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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Tenth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the
Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27 March - 3 April 1989

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/
fifteenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6-10 April 1989

SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE IFORD GOVERNING COUNCIL
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 24-25 MARCH 1989

A. Preamble

This meeting which was held on 24 and 25 March 1989 in Addis Ababa assumes particular importance in that for the first time it took place at ECA headquarters instead of Yaoundé at the request of the host country. That initiative was in implementation of a previous recommendation which called for the future of IFORD to be considered. In that connection, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the host country and ECA organized a mission on the restructuring of the Institute and on various scenarios for the future.

It should be recalled that since 1982, the countries served by IFORD, as members of its Governing Council, had been participating in the management of the Institute and contributing to its budget. However, the insadequacy and irregularity of contributions have created serious difficulties which threaten the very survival of IFORD. And yet, everyone admits that the Institute has rendered invaluable service to member countries and continues to respond to needs as a choice instrument for intra-African co-operation. At a time when population issues are increasingly exercising the minds of African officials, it would appear that training and research needs in this area are still far from satisfied. IFORD must therefore continue to serve as a regional training and research institution.

On the basis of the foregoing the sixteenth meeting of the IFORD Governing Council considered the problem of the Institute's management in future and would like to submit to the ECA Conference of Ministers the following recommendations and proposals:

B. Recommendations and proposals

The IFORD Governing Council, at its sixteenth meeting held on 24 and 25 March 1989 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia having considered:

(a) The report on the implementation of the recommendations made at its fifteenth meeting;

(b) The report on activities of the 1987-1988 scholastic year and for the first quarter of 1988-1989;

(c) The biennial work programme for 1989-1990 and 1990-1991;

(d) The report of the "Mazouz-Locoh mission" on the restructuring of IFORD;

(e) The administrative and financial report; and

(f) The appointment of a substantive director of the Institute.

1. Congratulates the management of the Institute for the manner in which the recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of the Governing Council have been implemented;

2. Further congratulates the management of IFORD for the quality of documents submitted, the excellent work accomplished as well as the results achieved and encourages the Institute to continue in this manner;

3. Congratulates also the secretariat of ECA and the management of IFORD for the efforts they have made to impress upon member States the need to pay up their dues and exhorts them to intensify such efforts by way of fielding missions to the countries concerned in order to collect such arrears from the Governments concerned;

4. Requests its Chairman to keep member States regularly informed of the amount of their financial commitments to the Institute including any arrears so that they can prepare their budgets accordingly;

5. Invites its Chairman to get in touch with members of the African Group within the UNFPA Governing Council in New York during the month of June 1989 in order to get the group to impress upon the Council, the need for UNFPA to continue supporting IFORD so that the Institute can complete its training activities and develop research;

6. Takes note of the report submitted by the interim Director of the Institute for the 1987-1988 scholastic year and for the first quarter of 1988-1989 and approves the biennial work programme for 1989-1990 and 1990-1991;

7. Expresses the hope that the research activities and scientific conferences of the Institute will be extended to the greatest possible number of member countries;

8. Recommends that the management of the Institute should intensify the dissemination of research findings and, to the extent possible, of the advisory services provided to member States;

9. Also recommends that the management of the Institute should develop advisory services in the member States and do this, to the extent feasible, on a paid basis;

10. Makes a solemn appeal to member States, on the one hand to pay in their contributions regularly and, on the other hand, to provide the Institute with the resources it needs to implement its work programme appropriately;

11. Approves the financial report for 1988 and adopts the programme budget for 1989. The Council here reiterates the decision taken at its fifteenth meeting whereby the 1989 contribution for each member State set at CFAF 6 million;

12. Authorizes the management of the Institute to incur obligated expenditure in 1990 pending the adoption of the IFORD budget at its next Council meeting;

13. Requests its Chairman to make appropriate arrangements for establishing an auditor's office at IFORD;

14. Tentatively adopts the draft IFORD administrative and technical staff rules and decides that while the rules shall not be immediately

applicable because of some legal shortcomings in the text, they shall, once adopted in final form, have retroactive effect from 24 March 1989. The Council therefore requests the management of the Institute to undertake the following activities:

(a) Hold consultations with all the parties concerned in order to improve the text of the draft staff rules taking fully into account the comments of the Council;

(b) Assess all the financial implications stemming from application of the staff rules;

(c) Submit the revised text and the financial implications to member States before the next meeting of the Council for their views and comments; and

(d) Submit the comments of member States and the revised text to the next meeting of the Council;

15. Requests its Chairman to get in touch with the Government of the host country, the Republic of Cameroon, and requests it to make adequate office space available to the Institute;

16. Expresses its appreciation for the reports of the mission on the restructuring of IFORD and considers it as valuable background document which should be widely circulated to all member States;

17. Requests its Chairman to send a joint ECA-UNFPA mission to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon in order to find out its position on the reports of the mission on the restructuring of IFORD;

18. Further requests its Chairman to send another joint ECA-UNFPA mission to the member countries of the working group on restructuring of the Institute, namely Republic of Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal;

19. Invites its Chairman to ensure that:

(a) The report of the mission on restructuring of IFORD is disseminated as soon as possible to all member States;

(b) Member States inform ECA of their views on the report no later than three months after receiving it;

(c) The working group drafts and sends to all member States a summary report on the various reactions of member States well before the next meeting of the Council which shall take a decision on the matter;

20. Appeals to UNFPA to maintain its subsidy to IFORD at the current level for 1990;

21. Stresses that the regional character of IFORD should be maintained;

22. Recognizes that IFORD's real problems are financial in nature;
23. Requests the management of the Institute to strengthen the teaching and retraining programme taking fully into account new needs that emerge in member States and to accord increasing importance to research promotion activities;
24. Recommends that Mr. Mpenbele Sala-Diakanda should be appointed Director of IFORD for a term of two years renewable;
25. Decides that its next meeting shall be held in Yaoundé in February 1990;
26. Requests its Chairman to submit the current recommendations to the next ECA Conference of Ministers for its consideration;
27. Requests the representative UNFPA to transmit to the Executive Director of the Fund the Board's gratitude for the continuing interest of the Fund in IFORD's activities;
28. Thanks the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for its unswerving support for the Institute;
29. Further thanks all the member States who have provided support for the Institute;
30. Thanks the Government of the French Republic, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada), the Rockefeller Foundation and all other bilateral donors for all that they have already done and will do in the future for the survival and development of IFORD;
31. Thanks the ECA secretariat for organizing and ensuring the success of the present meeting.