

ECA/NRD/FIRCDUMRA/CR

**CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MINERAL RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION IN AFRICA**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
(10-17 November 1993)

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account the overall objective of the Conference, which is to promote cooperation among African countries in mineral resources development and utilisation and the underlying theme of the conference: "Mineral Resources Development and Environment in Africa";

Taking further into account the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which stresses, among other things, that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that all States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

Further recognising that governments, the United Nations system and other international and intergovernmental organisations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and other groups are important actors in the process of sustainable development,

### THE FIFTH REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

#### 1. MINERAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

In order to improve the exchange of information, data and sharing of experience and expertise for mineral resource development in Africa and effective negotiating capabilities of member states, the Conference recommends the compilation of compendium of member states mining laws, taxation and fiscal regimes by the ECA in collaboration with the World Bank and African Development Bank as recommended by the Fourth Regional Conference.

The Conference also recommends that African member states should periodically review their mining laws, taxation and fiscal regimes with a view to improving their attractiveness to potential investors and to enhance their competitiveness compared to other regions.

#### 2. NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT

The Conference welcomes the effort made and actions taken by member states, through national regulations and legislation, to tackle the environmental problems caused by mining and related activities. However, the Conference recommends once again that member states should, as speedily as possible, adopt national environmental legislation with regard to mineral resources development. Such legislation should incorporate internationally acceptable environmental standards. These actions should be complemented with measures that are designed to develop national capacities and capabilities for environmental impact assessment and should also be monitored and coordinated with neighbouring countries likely to be affected by these impacts.

The Conference recommends that member states establish mechanisms of cooperation in sharing experience in the mitigation of harmful effects resulting from mining and the sharing of capabilities on conducting environmental impact assessments.

The Conference recommends that environmental impact assessment and base lines studies should be conducted on all mineral development projects in the region and such studies should include acceptable plans for environmental management.

In view of the need to incorporate the environment in mineral resource development, the Conference recommends that ECA in cooperation with UNEP and other relevant agencies prepare guidelines for use by the mineral industries to ensure that the environmental dimension is fully incorporated in projects and programmes.

**3. CREATING A GENERAL ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES:**

- TRAINING at all levels (including technical, management, policy and environmental) should be provided especially by African institutions, supported by all development actors;
- INFORMATION exchange relevant to the development of mineral industries (geological, technical, market, regulations etc.) should be freely exchanged by all development actors;
- PROMOTION AND ESTABLISHMENT of national, sub-regional and regional associations of related mineral industries to enhance the development and utilisation of mineral resources in Africa should be encouraged and supported by all development actors;
- PROMOTION OF INVESTMENTS through seminars, investment bureaux, improved investment climate and negotiations etc. should be promoted and supported by all development actors;
- SEED CAPITAL, credit, supply of utilities, rolling funds, and other mechanisms for fostering the development of mineral resources should be promoted from relevant development institutions and other relevant groups,
- PROMOTION AND THE INTEGRATION of the African mining industries with other socio-economic sectors at national, sub-regional and regional levels should be supported by all development actors.

#### **4. MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND THE AFRICAN SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

Noting that mineral resources contribute very little to the socio-economic development of Africa ;

Considering that this has resulted from the poor integration of mineral resource development with other sectors of the economy and from the fact that the development of mineral resources mainly goes to satisfy needs external to Africa, the Conference

- (a) urges economic planners and decision makers of member states to integrate mineral resources development component in national development programmes.
- (b) that member states show more sustained interest in industrial minerals and building materials and the appropriate processing technologies which can contribute to the social and economic development of the people.

#### **5. COOPERATION ON ISSUES CONCERNING MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION**

Considering the technical and financial difficulties that African countries encounter in the development and utilisation of mineral resources and considering also the fact that Africa has skilled manpower and facilities that are under used and/or little known, the conference recommends that :

- (a) the ECA updates the directory of African Mineral Resources Development Experts.
- (b) the ECA compiles a comprehensive inventory of the resources and capabilities of organisations and institutions that provide training and services to the mineral sector for the benefit of member states.
- (c) member states cooperate in the sharing of experience and exchange of experts through study tours, on the job training in each other's countries as well as usage of facilities.

Furthermore, member States are urged to cooperate in joint geological surveys, establishment of joint projects and in policy harmonization and coordination, particularly at the subregional level.

14. INTRA-AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN THE FIELDS OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION

The Fifth Regional Conference on Mineral Resources Development and Utilization in Africa, meeting in Addis Ababa from 15 to 17 November, 1993.

**Conscious** of the actions taken by the member States to implement the decisions and recommendations of the 4th Conference;

**Aware** of the current situation of and difficulties confronting mineral resources development and utilization in Africa;

**Cognizant** of the need to promote inter-African cooperation on the basis of concrete projects in the mineral resources and energy sectors and thus contribute to subregional and regional economic integration in Africa;

- (a). **REQUESTS** the ECA Secretariat, in cooperation with OAU, Subregional economic groupings and the specialized institutions, to assist member States in identifying subregional multinational projects of cooperation for the development of mineral resources and energy, taking into account the development objectives and priorities of the member States.
- (b). **FURTHER REQUESTS** the ECA Secretariat to submit the projects identified to the 6th Session of the Conference in 1995.

## **6. STRENGTHENING GEOLOGICAL AND MINING INSTITUTIONS**

In view of the importance of the role that the geological and mining institutions play in mineral resource development, member states should provide adequate financial and technical resources to enable them carry out their functions.

Geological surveys of member states should publish and disseminate geological maps, books, and other publications so as to bring the mineral potentials of the countries to the attention of investors and the general public.

The Conference, recognising the important role that regional and sub-regional mineral development institutions play, recommends in the line of the Fourth Regional Conference that member states assist and make use of their facilities. The Conference further recommends that the sub-regions which do not have mineral resources development institutions should consider establishing them.

## **7. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

The Conference, realising the importance of developing the regional human resource in order to prepare it to participate and contribute well and fully to the development, exploitation and utilisation of minerals, while maintaining a sustainable environment, recommends that increased use of existing regional institutions should be made in order to develop its human resource in the areas relating to the formulation of policy, the management of mineral resources and operation of mineral development and mining activities in Africa.

## **8. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA BANKS FOR MINERAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

Considering that the availability of reliable data will significantly help to promote mineral resources development, planning and geological research, the Conference recommends that member states and ECA establish data banks. In this regard, ECA is requested to prepare and submit to member States guidelines to enable the establishment of standardized data banks.

## **9. SMALL SCALE MINING AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Due to the environmental degradation associated with the advent and increase in small scale mining activities in member states and due to the lowering of the health of workers and the communities as a result of bad mining practices and the use of toxic chemicals, it is recommended that governments should assist the small scale miners legally, technically and financially in order to address these adverse effects on the environment.

Governments and international organisations such as: ILO, UNIDO and ECA should provide education and training aimed at creating awareness to the importance of protecting the environment while working their minerals.

The Conference underscored the importance of small scale mining as a factor in tackling unemployment and in raising income levels. It stressed the need for it to expand small scale mining beyond gemstones to other minerals that can contribute to improving the general welfare of the people.

#### **10. MOBILISATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

Seriously concerned about the declining levels of investment in the mineral resources sector in Africa, the Conference urges ECA, in cooperation with the mining committee of ACP, to find means of alleviating the conditions of accessibility to, and extend the fields of intervention of SYSMIN so that the resources made available under the Lomé Convention between EC and ACP countries could be used to finance mineral resources exploration and development as well as institutions capacity building and human resource training.

#### **11. COORDINATION AMONG UN AGENCIES**

Noting that over the last years, several conferences, seminars and workshops dealing with African mineral resources development had been organised by the various UN Agencies without coordination and resulting in duplication, the Conference urges the coordination of programmes among the agencies and recommends that ECA, being a regional organisation, should be given the lead in coordinating the programmes.

#### **12. MAKING USE OF MINING INDUSTRIAL WASTES FROM MINERAL RESOURCES EXPLOITATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Conference recommends that member states should explore the uses to which wastes from mining and related activities could be put, with a view to developing downstream projects that can be implemented with local entrepreneurs.

#### **13. THE FUTURE INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY IN AFRICA**

The Conference welcomed the decision of the ECA Conference of Ministers to improve the intergovernmental machinery by introducing the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for the Development and Utilisation of Mineral Resources and Energy.