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**EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY
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**REPORT OF ECA ACTIVITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF UNTACDA II PROGRAMME IN 1991-1992**

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I. Introduction

1. It would be recalled that at its eighth meeting held in Abuja (Nigeria) in February 1991, the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning adopted the programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa for the period 1991-2000.
2. Furthermore, based on resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/83, the Conference held an extraordinary meeting in Addis Ababa, from 7 to 8 May 1991, during which it adopted the first list of projects to be included in the UNTACDA II programme. A total of 669 projects estimated at US\$ 11,795 million were retained out of the 1,127 projects initially submitted.
3. The whole programme was approved in July 1991 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which recommended it to the General Assembly for launching and the General Assembly officially launched the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa by its resolution 46/456 of 20 December 91. Since the implementation of the UNTACDA II programme officially started with its launching by the General Assembly, it is worthwhile to examine the work so far undertaken in its implementation up to now.
4. As all the main organs involved in this implementation exercise such as the RMC, the subsectoral and subregional working groups will have to report on their activities, the present report covers only the activities undertaken by ECA as lead agency of UNTACDA II as well as its activities as a member of the respective organs of UNTACDA II.
5. As lead agency, ECA is, among other things, responsible in collaboration with other agencies, for the preparation of the Decade programme and for the harmonization, coordination and monitoring of all Decade activities. In addition, ECA is also a member of all the different working groups created within the framework of the Decade programme. As such, its activities during this period of implementation of UNTACDA II programme have consisted of and will relate to:

- (i) Dissemination of the Decade Programme;
- (ii) Resource mobilization;
- (iii) Implementation of UNTACDA II Programme;
- (iv) Monitoring implementation of the programme.

II. Dissemination of the Decade Programme

6. ECA has prepared and produced volume II of the UNTACDA II programme. This document contains the list as well as an analysis of all projects approved in 1991. In addition, a brochure on UNTACDA II titled "Towards Africa's Economic Integration" was also prepared and distributed to the various partners of UNTACDA II on various occasions, and, in view of the need to widely promote the UNTACDA II programme, ECA started a **Newsletter on UNTACDA II Programme**. Two issues were issued in 1992, in both English and French languages.

7. This newsletter is intended to keep readers informed of important past and future events of the Decade programme. As far as possible, it will include information on the implementation of the Decade programme, general information in the field of transport and communications, as well as professional and technical articles on specific topics in the transport and communications sectors. The newsletter, therefore, offers an opportunity for individuals to make contributions of articles on experiences of the management of these systems, or articles of any other relevance to the sector.

III. Resource Mobilization

8. As lead agency and member of the Resource Mobilization Committee, ECA is required to undertake activities directly or indirectly meant to mobilizing resources for the programme. ECA took active part in organizing the Brussels meeting of donors which the Ministers asked RMC to organize before the end of 1991. The meeting was not to be a pledging conference, but was to be aimed at identifying the best means of obtaining financing for the programme. This meeting took place in Brussels at the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in November 1991.

9. The major outcome of the meeting was the recognition by the financial agencies and institutions that the maintenance and rehabilitation of transport and communications infrastructures and equipment in Africa must, together with human resource development, be given priority in the Decade's programme.

However, careful expansion of selected infrastructures was equally important, in order to achieve subregional and regional integration and improve the efficiency of these sectors.

10. It was also emphasized that transport and communications must be regarded as viable economic sectors which would not only be self-financing, but should also contribute to the national treasury. With this in mind, it was stipulated that the users of transport and communications services should contribute financially to the running cost of related infrastructure and services. This should reduce the financial constraints often faced at present by these sectors being too dependent on the national treasury for the necessary investment in new infrastructure and services as well as their maintenance.

11. Finally, several financial organizations attending the meeting declared that they were satisfied with the programme of UNTACDA II, and the majority intended to support priority projects and work together with the Resource Mobilization Committee to provide financing for the Decade programmes and projects.

12. ECA as the secretariat and member of RMC prepared, participated in and serviced the 10th, 11th and 12th meetings of RMC. The objectives and outcomes of those meetings are contained in the RMC report to this meeting.

13. ECA also participated in the ad hoc meeting organized from 2 to 5 April 1992, in Addis Ababa by the UNDP Division for the Region Programme of the Regional Bureau for Africa on transport and communications programme as a subregional component of the 5th programme cycle of UNDP. The main objective of this meeting was to discuss cooperation with UNDP in implementing particular areas of the transport and communications sector of the 5th regional programme for Africa, in the overall context of UNTACDA II. At this meeting, UNDP announced the areas of its involvement under the 5th Cycle Regional Programme for Africa, namely:

- (i) human resources development;
- (ii) logistics planning and operations;
- (iii) assistance in developing a market-oriented approach in the transport and communications sector; and
- (iv) special activities to support the implementation of UNTACDA II programme.

IV. Implementation of UNTACDA II Programme

14. With regard to the implementation of UNTACDA II programme, ECA has both participated in and organized jointly with ITU the Second Meeting of African Ministers responsible for telecommunications, held in Abidjan from 25 to 27 May 1992. Besides consideration of the reports of the Interim Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee, the purpose of this meeting was to select the headquarters of the newly created organization "RASCOM"; Abidjan was selected from among six cities.

15. ECA also took part in the meeting of Directors of African Civil Aviation Training Centres which took place in Cairo from 31 October to 1 November 1992. The meeting examined and made recommendations on the following issues:

- i) Activities of individual training Centres;
- ii) Elements of possible cooperation among training Centres;
- iii) Regional projects and elements for the formulation of future programme on human resource and institutional development;
- iv) Financing of training institutions;
- v) Formation of the Association of African Civil Aviation Training Centres.

16. Furthermore, ECA organized a series of meetings among which were the following:

(a) **The first meeting of UNTACDA II Working Group on Strategies for development of Equipment in transport and communications sector in Africa**

17. This meeting which took place in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 May 1992 had as its purpose:

- to agree on the terms of reference of the working group for the period of implementation of UNTACDA II programme;
- to define strategies for implementation of UNTACDA II programme with regard to the development of transport and communications equipment;

- to establish the work programme of the subsectoral working group during the first phase of the implementation of UNTACDA II programme;

18. It should be recalled that unlike the other seven subsectoral working groups, the Working Group on manufacture of transport and communications equipment was only created by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its extraordinary meeting held in Addis Ababa in May 1991. ECA was appointed as leader of this group

19. Regarding the terms of reference, a draft was prepared and the meeting decided that they should be circulated before to adopting them at the next meeting of the working group.

20. Concerning the strategies for the transport and communications equipment technologies in Africa, proposals regarding ways of manufacturing transport and communications equipment were made with insistence on designing strategies based on demand at the country level and emphasis on the linkages with agricultural and trade sectors. It was therefore suggested that the Working group strategy document include amongst other things: the need to prioritize on a regional basis among modes of transport and communications and within each mode; the use of existing African structures; the choice of material inputs to be used by subsectors; the management capabilities and skills needed; and the level of technologies required.

21. Consequently, all the specialized agencies members of the group were requested to provide inputs and to prepare, in their respective field of competence, a document which will enable the finalization of the consolidated strategies document for the sector.

22. As regards the work programme, the meeting was of the view that this issue should be addressed at its next meeting after the approval of the terms of reference and the adoption of the subsectoral strategies.

- (b) The intergovernmental meeting of African Experts and Senior officials on development of cooperation among ports held in Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 May 1992

23. It should be recalled that upon the request of the African port community, ECA had been organizing regularly since 1987, intergovernmental meetings of African port experts and senior officials with the primary purpose of providing an appropriate forum for representatives of the ports and port-related organizations to share ideas on the problematic issues of port

development, together with their experiences in solving such problems.

24. With regard to this meeting, its main objective was to consider the issue of regional cooperation among ports in information exchange and human resource development. The meeting formulated a series of recommendations meant for promoting such cooperation among ports at national as well as subregional and regional levels.

(c) The intergovernmental meeting of African Experts of Trans African Highway, held in Addis Ababa from 28 to 30 July 1992

26. The purpose of the meeting was to review the report on the reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau as well as to acquaint the experts with the Decade strategy of the roads and road transport programme. It was thus stressed that the Trans-African Highway programme should continue to be geared towards the implementation of the Decade objectives to ensure that all the physical and non-physical impediments to intra-African trade and travel are removed and regional cooperation is achieved as envisaged in the objectives of the African Economic Community.

27. Concerning the reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau, the meeting reviewed and amended the draft statutes of this Bureau and recommended it for adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning during its next meeting scheduled for March 1993.

(d) Meeting on implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on new air transport policy in Africa for the Central Africa Subregion

28. This meeting was organized in Bangui, Central Africa Republic from 7 to 10 September 1992. Unfortunately, the low participation at the ministerial level did not allow the meeting to deliberate or make decisions on the issues for which it was convened.

e) Meeting of UNTACDA II Working Group on Air Transport.

29. Besides adoption of the work programme of the Air Transport Working Group and the allocation of tasks for implementation of UNTACDA II programme in this subsector, the meeting which took place in Cairo, Egypt from 2 to 4 November 1992, also discussed and made recommendations on the ways to implement the following tasks:

- i) Harmonisation of UNTACDA II projects; and
- ii) Identification of key parameters for monitoring UNTACDA II programme.

30. In addition to the above intergovernmental meetings, ECA actively participated in subsectoral meetings whose main purpose was to define the programme of activities to be performed in the implementation of UNTACDA II programme in the respective subsectors, i.e.:

- (i) Meeting of the Working Group on Urban Transport, held in Delft, the Netherlands from 28 to 30 September 1992.
- (ii) Meeting of the Working Group on Postal services, held in Berne, Switzerland from 10 to 15 October 1992.
- (iii) Meeting of the Working Group on Roads and Road Transport, held in Addis Ababa, on 16 and 17 October 1992.
- iv) Meeting of the Working Group on Maritime and Multimodal Transport, held in Alexandria, Egypt, late in and in Addis Ababa in May 1992
- v) Meeting of the Working Group on Telecommunications and Broadcasting, held in Geneva in November 1992
- vi) Meeting of the Working Group on Railways, held in Paris, France in November 1991.

V. Monitoring implementation of UNTACDA II Programme

31. ECA undertook consultation missions to selected African countries and the major African subregional organizations, namely: PTA, ECOWAS and ECCAS as well as to some United Nations agencies, such as UNCTAD, ILO, IMO, ITU and UPU. These missions, conducted in May-June 1992, were aimed at reviewing their programmes and agreeing on the support required for coordinating the implementation of UNTACDA II.

32. The common key issues raised during these missions were that:

- (i) The linkage between national and regional or subregional IPFs should be clearly established so

as to facilitate their use in financing some UNTACDA II activities at the two levels. Unfortunately, neither the UNDP country offices nor the countries were clear on the issue;

- (ii) UNDP country offices were not fully involved in the Decade issues, possibly as a result of the lack of clear instructions from their headquarters on the matter;
- (iii) Most countries and organizations were of the opinion that the RMC has done very little so far in mobilizing resources for the programme;
- (iv) Most of the subregional organisations had a firm will to implement their tasks in the framework of UNTACDA II, but generally lack technical and financial means to do so;
- (v) The direct relationship which is imperative between subregional IGOs and NCCs for effective coordination of UNTACDA II activities was impeded by the officially established channels of communications between the IGOs and governments.

33. The African subregional organisations visited among other things indicated their main activities and needs for the implementation of the Decade programme which globally consist of:

- (i) Assistance in setting up NCCs in those member States that have not yet established them and the provision of technical assistance or support to member States for project preparation and implementation;
- (ii) Organization of subregional Working Group meetings which should include NCCs, ECA, IGOs and leaders of subsectoral working groups;
- (iii) Organization, in collaboration with the RMC, of a donors conference to promote the funding of the approved projects;
- (iv) Need for short-term consultancy services to assist in monitoring and coordinating the implementation of UNTACDA II in their respective subregions.

34. At the subsectoral level specifically, the mission to the UN Agencies registered the common convergence of views on the

importance of, and the priorities to be given to, the issues concerning human resources development. The UN agencies furthermore stressed the necessity of coordinating UNTACDA II and IDDA II programmes, especially in the manufacture of communications equipment.

35. At this level the resource constraints were often cited as constituting serious impediments to the work of the agencies. It was recommended that UN agencies as well as the UNTACDA II machinery develop contacts with other donor organizations, possibly in cooperation with African subregional organizations, rather than continuing to rely on UNDP as the only source of funding for the activities of the Decade.

36. In the matter of coordination of subsectoral activities and subregional activities, there seemed to be more cooperation between the agencies involved in maritime transport and the Central and West African subregions, particularly through MINCOMAR.

37. Concerning the missions to some African countries, these revealed that very little has been done at national level to implement the UNTACDA II programme. First, it has been observed that not all countries have created their national coordinating committees as they had committed themselves to do at the Tangiers meeting in November 1989. Furthermore, the NCCs that are already created are not operational, due mainly to the fact that:

- (i) they have not been provided with adequate resources;
- (ii) most of them still do not clearly understand their tasks which they often limit to projects identification.
- (iii) the tasks to be performed by NCCs cause institutional problems, such as duplication of efforts in some countries which have many difficulties to solve them.

VI. Observations

38. ECA activities in support of the implementation of UNTACDA II programme have been handicapped by a series of problems among which:

- lack of resources to provide assistance to countries and subregional IGOs in implementation or monitoring of the Decade programme.
- countries do not show a strong willingness to support the UNTACDA II programme. For example, a good number of African countries have not created the NCCs or those that have done so, have not provide them with sufficient resource to allow smooth implementation of their tasks; countries do not urgently react to the requests to them regarding clearance of missions meant to discuss with them their problems or successes in implementing the UNTACDA II programme;
- parallel programmes at the country level.

VII. Conclusion

39. From this report, it is clear that ECA has done its utmost towards the implementation of UNTACDA II programme at all levels.

40. Nevertheless, the problems recalled above and some others not mentioned here have hampered its efforts, and it is likely that if appropriate measures are not taken, the implementation of the Decade programme will be in jeopardy, not only regarding the lead agency activities but also regarding the overall activities designed for implementing this programme.

41. Some of the measures to be taken should relate to

- i) establishment and operationality of NCCs;
- ii) value of UNTACDA II programme, namely: the level of priority accorded to it by member States;
- iii) necessity for all UNTACDA II partners to give priority to UNTACDA II matters, such as reacting timely to requests for information, etc;
- iv) review of guidelines for resource mobilisation during the implementation of the Decade programme;

- v) establishment of a linkage between national and regional or subregional IPFs so as to facilitate their use in financing some UNTACDA II activities at the various levels.

42. It is therefore hoped that, in the light of what is stated above, the meeting should make strong recommendations to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on measures to be taken towards smooth implementation of the Decade programme.