Freda Luhila, Programme Against Malnutrition.