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UNDP/ECA PROJECT RAF/89/016
PREPARATION OF UNTACDA II PROGRAMME

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15 December 1990

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The Second United Nations Transport
and Communications Decade for Africa
UNTACDA II: 1991-2000

REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF
THE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

13 - 14 December 1990
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) for the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa was convened at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13 to 14 December, 1990.

B. PARTICIPATION

2. Representatives from the following institutions, members of the RMC participated in the meeting: African Development Bank (ADB), Organization of African Unity (OAU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank (IBRD), Africa Caribbean-Pacific Secretariat (ACP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The European Economic Community (EEC) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) were unable to attend the meeting.

C. OPENING OF OF THE MEETING (agenda item 1)

3. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members present and also thanking the ECA for its effort in organizing the meeting. He also welcomed new representatives of the World Bank and also that of the ACP attending the meeting for the first time. After making some brief statement on the past meetings of the RMC the Chairman gave the floor to ECA representative.

4. The ECA representative welcomed members and especially the new comers attending the meeting for the first time. He highlighted the role of the Committee in the preparation of the UNTACDA II Programme and invited the Committee to review the progress of the preparation of the Decade in order to submit a report to the Ministers prepared in line with the terms of reference drafted for the Committee.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Adoption of Draft Agenda (agenda item 2)

5. The meeting considered and adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Report of the Chairman of the RMC
4. Progress report on preparation of UNTACDA II Programme
5. Agenda and work Programme of IACC
6. Any other business
7. Adoption of report and closure of meeting

6. The programme of work was adopted as the following:

Thursday 13 December 1990:

10:00 - 13:00 hrs Morning session
15:30 - 17:30 hrs Afternoon session

Friday 14 December 1990:

15:00 - 16:00 hrs Afternoon session

Report of the Chairman of the RMC (agenda item 3)

7. The Chairman briefed the meeting that very little achievement had been made by his office since the last meeting, since he was completely engaged in various missions. Similarly, due to lack of a concrete programme at this stage, and especially since most reports of the working groups were yet to be finalized, it had been difficult to make contacts with donors.

8. However, he had recruited some staff which included a road engineer for his office, and the engineer has been working on studies requested by the RMC.

9. The Chairman then requested members to give account of any effort they might have made individually towards realizing the tasks assigned to the RMC.

10. The World Bank representative informed the meeting that the final strategy documents for road and urban transport subsector have been produced and he had also brought along copies of minutes of the various meetings organized by these working groups. Furthermore, the World Bank had participated in the meetings of the working group on railways. The ADB representative reported also that its experts had participated in the various facets of preparation of the Decade subsectoral programmes notably in roads and railways. The representative of UNDP informed the meeting that UNDP has been monitoring activities of the various Working Groups and felt satisfied with the progress being made. The representative of OAU reported that OAU had done sensitization work within the framework of its activities. In addition OAU had sent its comments on various documents produced by the working groups of which it is a member.

11. ECA informed the meeting that it had done some sensitization on the Decade at several fora during the period, pointing specifically to two crucial fora in Europe that were addressed by the Executive Secretary and by the Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division.

12. UNDP further informed the meeting that it has intensified effort to sell the Decade not only outside but, also inhouse, and a report was being prepared to be submitted to its Governing Council.

13. In conclusion, the meeting agreed that the RMC would need to prepare a report on its regular activities and on its assessment of the preparation of the Decade for submission to the IACC and the Ministers. In the future each member of the Committee would be required to prepare and send to the Chairman a brief report on its individual activities carried out in respect of the Committee's responsibility.

Progress Report on Preparation of UNTACDA II programme (agenda item 4)

14. The document was presented by the Chief Technical Adviser of the UNTACDA Project. He reported that since the last RMC meeting in September 1990 significant progress had been made by all the partners in the preparation of the UNTACDA II Programme. He then highlighted the activities carried at the various levels as indicated below:

(i) At National level: 32 NCCs have been formed, up from 17 reported in September. Of these 15 have submitted reports some of which were of high quality.

(ii) At the subregional level: The differences in levels of activity were noted.

(a) In Central Africa: where the problems are obvious (i.e. insufficient infrastructure) member States demonstrated seriousness in the programme. Only two out of the 10 countries failed to show up for the subregional convergence meeting in Libreville due to factors beyond their control. Thus the agreement on areas of regional focus was relatively easy.

(b) West Africa: Having basic infrastructure in place, the problems of this subregion centred on the improvement of its operations. Unfortunately, the subregional meeting was attended by only 4 out of 16 NCCs. Furthermore, the Subregional Working Group was unable to meet on its own. Thus no subregional strategy was proposed. However, CEAO undertook a World Bank financed study to prepare the Decade programme for the 7 member States and Togo. Finally, it was reported that so far, no agreement has been reached on the strategy for the subregion.

(c) Eastern and Southern Africa: In this subregion, it was reported that many NCCs had been formed, partly as a result of the good leadership by PTA. The Subregional Working Group Report was finalized at the Lusaka meeting of 4 - 7 December. However, as a result of poor participation in that meeting by NCCs the national component was incomplete. On the positive side, it was reported that agreements had been reached on the priority areas for the Decade and programmes of subregional importance had been prepared.

(d) North Africa: It was reported that the first subregional meeting was organized for North Africa and held here at ECA in early October. Five out of the seven countries had participated in the meeting, only Libya and Tunisia were unable to attend. It was noted that the problems of this subregion were very different from those of other subregions because of well-known reasons, namely, level of development and geographic factors, etc. Unfortunately, no forum existed for developing subregional action plans.

(ii) Sectoral Working Groups: This category was reported to have excellent performance. Most had participated in subregional meetings at Libreville, Ouagadougou and Lusaka and many plan to finalize their programmes here this week. Their inputs have been very useful in drawing up the subregional programmes.

(iii) At the Regional Level: Main concern is the drafting of the consolidated strategy and programme for submission to the Conference of Ministers in February 1991.

15. He further stated that as time is very short, a result of delays at practically all levels of the preparatory process, the quality of the product might be affected by this factor. He concluded by expressing the hope that the IACC meeting would provide the opportunity to improve the Draft Subregional programmes.

16. In the ensuing discussions the following issues were raised:-

(i) Due to the fact that a consolidated draft strategy and programme document was not available, it was difficult for the Committee to make a global assessment of the programme;

(ii) Similarly because none of the subregional strategy and programme documents was available, their quality could not be judged;

(iii) There was general concern about the low number of NCC reports so far received;

(iv) Though the secretariat had reported that the work of the Subsectoral Groups had been satisfactory, the meeting was unable to verify this in the absence of most of the sectoral reports;

(v) The fact that certain subregions like ECOWAS had not reached a consensus on the strategy of their subregion;

(vi) The need for reaching a consensus on the consolidated document to be submitted to the next Conference of Ministers.

17. It was further noted that insufficient efforts have been made at national level, and the reports had not been fully accomplished despite the effort made by ECA to assist in the establishment of NCCs and the organization of their work. Despite the shortcoming at the national level the meeting agreed that a consolidated programme should be derived from the available information from all levels.

18. The meeting took note of a proposal made by a representative of UNDP, that the following aspects should be taken into account in the preparation of the consolidated document:

(i) The importance of the national effort in the development of transport and communications without external assistance;

(ii) The addressing of the subsectors individually and allocating priority according to their importance to the general social and economic development;

(iii) The updating of the strategy by the Ministers and its use for the monitoring the progress achieved;

(iv) The alignment of the strategy with donor's policies and existing financial market forces.

19. The ECA secretariat informed the meeting that through the UNTACDA II Project (RAF/89/016), four consultants had been recruited to assist the subregional groups to prepare their documents. It further informed the meeting that each subregion is expected to present its own report to the IACC.

20. In reconciling the proposals emanating from the discussions the meeting agreed on the following:

- (a) IACC meeting will be a working session where it will discuss reports from the working groups;
- (b) IACC will subsequently provide the ECA with orientation and guidelines to prepare the consolidated document, with the help of the RMC;
- (c) Under delegation by the IACC, the RMC will study the draft, mainly through selected representatives;
- (d) A finalized document will be sent directly to all member States and to UNDP.

21. The following time table was adopted for this new programme of work as follows:

- (a) ECA will work on draft document and to make it ready for study by the representative of the RMC on 4 - 5 January 1991;
- (b) Final document must be ready to be sent out to member States by 10 January 1991.

22. It was suggested that the speech of the Executive Secretary and the consolidated document should refer to the difficulties encountered in the preparation of the programme especially the very tight timetable adopted in Tangiers for the preparation of the programme. It was also suggested that the Ministers attention be drawn to the fact that it is the collective and individual responsibility of African Governments to implement programmes of the Decade be they national, subregional or regional.

Consideration of the agenda and work programme for the 15th Meeting of the IACC (agenda item 5)

23. The following draft agenda was proposed for the 15th meeting of the IACC to take place on 17 December 1990:

1. Opening Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
3. Report of the Resource Mobilization Committee
4. Reports of Subsectoral Working Groups
5. Reports of Subregional Programme
6. Guidelines to ECA for formulating the draft of strategies and programmes for UNTACDA II
7. Any Other Business
8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting
9. Adoption of the Report and Closure of Meeting

Any other Business (agenda item 6)

24. The ECA secretariat, after requests from the floor, informed the meeting that the various working group documents will be distributed to all members as soon as they are made available to the ECA for distribution.

25. In the absence of any other issues for discussion the Chairman adjourned the meeting to the following day for adoption of the report.

Adoption of the report and closure of meeting (agenda item 7)

26. After several amendments of the draft, the meeting adopted its report.

27. In his closing remarks the Chairman thanked the participants for their cooperation and called upon each member to do the utmost to ensure the completion of the work in time.

28. The meeting ended at 17:45 hours.

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