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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Report of the Second Meeting of the  
Committee on Sustainable Development**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
26-29 November 2001**

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

1. The Second meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) was held at the UN Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 29 November 2001. The Director of Commission's Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD), Mr. Josué Dioné delivered the welcome address on behalf of Mr. K. Y. Amoako, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). His Excellency, Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal, Minister of State for Finance and Economic Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, made the opening address.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo (Rep. Dem.), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

3. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

4. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented.

5. Observers were present from: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Organization International de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Italian Embassy.

6. The following ECA Sub-regional Development Centers (SRDCs) were represented: SRDC-NA (Tangiers, Morocco), SRDC-SA (Lusaka, Zambia), SRDC-EA (Kigali, Rwanda) and SRDC-CA (Yaounde, Cameroon).

7. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chairperson	:	Zambia (Southern Africa)
First Vice-Chairperson	:	Chad (Central Africa)
Second Vice-Chairperson	:	Burkina Faso (Western Africa)
Third Vice-Chairperson	:	Tunisia (Northern Africa)
Rapporteur	:	Uganda (Eastern Africa)

## **B. AGENDA**

8. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
  - Welcome remarks by the outgoing chairman of the Bureau of the CSD
  - Welcome address by the Executive Secretary of the ECA
  - Opening address by a Representative of the Government of Ethiopia
2. Organisational Matters
  - Election of officers
  - Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
3. Session 1: Review and appraisal of the implementation of plans of action emanating from global and regional conferences and other substantive reports
  - International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD-PA) and Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND)
  - Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)
  - World Food Summit
  - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Agenda 21)
  - Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development
4. Session 2: Panel discussion on "Agricultural Intensification: Feeding Ourselves and Sustaining Africa's Land Resources in the New Millennium."
  - Presentation of main report
  - Presentations on the implications of agricultural intensification in the respective fields of population, environment, and technology and others deemed necessary
5. Session 3: Report on Activities
  - Report on the activities of FSSDD 2000-2001
  - Presentation of the approved Work Programme for the biennium 2002-2003
  - General discussion
6. Adoption of the report
7. Closure of the meeting

The Programme of Work was also adopted with a provision to close the daily deliberations by 17:30 hrs in order to enable Moslem participants who were fasting honour their Ramadan obligations.

## **C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **Opening addresses**

9. On behalf of the outgoing Bureau, the Chairman of CSD I, Mr. J.S. Mkwizu, from the United Republic of Tanzania, welcomed delegates to Addis Ababa and to the Second Meeting of the CSD. The outgoing chairman reminded participants that the CSD was created by the ECA Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development in 1996 to serve as a technical and legislative body of experts to provide advice and recommendations to the ECA in the interlinked areas of food security, population and environment.

10. The chairman noted that unlike the theme of CSD II, which focused and specific, the theme of the First Meeting of the CSD, "Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa: the Population, Agriculture and Environment Nexus", was intentionally broad so as to stimulate guidance from the Committee on how the Commission should go about addressing the nexus issues. Thus, under the leadership of the outgoing Bureau, the First Meeting of the CSD, succeeded in addressing a wide range of issues pertaining to food security, population and environment and made pertinent recommendations to the ECA. Such recommendations enabled the Commission's Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) to make progress in conceptualizing the nexus interrelationships and raising awareness of member states about the importance of the population, agriculture, environment and development nexus.

11. In his opening statement Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the ECA represented by Mr. Josué Dioné, Director of the FSSDD, welcomed participants to the Second Meeting of the CSD. The Executive Secretary extended gratitude to the Minister of State for Finance and Economic Development of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewale, for having accepted to officiate the opening of the Meeting. The presence of the Minister, he said, is a clear testimony of the importance the Ethiopian Government attaches to the challenges of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The Executive Secretary also congratulated the Bureau of the First Meeting of the CSD for steering the work of the Commission in the area of food security and sustainable development during the past two years.

12. The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee that the theme for the Second Meeting of the CSD is: "Agricultural Intensification: Feeding Ourselves and Sustaining Africa's Land Resources in the New Millennium." The selection of the theme was influenced by the vicious cycle of deep and widespread poverty, hunger, malnutrition and underdevelopment in which many of the African countries are entangled. Hungry people, he said, cannot take advantage of development opportunities and that widespread hunger and poverty are potential sources of conflicts and threat to national and regional security.

13. The Executive Secretary further pointed out that, under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African leaders have reaffirmed political determination and made commitment to take ownership of the development process in the continent. More importantly, the African leadership committed itself to eradicate hunger and poverty.

14. The Executive Secretary also noted that, although it is true that political will has been expressed on numerous occasions at the level of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, it is equally true that the translation of this political will into concrete actions and activities in a sustained manner has suffered, and time has come to look for alternative approaches to ensure self-reliant and self-sustained development.

15. The Committee was informed that, during the coming biennium (i.e. 2002-2003), more attention will be paid to the development and dissemination of analytical tools and databases to enhance the decision-making capacity of member States and the private sector. Particular attention will be given to capacity building on agricultural trade negotiations. The Committee was further informed that a detailed presentation of the performance of the Division (i.e. FSSDD) over the period 2000-2001 as well as of the Work Programme for 2002-2003 will be made before the end of the Meeting to enable the Committee provide further guidance that will make ECA serve Africa better in the areas of food security and sustainable development.

16. The Executive Secretary pointed out that, ECA is charged with developing the area of economic and corporate governance under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The Committee was therefore requested to provide useful inputs in improving governance processes in the food security sector in order to lay solid grounds for financing agricultural development based on increased measures of self-reliance at household, national and regional levels. The Committee was also requested to identify the main constraints and make concrete proposals on policy actions that need to be pursued in order to achieve sustainable agricultural intensification in Africa.

17. Finally, the Committee was informed that the United Nations Secretary General committed the United Nations Organization to support the NEPAD and called for international solidarity with Africa's ownership and leadership. ECA on its part, will coordinate the UN response to the NEPAD and assist member States to ensure that the interventions of the international community in support of food security are well articulated and integrated. It is, however, expected that the Meeting will make concrete proposals to address the long-term food security needs of the continent under the leadership and ownership of Africa.

18. In his opening address, Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia, expressed the view that the choice of agriculture intensification as the theme for the Meeting offers a good opportunity to professionally contribute to the resolution of pressing food security and poverty reduction issues. However, the Minister argued that, in order to address Africa's food problem, governments have to improve the productivity of small-scale farmers through strengthening technology delivery systems. This, however, requires strong research and extension linkage. Moreover, the Minister advised that water should be seen as a key element in the drive towards agricultural intensification.

19. He informed the Committee that, over the last several years, the Ethiopian Government has put in place development policies, strategies and key sector programs to generate faster and equitable socio-economic development and eradicate poverty over the long term. These programs and strategies include: (i) the Agricultural Development Led Industrialization strategy (ADLI) which focuses on the improvement of the productivity of small-holders farmers; (ii) a series of economic reform programs to effect the transition from a command to a market based system and to restore and maintain macroeconomics stability; (iii) Democratization, devolution and empowerment process to create conducive and effective participatory environment for the Ethiopian people; (iv) Education and Health Sector Development Programs; (v) Roads Sector Development Program; and (vi) Water Sector Development Program.

20. The Minister concluded his Statement with the advice that for agricultural intensification to be sustainable, it is not enough to concentrate on the agricultural sector alone. Other complementary and supportive measures, including human and physical development, macroeconomic stability, empowerment of people and accountability of governments are equally important, and must be given adequate consideration in the deliberations of the Meeting.

### **First Plenary Session**

21. The First Plenary Session focussed on the review and appraisal of the implementation of plans of action emanating from global and regional conferences and other substantive reports. The Committee heard presentations based on five reports; namely:

- (i) Sustainable Development Policy in Africa: Harmonizing Population and Economic Growth in the Process of Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action (ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/6)
- (ii) Review of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa (ECA/UNCHS/IST.+5/00/1)
- (iii) Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the World Food Summit in the African Context: Addressing Structural Food Insecurity in Africa (ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/3)
- (iv) Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa (ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/2)
- (v) Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development: Management of Technology in newly Industrialising Countries (ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/5)

### **International Conference on Population and Development and DND**

22. The Committee had before it, document number ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/6, titled "Sustainable Development Policy in Africa: Harmonizing Population and Economic Growth in the Process of Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action".

23. The Committee was informed that the interrelationship between population, sustained growth and sustainable development has been recognised in Agenda 21, the Dakar/Ngor Declaration (DND) and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD-PA). The Committee was further informed that if linking population and sustainability means focussing development on the welfare of the population as both agents and beneficiaries of the development process, then slowing down population growth and the development of human resources should be viewed as two major components of sustainable development strategies in Africa.

24. The Committee was also informed that African countries adopted the DND in 1992. The declaration constituted the African regional contribution to the ICPD (Cairo, 1994). The Committee was further informed that a range of activities have been undertaken at the national, regional and global levels towards undertaking the five-year-review and appraisal of the implementation of the recommendations of the ICPD-PA. The African report for ICPD+5 is a documentation of experiences, achievements, constraints and success stories in five key programme areas: i) Institutional mechanisms for co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population programmes; ii) Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, reproductive rights, and HIV/AIDS; iii) Gender equality, equity, empowerment of women and male involvement; iv) Advocacy and IEC strategies; and v) Forging partnerships with NGOs, civil society and the private sector.

25. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that at the global level, the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on ICPD+5 was convened in 1999. The conclusions of the five-year-review showed that the implementation of ICPD-PA had positive results. Many countries have taken steps to integrate population concerns into their development strategies. In addition, many civil society organisations have contributed to the implementation of ICPD recommendations. However, some of the major findings of the review process included financial constraints; lack of access to appropriate information and services for young people; weak political commitment to adolescents' rights and to reproductive health; worsening of the HIV/AIDS situation; and persistence of unsafe abortion.

26. The Committee was informed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the working group for the follow-up to DND/ICPD-PA met in June 2000 and identified five main thematic areas in which the ten-year review (ICPD+10) and evaluation process in Africa should focus: Poverty and demographic changes; HIV/AIDS; Youth; Migration and Gender. The Committee was further informed that in April 2001, the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) discussed the modalities for the review and appraisal in 2004 of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (ICPD+10). Unfortunately, the CPD could not agree on two draft resolutions – one on the ICPD+10, and the other on financial resources for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The main points of contention at the meeting were on the possible options for ICPD+10, the focus of the review and the increase of the level of funding from the private sector. It was decided, however, that consultations would be carried out on the matter.

27. The Committee was requested to suggest orientations and directives regarding the organisation of ICPD+10 in Africa. The Committee was also requested to give guidance on the themes to be selected and mechanisms for the evaluation of the implementation of ICPD and ICPD+5 recommendations. Furthermore, the Committee was requested to advise



the Secretariat regarding the issues to be discussed at the Fourth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the implementation of the DND/ICPD-PA that will take place in Yaoundé in January 2002.

The Committee made the following remarks:

- The Secretariat should clarify the specific purpose and objectives of the review and evaluation process. In particular, whether the evaluation has to consider the achievements in implementing the ICPD-PA or the mechanisms put in place for the monitoring of it.
- Countries, such as Mauritius, Botswana and Tunisia that were reported to have made substantive progress in implementing the ICPD recommendations should be studied in detail, evaluate those best practices, document and disseminate them and if necessary, formulate a strategy to replicate them in other parts of Africa.
- Education should be considered among the main thematic areas of the ICPD+10 review process in Africa. This is because education has a fundamental impact on population matters, and on poverty.
- The issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa should be better articulated within ICPD+10. Moreover, the fact that the demographic transition has already taken place in some countries has to be taken into account.

28. The Secretariat responded that the ICPD-PA included several goals and benchmarks, but it was the role of each country to interpret these goals and benchmarks in relation to the specificity and cultural characteristics of their populations. Each country must define its specific objectives within the Programme of Action. The process of evaluating the achievements of ICPD recommendations consisted of reviewing the results achieved by African countries in implementing the Programme of Action and in reaching their specific goals.

29. The Secretariat further added that one of the aims of the periodical reviews was to identify best practices in the region in order to replicate them in other countries. These would contribute to the implementation of ICPD and ICPD+5 recommendations in Africa.

#### Review of the Implementation of Habitat Agenda in Africa

30. The Committee took note of the presentation on the Review of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda in Africa (Document number ECA/UNCHS/IST.+5/00/1). The Committee was informed that the report was jointly prepared by the UNCHR (Habitat) and the ECA for the five year review of the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul+5). The report pointed out areas where African countries have made progress, where there were shortcomings and the constraints in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. It highlighted the emerging alarming as well as countervailing trends, the state of African cities and the state of the region's shelter. The report also considered prospects and policy implications.

31. The Committee was also informed that the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for Istanbul+5 adopted "The Addis Ababa Declaration on Human Settlements in the New Millennium" which included shelter, social development and poverty, environmental management, economic development, governance, International co-operation and institutional framework.

32. Issues that were raised during the discussion were the need for urban development finance, inconsistency of data within sources, lack of capacity or political will to implement urban laws, and the need for participatory system of governance in urban development.

33. The Committee suggested that Botswana which had been cited as a success story for urban development and population management, should be thoroughly studied as a case study for African countries. It was further reiterated that a participatory mechanism be put in place to evolve a workable urban development strategy. Such a mechanism will help mobilise significant resources that are within Africa and motivate countries to depend less on foreign aid.

#### Review of the Implementation of the World Food Summit

34. The document titled "Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the World Food Summit (WFS) in the African Context: Addressing Structural Food Insecurity in Africa" (ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/6) was presented to the Committee. The report is an assessment of the extent to which African countries have made progress in achieving the World Food Summit (WFS) objective of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015. In this regard, it was noted that despite the commitment made at the highest level at the WFS, five years later, little progress has been made in bringing about significant reduction in the number of the world's hungry people. The report stressed the fact that unless more determined efforts are made to speed up progress, the goal will not be reached until 2030. A reduction of at least 20 million hungry people every year between now and 2015 is needed to reach the Summit's target.

35. The Committee was also informed that during the 1990s, the rate of decline in the number of hungry people was clearly inadequate about 6 million per year. Concerning Africa, the Committee heard that the food security situation of the continent is particularly worrisome as reflected by the depth of hunger which is greatest in Sub-Saharan Africa than any other developing region. In 19 out of 46 African countries assessed, the undernourished have an average food deficit of more than 300 kilocalories per person per day.

36. The Committee also heard that the structural factor behind the continent's poor agricultural performance is the lack of an environment that enables the effective utilization of scientific knowledge and the labor force that is healthy and well endowed with knowledge and skills related to agriculture. It was agreed that in most African countries the above-mentioned labor force remained in the urban and peri-urban areas, hence, absent in rural areas where it is most needed to apply the acquired skills in innovative ways to solve agricultural development problems. Hence, the report suggests that while intensifying interventions in support of rural agriculture, there is a need to focus on areas (peri-urban) where the above mentioned labor force (skilled and knowledgeable and rural migrant) are located and to broaden these interventions to integrate peri-urban agriculture as an integral

part of the global strategy for achieving broad-based and long-term economic growth and long-term food security in Africa.

37. In order to achieve the above objective, the report suggested the development of a Long-term Food Security Programme for Africa (LTFSPA) that would help reinforce government ownership of development and the contribution of research and development partners around nationally and regionally identified priorities so as to provide a much stronger basis for the effective use of scarce resources and to ensure broad-based economic growth and sustainable development. The Programme will be guided by Food Security Partnership Agreements (FSPA) between Africa and major partners such as the United Nations, the United States of America and the European Union under the aegis of the African Union.

38. Two instruments were proposed to support the Programme. These are: i) Food Security Fund for Africa (FSFA) to stimulate private investment in support of long-term food security and peri-urban agriculture; and ii) the Technical Facility for Long-term Food Security for Africa (TFLTFA) to help foster broad-based interventions, policies and actions targeted at achieving broad-based economic growth with poverty and food insecurity reduction and equity.

39. During the discussion, the Committee acknowledged the poor performance of African agriculture during the past two decades and stressed the need to develop new approaches to address the vicious circle of poverty, food insecurity, and environmental degradation that prevails in the continent. The Committee insisted on the need to enhance the political will of African policymakers to ensure their strong commitment and support to the agricultural sector. The Committee further noted that the downward trends in public and foreign aid to agricultural development should be reversed and private investment in the sector should be promoted. The Committee also noted the fact that not enough attention was given in the report to the livestock and fishery sectors that contribute substantially to food security in many African countries. It therefore, suggested that these sectors be taken into account in the analysis of the food security situation as well as in the design of agricultural development strategies.

40. Regarding the issue of peri-urban agriculture, the Committee noted that while it has an important role to play in ensuring food security in African countries, it should be approached with caution. The Committee was of the view that such a strategy is not coherent with the pro-poor strategy adopted at various international conferences with the view of eradicating poverty. The Committee noted that past failures in agricultural and rural development programmes in Africa should not justify a further marginalization of the rural poor. The Committee was, however, in agreement with the suggestion that African countries should learn the lessons of their past experiences (successes and failures) and come up with more innovative broad-based strategies to address the issues of poverty and food insecurity.

41. In conclusion, the Committee noted the role of peri-urban agriculture in meeting the food security needs of the expanding urban population. However, the Committee emphasized that focussing on peri-urban agriculture to address structural food insecurity in Africa, is not an appropriate approach as most of the poor as well as the majority of the population live in rural areas. Informed about ongoing discussion at FAO regarding urban and peri-urban agriculture, the Committee suggested further work in this area in line with

FAO guidance.

#### Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa

42. The Committee heard a presentation on the progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa. To facilitate its consideration, the Committee had before it Document ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/2 titled "Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa".

43. The Committee was informed that a ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 would be one of the key features of the second World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. In this regard, the ECA is working with UNEP, ADB, UNDP and the sub-regional economic groupings in Africa (AMU, ECCAS, ECOWAS, COMESA/IGAD, SADC) in an Extended Joint Secretariat, to guide, spearhead and support the overall preparatory process in the region. The Committee was also informed that in spite of challenges still being faced by the continent; countries have made progress in terms of institutional development, consensus building and participatory processes. Ten years after Rio, however, the African region still faces a wide range of environmental challenges and persistent poverty has contributed to accelerated degradation of natural resources. African economies have been on the decline and Africa, unlike other developing regions of the world, continues to receive extremely low foreign private capital. Many countries in Africa remain severely indebted, contributing to the inability of African countries to implement sustainable development strategies.

44. The Committee was further informed that globalisation poses new and major challenges in Africa and trade liberalisation has to a large extent, exacerbated environmental degradation. Africa's population continues to grow, thus, placing a high demand on basic services. Improvements have been recorded in the coverage of safe water and adequate sanitation but a lot remains to be done. Life expectancy had increased slightly but this has been seriously eroded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

45. Africa still lacks the technology and financial resources to develop the full potential of its energy resources to serve key economic sectors. Armed conflicts have resulted in major socio-economic setbacks.

46. On priority actions and the way forward, the Committee was informed, among other things, that the eradication of poverty should be seen as an overarching theme for Africa at the WSSD 2002. Technological and infrastructural development and increased regional integration are crucial to increasing competitiveness in the multilateral trading system. Africa should further promote and nurture peace, security and stability. The ECA should have a very central role in promoting sustainable development strategies, policies and programs.

47. The Committee deliberated at length on the multifaceted problems being experienced by the continent in the inter-linked areas of environment, population and agricultural development. Greater integration of these issues in order to address Africa's food security needs and ensure sustainable development was called for.

48. The Committee referred to the vicious cycle of poverty in Africa and noted that a major contributing factor is the unsustainable utilisation of natural resources. It was noted that the encroachment on marginal lands as a result of agricultural expansion has exacerbated land degradation on the continent. It was recommended that in addressing sustainable development issues, poverty reduction should be the overarching goal.

49. The Committee further observed that even though the environmental agenda is usually given high international profile, implementation of environmental programmes is still far below expectations. The failure in implementation of environmental programmes was attributed to, inter alia, trade liberalisation. It was also noted that even though globalisation has some positive aspects, its impacts in Africa have been more negative than positive. It was suggested that effective implementation of the Biodiversity Convention could help alleviate food insecurity while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The vulnerability of Africa to the impacts of climate change was discussed and called for the re-engagement of developed nations to break the diplomatic deadlock on climate change negotiations.

#### Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development

50. The Committee heard a presentation based on document ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/5 titled "Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa". The emphasis was on agricultural intensification. The presentation centered on eight distinct but interrelated areas of actions for the application of science and technology for agricultural intensification in Africa. These are: (i) Integration of agricultural policies with overall development policies; (ii) Promotion of political leadership in Science and Technology; (iii) Development of human resources and the knowledge base; (iv) Development of an efficient science and technology infrastructure; (v) Strengthening critical science and technology capacities; (vi) Attention to important technologies; (vii) Ensuring sustainability of technologies; and (viii) Increasing intensity of effort.

51. As regards the integration of agricultural policies with overall development policies, the Committee was informed of the need to adopt an industrialization and development strategy that incorporate agricultural intensification. In designing such strategy, it is worth recalling that labour-reducing technologies may not be applied intensively as long as there is a surplus of labour in the rural areas. This has tremendous policy implications and it means that there is a need to develop non-agricultural industries and employment to support agricultural intensification processes, which must also be linked to the global economy. Basic industries that are supportive (metal, chemical, biological, etc) of these processes must also be strengthened.

52. As regards the promotion of political leadership for Science and Technology (S&T) development, the Committee was informed that political awareness must be created about the essential role of S & T in agricultural intensification and development and of the essential role of governments. Political will and determination are needed to bring S&T issues higher on political agendas and give a higher profile to S&T, which must become a pervading, daily concern throughout the government. Political commitment must express itself in having the President or the Prime Minister to chair the main S&T executive bodies and in the mobilization and allocation of sufficient resources.

53. The development of human resources and knowledge base, the Committee was informed, need massive investments by all newly industrializing countries and the industrialized countries at an earlier stage of development. It was also suggested that adopting liberal policies on brain drain may be the best policy option since expatriates constitute important seeds for later development stages. As regards the development of an efficient science and technology infrastructure, the presenter discussed the importance of an effective policy-making institution, quality learning institutions, research and development institutions, centers of excellence, technology incubators, intellectual property laws and regulations, technological standards, institutions and Internet.

54. The Committee was also informed that critical science and technology capacities that need to be developed include: managerial capacities at both macro and micro levels, (e.g. negotiation capacities for FDI, joint-venture, turn-key plants, licensing, technical services, particularly in the area of agro-industries); entrepreneurial capacities; technological learning capacities, such as reverse engineering capacities; and incremental innovation capacities.

55. It was recommended that in order to succeed in agricultural intensification there is a need to pay particular attention to some important technologies, such as: land management technologies (resource assessment, surveying, soil analysis, remote sensing and GIS technologies); technologies related to agricultural inputs (biotechnologies, seeds, fertilizers, vaccines, pesticides, fungicides, etc.); technologies related to agricultural machineries and implements; technologies related to agricultural infrastructure (drainage and irrigation, transport, storage, etc.); technologies related to the provision of agricultural services (micro-credit, extension, weather forecast, market data, etc.).

56. Lastly, it was recommended that in order to ensure sustainability there is also a need to attach particular importance to: firewood-saving technologies and technologies that minimize the use of non-renewable resources (solar cookers, solar dryers, biogaz digesters, etc.); land rehabilitation technologies; agricultural waste recycling technologies; technologies to combat deforestation, desertification and soil erosion; and technologies related to sustainable farming practices (choice of suitable crops, cropping sequences, contour cultivation, strip cropping, terraces, controlled grazing, etc.).

#### General Discussion

57. The Chairperson opened the floor for general discussion on the five reports presented and discussed separately. The Chairperson emphasised that it is the task of the Committee to consider the papers from a holistic point of view in order to satisfy the sustainable development approach embarked on by the Division. Thus, the Committee was asked to stress as much as possible the relationships among the issues discussed under the themes of population, human settlements, environment, food security and science and technology, with the aim of finding synergies among the international programmes of action that address those issues.

58. Regarding the success stories of Botswana, the Committee noted that these were due to the various development policies implemented. Nevertheless, good governance and stability were also fundamental to the country's achievements. The Botswana Embassy should be requested to provide documentation on national policies and strategies in order for other African countries to consider the Botswana experience. Best practices from other

countries should also be documented and the information disseminated. Nevertheless, it should always be kept in mind that policies and programmes that had a positive impact on development in a particular country might not be successfully replicated in other countries and situations.

59. The Committee further noted that ECA has a comparative advantage on the documentation and dissemination of best practices. ECA should enhance this aspect of its work to provide member States with examples of successful programmes. This would enable African countries to share their experiences. In addition, policy makers and development partners have to consider institutional capacity building as the key issue to development.

60. Furthermore, the Committee stressed the relationships between population and food security. Nevertheless, it seems that the problem of food security in Africa is not much linked to population growth but more to the low agriculture productivity. Therefore it was proposed that, viable agriculture development programmes should be designed including insurance schemes so as to promote rural development and food security. Non-agricultural activities in rural areas have also to be expanded.

61. The Committee stressed that even if some sectoral policies or programmes implemented in African countries have been considered as best practices, these were not translated into a substantial improvement of the well being of the population. Basic indicators had not appreciably improved and some were even deteriorating. If poverty seemed to be reducing (measured as percentage of the total population), it remained the same in absolute numbers due to the rapid growth of the population. African countries have many challenges, including the interrelation issue of sustainable development. Nevertheless, their main concern should remain poverty alleviation.

62. Finally the Committee remarked that international fora should make sure that recommendations for the agriculture sector, like other development objectives, should not contradict with the goals of environmental protection.

## **Second Plenary Session**

### **High level Panel discussion on the Agricultural Intensification**

#### **(a) Presentation of Theme Paper**

63. In introducing the theme: "Agricultural Intensification: Feeding Ourselves and Sustaining Africa's Land Resources in the New Millennium", Dr. Michael Foster indicated that agricultural intensification referred to a process that aims at achieving optimal economic production of crops and animals by using the most appropriate combination of land, labour and inputs. Agricultural intensification is important for Africa because it permits the production of greater quantities of food more cheaply from smaller land area. This would benefit the poor who currently spend a large proportion of their income on food. Secondly, it generates income and off-farm employment.

64. The Meeting was informed about the relevance of intensification for Africa where the level of malnutrition is characteristically high (37 percent of Africa's people are underfed while 31 percent of children are underweight). Africa's cereal yields increased by only 72 percent in the last 50 years compared to increases of 217 percent in Asia, inspite of having similar starting points in the 1960's. The potential arable land available in Africa is 900 million ha but only 130 million ha are actually cultivated. All these factors have direct relevance to policy and decision making.

65. The Meeting was also informed about the different methods of intensification that have been practiced in Africa, including their failures and successes. The challenges of intensification and its potential for reducing poverty were addressed. The main challenges included the management of water for irrigation; empowerment of women through the provision of micro-finance and training; improvement of infrastructure and market access; promotion of private sector involvement, and addressing health issues, including HIV/AIDS. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to eradicate wars and political instability as a precondition for poverty reduction, and biotechnology as a means of ensuring significant increases in yield. The presenter cautioned on the need to understand the full implications and the environmental impact of the use of transgenic crops as well as the need for a good legislative framework.

66. In summarising the presentation, Dr. Foster emphasised the need to perceive agricultural intensification as a means rather than an end by itself and to understand it in the broader context of poverty reduction strategies through agriculture. Household education, health, labour and markets are essential ingredients of agricultural intensification, as is the need for greater pragmatism among African policy makers. There is need to conduct research tailored towards reducing risks and enhancing technologies and innovations for coping with harsh environments. Increased access to existing improved technologies by small-scale farmers is important, particularly those related to input and agro-processing.

(b) Panel Discussion on Theme Paper

67. Prof. John O. Oucho, discussed the demographic dimensions of agricultural intensification. His paper addressed four main issues, namely Africa's past and projected population growth in the light of natural growth, its anomalous demographic transition of declining fertility vs. increasing mortality, whether population size necessarily resulted in land degradation and, whether the region's poverty and food security problems are the result of its demographic profile.

68. The Meeting was informed that Africa's past and projected population growth rate had remained the highest of all developing regions of the world, with annual growth rates of 2.2, 3.0 and 1.9 for the periods 1950-1955, 1985-1990 and 2020-2025, respectively. Fertility was largely responsible for this growth, as mortality had declined steadily due to improvements in living conditions and human development standards. However, HIV/AIDS is taking an enormous toll, especially from the most active age groups, and is most likely to change the population structure and size significantly in the years to come. Describing the transitional fertility and mortality trends in the continent, the panelist observed that Africa's levels of fertility and mortality remained relatively unchanged. With regard to regional and national variations, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the highest in the world and life



expectancy at birth is the lowest. HIV/AIDS is a major contributing factor to the mortality upsurge.

69. Migration, especially the displacement of people due to conflicts or natural disasters, also has a significant impact on agriculture. The panelist noted that the relationships between population and land were not clearly examined in the main paper. However, there existed some insights of the interplay of the population, environment and development nexus in some recent publications of the United Nations. In addition, the issue of Africa's carrying capacity needed to be addressed. If per capita crop land availability is shown to have decreased, then there is need to undertake and strengthen interdisciplinary research involving government officials, population and agricultural specialists, and environmentalists in order to better understand the causative factors of this phenomenon.

70. In conclusion, the panelist suggested that among the diverse issues involved in the inter-linkages of population, environment and development, the Committee should identify what should be the priorities for Africa in ensuring food security. In analysing the inter-linkages, two frameworks might be useful, including the analysis models developed by J. Bongaarts and T. N. Srinivasan. The former postulates that the food supply system is influenced by eight principal independent variables, namely: (i) potential arable land, (ii) actual arable land, (iii) harvested area for food crops, (iv) domestic production of crops, (v) domestic crop use (vi) livestock consumption, (vii) direct human consumption and, (viii) total human consumption.

71. The presentation made by Prof. Adeniyi Osuntogun on natural resources and environment in relation to agricultural intensification noted the positive feedback relationship that exists between poverty and natural resource degradation. It was emphasized that this relationship had been observed in most international environment and development meetings, especially those preceding the 1987 Brundtland Report which called for intensification of agriculture for the sake of good environmental management, increased incomes and to address food insecurity. The panelist wondered whether there were any trade-offs or synergies in agricultural intensification and how negative trade-offs could be mitigated and positive synergies maximised.

72. The panelist also noted that the objective was to attain sustainable agricultural intensification and indicated some of the factors that would promote such a system. These include prudent macro-economic policies, participatory development strategies, adequate public institutions and marketing infrastructure, secure property rights, alternative non-farm economic activities, diversified cropping systems and effective local organisation. The point was made that Africa is a diverse continent with high potential agricultural areas as well as fragile ecosystems and that the strategy for intensification should be specific to particular areas. It was recommended that the way forward for sustainable agricultural intensification must include formulating market-based policies which promoted improved technologies, agro-processing and improved market infrastructure.

73. During the presentation of the paper entitled "Enhancing the power of science and technology on sustainable development", Prof. C. Chetsanga highlighted some of the key reasons for Africa's depressed economies and poor socio-economic development. These reasons included drought and food gap, distrust and fear of power of science, and skepticism about the existence of scientists with conscience. He said that Africa does not have an effective continental system for implementing the type of science and technology programmes that are needed to drive an adequate economic development agenda. He emphasised the need for Africa to close the current technology gap, adding that the continent must either innovate or stagnate. In this regard, he recommended that an integrated approach be used in the form of a strategic coalition involving science and technology, the government, the academia and industry.

74. The panelist also briefly highlighted the experience of Zimbabwe in connection with the country's initiatives in the area of scientific and industrial research and development. He presented the structure and functions of the Scientific and Industrial Research Centre (SIRDC) of Zimbabwe. One of the key research domains covered by the Centre is biotechnology. The Centre also provided various services among which are hands-on training courses offered to industrial sectors and assistance to companies which seek the acquisition of intermediate and emerging technologies.

75. The rest of the presentation focused on biotechnology and its role in agricultural intensification. The presenter indicated that while the main report had highlighted key issues underlying the African problems of global hunger and poverty, it gave a very limited scope to the role of biotechnology. He stressed the greater role that modern biotechnology is already playing and can further play in helping the society to achieve food security in the future. He also said that modern biotechnology is both science and technology intensive and that it covers, among others, agricultural biotechnology, medical biotechnology, industrial biotechnology and food technology. It has a wide range of applications which include resistance to biotic stress caused by pests and disease agents; resistance to abiotic stress caused by drought, soil acidity; genetically engineered crops and animals produced for early maturity or for increased transportability (late ripening); high nutrition quality food items (e.g., lysine and tryptophan enrichment of maize and vitamin A enrichment of rice); sperm production for in vitro egg fertilisation of animals; growth hormone for increasing milk and meat production; recombinant vaccines for human beings and animal and; recombinant diagnostic kits used in human and veterinary medicine.

76. The panelist listed key requirements for establishing a biotechnology programme. These are (i) trained manpower, (ii) equipment housed in a laboratory with containment facility needed for the protection of workers, (iii) a set of biosafety regulations that have the force of law and that guide the conduct of experimentation, (iv) signature of conventions that protect intellectual property right (IPR). He referred to some of the controversies surrounding gene cloning, saying that while advances in gene cloning for vaccines (e.g., hepatitis B vaccine) and other medical products (e.g., insulin) have been welcomed, plant biotechnology products such as BT maize are controversial in Europe, although they are accepted in the USA and are a major source of confusion in other parts of the world. The most controversial of all rests with human and gene cloning activities whose related ethical concerns remain very important and should be heeded. The presenter recommended that the ECA should help Africa to address the issues related to biotechnology and to exploit its great potential for achievement of food security.

77. In her presentation entitled "Agricultural Intensification: The Role of Food Science and Nutrition", Prof. Ruth K. Oniang'o started by noting that there is need to refocus attention on agriculture as an engine of economic growth. She reiterated that efforts to intensify agriculture should address the whole chain, i.e. from the farm to agro-processing and marketing. In addition, farming must be viewed as a business and not just as a way of life, since people will engage in farming activities if agricultural production is profitable. Since agricultural intensification leads to increased productivity, there is need to investigate post-harvest, storage and agro-processing technologies as well as marketing infrastructure in order to raise the capability of farmers to handle this increased production.

78. The panelist noted that more resources should be put into agro-processing as a catalyst for producing known products in new ways. Also, cost effective user-friendly technologies, including indigenous technologies, for post-harvest and agro-processing would transform perishable produce to durable, marketable and consumable products that are diversified, top quality, more nutritious and capable of generating more income. To facilitate information sharing on agro-processing, a database of existing technologies should be developed to train extension workers and farmers. In addition, extension workers should take on a more facilitatory rather than an advisory role.

79. To facilitate the marketing of the products, special attention should be paid to the vulnerable groups of society as new products are processed for consumption. These groups include infants, school age children, urban and rural poor, pregnant and lactating mothers and people living with HIV/AIDS, among many others.

80. The panelist gave some examples of successful efforts in agricultural intensification and agro-processing. These examples can provide useful and applicable lessons to other parts of the continent. These included:

- (a) The cassava project in Nigeria which involved the use of an improved variety of cassava, leading to quality flour production and utilization. Different stakeholders collaborated to demonstrate the potential for cassava use, which led to the adoption of technologies to meet the increased demand for industrial starch. Due to this increased demand for cassava for both food and industrial use, production was extended to new areas. Nigeria is now the world's largest cassava producer.
- (b) The introduction of soyabean in Guinea by Sasakawa Global 2000 to improve soil fertility and increased human nutrition. Instead of selling the seed to SG 2000 as had been planned, the farmers kept the seed for further processing thereby generating income for themselves.
- (c) Improved, more efficient cassava processing in Guinea was achieved through the introduction of graters and the training of operators. This facilitated the processing of cassava and hence the provision of income to farmers. The quality of the cassava products was improved, which led to a wider acceptance of the crop even by the higher socio-economic groups of society.
- (d) In Uganda, with improved processing and packaging of millet, a higher quality and attractively packaged product was available in the supermarkets. These

products are now found in many supermarkets and are certified by the Uganda Bureau of Standards. This has provided a nutritious food for a group of people that previously may have shunned the product for being "backward."

- (e) Other success stories include the introduction of cooperative storage and marketing centers in Ghana, Ethiopia and Cameroon. Benefits accrued from these projects include reduced crop losses, price stabilization, improved marketing options and the reduction of middle-men hence increased profits for the farmers.

81. The panelist also discussed the changing environment that is affecting the agro-processing industry. This includes globalization which presents challenges and also offers opportunities for agro-industries. First, there is increased urbanization and migration and hence the increased demand for quality processed products. Second, there is need to negotiate the reduction of trade barriers in WTO in order to promote and market local products in foreign markets. Third, agro-industries need to increase linkages with research institutions and other institutions of higher learning.

82. The depreciation of local currencies makes it difficult to import raw materials for food processing. There is also need to provide tax relief for agricultural equipment and improve the allocation of resources for development of appropriate technology, extension and training. Investment in storage, processing and marketing infrastructure is also critical.

83. Cost sharing opportunities need to be explored. As farm incomes rise due to agro-processing, farmers will be able to pay for services otherwise provided by the government. With increasing pressure on the land, a different form of production may be called for-one which attempts to consolidate land holdings.

84. The panelist concluded the presentation by making several recommendations, that included the following: (i) the agricultural sector should be given a high priority under dynamic government leadership (ii) the agro-industries should be placed under the ministries of Agriculture where they can directly influence regulation and quality of the products (iii) policies that encourage joint ventures with foreign investors should be formulated in order to enhance the capacity of local entrepreneurs.

85. Further recommendations were that agriculture should be made more lucrative by providing opportunities for credit and that biotechnology needs to be driven not only by the private sector but also by the farmer, consumer and the government. There is need for capacity building in the area of biotechnology so as to enhance information flow and ensure that action is taken from a point of knowledge.

86. In addition, the panelist suggested the need to document success stories and publish them in peer-reviewed journals. Towards this end, the newly established African Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences (AJFNS) was introduced. It was suggested that the AJFNS is intended to provide a forum for African voices. Further, the nutritional status of children should be used as an indicator of development.

(c) Floor Discussion

87. In the discussion that followed the presentations, the Committee considered the issue of agricultural intensification as it relates to efficiency in production and noted that in cases where almost all available arable land is under cultivation, intensification was the only viable options to farmers. The Committee further noted that the profit motive was the main driving force to commercial farming, observing that in some instances, it had resulted in negative consequences on the environment, in the form of accelerated soil erosion, salinization and pesticide accumulation. It was also observed that whether the issues of efficiency or intensification were to be addressed from an agronomic or economic point of view, the aim would be to reach an optimal level of production that leads to a sustainable balance between production and investment. The Committee also examined the issues relating to small-scale farmers versus commercial farmers with regard to agricultural intensification. The discussion ended in agreement that there is no real difference between small scale and commercial farmers in the sense that both needed the same inputs, labour and access to markets.

88. Noting that the majority of farmers in Africa are still operating at the subsistence level, the Committee proposed that emphasis be placed on farming technologies that utilized locally available resources. It further stressed that there could not be any substitute for the intensification of small farming systems, because small-scale farmers constituted an indispensable factor of the continent. In addition to improving small scale farming systems, priority should also be given to the promotion of policies that would guard against the negative impacts of trade liberalization, inappropriate export orientation and various types of trade barriers. Thus, there is need to promote and implement both micro- and macro-economic policies that are consistent with agricultural intensification objectives.

89. A delegate inquired about the environmental risks associated with genetically engineered plants. In his answer, the presenter explained that these risks may be related to the unintended transfer to plant relatives of the transgenes and this may result in unpredictable effects. It was noted that there is not enough evidence to rule out these effects and testing them is a difficult task. While investigations are under way on how to solve the problem, Africa has no excuse to stay away from the current biological revolution. The example of genetically engineered cotton which can help generate considerable financial resources in Africa was cited as an example of the benefits of biotechnology. The need to use biotechnology to solve African problems, some of which may be of no interest to the advanced countries was also stressed.

90. Although the Committee recognised the contribution of biotechnology in agricultural intensification, it also emphasised some of the negative impacts that its application might have if the necessary precautions are not taken. It was reported that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) used in agriculture tended to be highly chemical intensive, posed serious potential risks to biodiversity, especially when grown in monocultures, and that their potential health risks are not yet known. There was also the need to address the equity, social as well as human capacity development issues relating to biotechnology. The Committee also noted that not enough testing on GMOs had been performed so far in Africa, or in the tropics. Most of the testing that has taken place was in temperate countries. Therefore, it is still very difficult to generalise on the possible impacts of GMOs on agricultural intensification.

91. The unrelenting spread of HIV/AIDS was recognised as one of the biggest challenges to agricultural intensification in Africa. The Committee noted that this challenge is being felt in agriculture mainly through its impacts on labour. In fact, AIDS is now emerging as a rural phenomenon, contrary to the past beliefs that it was predominantly urban. It was, therefore, suggested that one way of addressing the issue of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the agricultural sector would be to use agricultural extension workers to give appropriate information on HIV/AIDS. The Committee strongly felt that in order to effectively fight HIV/AIDS and reduce its impacts on agricultural intensification, governments should continue to demonstrate even greater leadership and commitment to addressing the pandemic using the best available means at their disposal. The Committee noted, however, that Africa must refrain from its past tendencies to try and exploit issues of such great social concern for quick financial gain, as it had done with population in the 1970s and later with the environment.

92. Stressing the important role played by research and its applications in agricultural intensification, the Committee emphasised that these should be given more recognition and financial support in government budgets. The need to allocate greater budget support to higher education was also emphasised.

93. The Committee also took note of the low level of access to information among governments and institutions and stressed the need to enhance the exchange of information on agricultural intensification particularly through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Meeting agreed that as part of information exchange, there is a need to draw up and widely disseminate a database of research activities undertaken in agriculture on the continent.

94. In response to concerns raised with regard to the fragility of African ecosystems and the dangers posed by trade or transport of dangerous toxic substances on the continent, the Committee underscored the need to address the negative social, economic, health and environmental impacts of the inappropriate use and accumulation of obsolete pesticides in a number of countries. It took note of the need to formulate appropriate policies with due regard to the peculiarities of social and ecological settings in different parts of Africa.

95. In supporting the idea of making recommendations on agricultural intensification, the Committee expressed the need to address these to the future work of the ECA and the FSSDD in particular, without seeking to influence the mandate and work of other organisations. Nevertheless, such recommendations should bear in mind the existing and future partnerships, some of which require strengthening.

### **Third Plenary Session**

#### **Review of work programme 2000-2001 and suggestions for 2002-2003**

96. The Secretariat presented the work programme and key outputs for the biennium 2000-2001 (document ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/4) and also the work programme for 2002-2003 which had been approved by the United Nations General Assembly (UNSA). The Committee, noted the reported achievements of the Division for the 2000-2001 biennium, the approved work programme for the biennium 2002-2003, and the explanation provided by the Division regarding the approval by UNSA of the work programme for the next

biennium without input from the Committee. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction regarding the procedure followed to have the work programme approved.

97. The Committee, however, noted several positive elements that emerged from the work achieved by the Division. It, however, expressed concern about the lack of visibility, especially at country levels, of the work of ECA in general and the FSSDD in particular. Several approaches of enhancing visibility for ECA including improvements in the monitoring and evaluation systems, and rotation of the CSD Meeting in member States were suggested.

98. It was recommended that the monitoring and evaluation system of the Division should be strengthened. This is because feedback based on questionnaires alone are not sufficient for holistic evaluation of impact at country level. Similarly, the rate of attendance at meetings is not a good indicator for achievements of the objectives of the Division. For the revision and evaluation of the work achieved during the biennium 2000-2001, better indicators, should be developed to evaluate whether objectives have been achieved or not. ECA should create a unit for monitoring and evaluation. This unit would regularly visit member States to monitor the implementation of recommendations and the impact of the Commission's work on the ground.

99. It was further recommended that the evaluation system should be considered at different levels; with the first level being issues like the rate of attendance at meetings, etc, the second level looking at the impact on policies developed by member States and the last level dealing with the impact of the Division on the people of Africa as related, for instance, to the improvements in the food security situation over the years. It was also recommended that the Division should move from the present level of evaluation to the second and third proposed levels.

100. The Committee pointed out that the relationships between the nexus issues and conflicts in Africa did not come out clearly from the account of the achievements reported by the Division regarding the interrelated issues of population, environment and agriculture. The impact of civil strife on the reported achievements should be analysed since conflicts can negate any positive achievements.

101. The Committee noted the fundamental importance of capacity building in dealing with the issue of food security and sustainable development and pointed out that capacity exists in the continent. However, the problem is how to retain and rationally utilize the available capacity for the well being of the African people. It was, therefore, recommended that the Division develops a program for short-term exchange of experts among African countries and between regional institutions and universities.

102. The Committee also noted that their knowledge about the work of the Division is limited. Particular reference was made with respect to the mandate and work of the Advisory Board. The argument was that member States could provide better advice to the Division if they are more aware of the work of the Division. It was suggested that coordination and information sharing among the Division, the members of Committee and the Advisory Board should be improved.

103. Regarding the disparity in the food security situation among African regions, the Committee inquired if the ECA could not do concentrate work on particular regions and target specific sectors and needs. It was suggested that in a situation where financial resources are inadequate, it would be better for regional organisations, such as OAU and ECA, to work in partnership to mobilise resources and target selected sectors for research.

104. The Committee, noting that, the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 has already been approved by the UN General Assembly, suggested the need to strengthen some aspects of the programme, such as the field projects component. It was also noted that the field project could improve the visibility of the Division on the ground. Nevertheless, the Committee further noted that it would have preferred to have the work programme submitted before it for member States to provide inputs before it was approved.

105. The Committee also expressed concerned over the status of the PEDAs Model and its future development. It was noted that some recommendations regarding the scope of the model were made during the first CSD Meeting. So far the model is only an advocacy tool, however, it was suggested that what member States need are tools that support their policy formulation exercises. Planning tools are necessary to address the population, environment and agriculture inter-linkages and to integrate them into development policies. Therefore, the Committee recommended further development of the PEDAs model to make it a planning tool so as to satisfy the needs of member States.

106. The Committee also suggested that before concentrating on the theme of the next CSD meeting, specific activities to be carried out regarding the theme of agriculture intensification discussed at this Meeting should be agreed upon. For example, experts' workshops on the subject of agriculture intensification in Africa should be organized before next CSD meeting.

107. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the advisory board has been established to help the Division deal with the complexity of the nexus issues (environment, population, and agriculture) and its conceptualisation. Previous advisory board meetings were instrumental in making recommendations regarding specific outputs of the work programme, as well as on the general approach the Division should take in implementing its mandate. Some of the recommendations made by the advisory board have already been taken into account in implementing the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 and in formulating the programme for 2002-2003.

108. The Secretariat stated that the Committee's role is to develop and prioritise guidelines for the achievement of the mandate of the Division. However, the advisory board members were invited to the Second CSD Meeting in order to enrich the discussion and give their expert views on various matters related to the work of the Division.



109. The Secretariat further stated that the development of indicators to evaluate impact at country level, especially on poverty reduction and sustainable development, is a very tricky exercise for all organisations. However, the issue is of fundamental importance and is being considered by all the Divisions of ECA. The FSSDD has tried to develop some indicators, which can be used to monitor impact of the Division's work at the country and institutional level on a regular basis. Moreover, it was noted that a mechanism is in place to audit the work of the Commission, which also include external evaluations.

110. The Secretariat also added that the purpose of the reforms carried out in the ECA and the creation of the Sub-regional Development Centres (SRDCs), were to give more visibility to the work of the Commission at country level. Nevertheless, the Commission is aware that improvements should be made using, for example, ICT tools. Activities implemented in collaboration with regional economic communities, as well as with the joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat, have also increased the visibility of the work of the Commission. For instance, until April 2001, the ECA was an active member of the AMCEN Secretariat mandated to assess the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa. The Commission is committed to enhance this kind of collaboration in order to increase its visibility on the ground. An outcome of this type of collaboration is the attachment of a senior UNEP staff to the ECA in order to support it in all matters related to environment and sustainable development. ECA is also moving towards demand-driven activities such as requests for advisory services emanating from member States.

111. The Secretariat also stated that although the programme of work for 2002-2003 has already been approved, member States had the opportunity to express their views during the Algiers Meeting of African Ministers and during the UN General Assembly. Nonetheless, the programme of work is in generic terms and thus, it has been presented to the Meeting not only for information but also to seek guidance on how to implement it. In this regard, the Committee was informed that there is a provision for an extra-ordinary Committee Meetings of the Bureau which should be utilized to improve on the implementation of the work programme for 2002-2003. It was further agreed that if there are a few priority action oriented recommendations from the Meeting, these could be accommodated in the work programme of 2002-2003 since it is generic. A sub-committee was formed with Egypt as chair, to propose recommendations which would be adopted by the Meeting.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Information Exchange and Experience Sharing

**Recognising** the considerable and diverse experience accumulated by various African countries in the field of agricultural intensification,

**Taking** into account the demographic social, economical and environmental differences that exist among African countries,

**Mindful of** the importance to integrate the use of modern inputs and technologies together with the locally available resources, practices and knowledge to intensify agriculture,

**Acknowledging** small holder farmers, subsistence farmers medium and large commercial farming for their relative merit,

The CSD II recommends that ECA:

1. Develops a mechanism for information exchange and experience sharing to be accessed easily by all African countries (for example internet site) in collaboration with Member States and other relevant international and regional organisations and other stakeholders.
2. Starts in collaboration with African governments, a pilot project for accelerated agricultural intensification to support all stakeholders involved in agricultural development activities in rural areas of member States. This will include two main sub project activities:
  - (a) A database about stakeholders and their intensification efforts to catalogue best practices and failures (may be done in collaboration with existing institutions).
  - (b) Technical research and training initiative to promote applications of emerging technologies and regulatory frameworks in Africa.
3. Reports on this matter to CSD III

## 2. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

**Defining** technical assistance as the organisation of workshops training programmes and the provision of experts,

**Acknowledging** the importance of capacity building including training, research and education in its various levels,

**Taking** into consideration the programme of work of the biennium 2002-2003 and its various activities and guidelines,

**Stressing** the importance of engaging the existing African expertise and research centres in African development projects and programmes,

The CSD II recommends that the ECA in collaboration with relevant international and regional organisations and stakeholders, during the biennium 2002-2003:

1. Gives priorities to technical assistance programmes in the various agricultural intensification dimensions.
2. Assists development institutions to transfer the available adequate technologies to the farmers.
3. Reports on this matter to CSD III.

3. Finance

**Stressing** the crucial importance of financial resources in implementing African development programmes including those in the field of agriculture intensification,

**Taking** into consideration, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) initiative and its various dimensions,

**Recognising** the effect of the debt burdens on African economic developments policies and programmes,

The CSD II recommends that the ECA:

1. Establishes partnership programmes/agreements with various donor and development financing institutions with a view to implement the different programmes and activities emanating from NEPAD and other regional development activities.
2. Assists African countries to establish partnership programmes in agreement with various donor and development financing institutions with a view to implementing their respective development programmes.
3. Continues and intensifies its efforts in and consultation with relevant Donor Countries and institutions, as appropriate, with a view to alleviate and preferably nullify African debt and/or debt burdens.
4. Reports on this matter to CSD III.

4. Preparation for CSD III

**Recognising** the importance that member States be informed and regularly updated on activities of the ECA,

**Mindful** of the need for member States to participate productively in the programmes and meetings of the ECA,

**Aware** of the declining of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to agriculture and rural development

The CSD II recommends that the ECA:

1. Provide Member States regularly with an annual appraisal report including the various activities, and programmes undertaken by the secretariat.
2. Furnishes Member States, at least 6 weeks in advance, with all documents to be discussed during the CSD III meetings (2003).
3. Provides Member States with a draft, detailed programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 for examination, prior to its provision to the Ministers of planning, finance and economic development meeting.
4. Reports on this matter to CSD III

5. Policy Issues

**Recognising** the importance of the urgency of the implementation of agricultural intensification and its various complexities

The CSD II recommends that the ECA in collaboration with relevant international and regional organisations and stakeholders:

1. Ensures, through advocacy and capacity building measures, that member States reflect the urgency of agricultural intensification for Africa in their policy instruments and allocate commensurate resources for the development of agriculture, and that it be done in a manner that takes cognisance of the nexus issues in priority as follows:
  - (a) Environmental degradation, especially, soil erosion;
  - (b) Tenurial policies that promote equity and enhanced incentives for farm household investments in agricultural intensification;
  - (c) Adequacy and efficiency of labour use of farm by adopting measures that arrest the loss of human labour through malnutrition and HIV/AIDS related deaths and also appropriate measures that generate more farm power;
  - (d) Education and health programmes are put in place to support the achievement of key factors that influence population growth rate, girl child education, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rate through improved health care facilities;
  - (e) Local food production in order to reduce dependence on non-African food sources;
  - (f) Negative effects of liberalisation and the dumping of subsidised foods as well as patenting of seeds;
  - (g) Integrated pest management practices in collaboration with FAO and other relevant agencies;
  - (h) Capacity to monitor risks arising from biotechnology;
  - (i) Environmental education in natural resource management that prepares the youth to gain learning – by doing activities in collaboration with government, NGO, communities and other relevant stakeholders.
2. Develops, in collaboration with key stakeholders, an operational framework for targeted support to stakeholders in pursuance of specific field action programs. This framework to support a program for accelerated agricultural intensification (PAAGI) shall include concerns of nexus issues in grass root agricultural intensification initiatives. The PAAGI shall enable operational research (OR) that promotes diversification for different environment, that will increase access to agriculture friendly rural finance and insurance schemes (RF), and rural technology training for production, processing and marketing targeted to rural women and youth (RIT), local institutional development and participatory development approaches (PDA).

[Prior to the undertaking of any project, a full study including budget implication will be undertaken].

3. Reports on this matter to CSD III.

## **ANNEX I**

### **List of Documents**

ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/1	Agenda
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/Add.1	Annotated Agenda
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/inf.1	Programme of Work
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/inf.3	List of participants
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/2	Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/3	Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the World Food Summit in the African Context: Addressing Structural Food Insecurity in Africa
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/4	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development During the 2000-2001 Biennium
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/5	Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development: Management of Technology in newly Industrialising Countries
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/6	Sustainable Development Policy in Africa: Harmonizing Population and Economic Growth in the Process of Implementing the ICPD Programme of Action
ECA/FSSDD/CSD/01/7	Report

## ANNEX II

### List of Participants/Liste des participants

#### *Countries*

##### **Algeria**

Mr. Arif Khemissi  
Counsellor  
Algeria Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

##### **Angola**

His Excellency Mr. Neto Miguel  
Ambassador  
Angola Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 510085  
Fax: (251-1) 514922  
E-mail:

Mr. Miguel Fernando  
Counselor  
Angola Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 510085  
Fax: (251-1) 514922  
E-mail:

##### **Botswana**

His Excellency Mr. Moorad Mustaq  
Ambassador  
Botswana Embassy  
P.O. Box 22282  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 715422/3  
Fax: (251-1) 714099  
E-mail: Boteth@telcom.net.et



Ms. Ramogotsi Nayang  
Botswana of Embassy  
P.O. Box 22282  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)715422/3  
Fax: (251-1)714099  
E-mail: Boteth@telecom.net.et

✓ **Burkina Faso**

Mr. Guigma Salif  
Chef Division Elaboration Politiques Agricoles/SP/CPSA  
01 BP 7081 Ouagadougou 03

Tel: (226) 318461  
Fax: (226) 314773  
E-mail:

Mr. Simporé Léonard  
First Counsellor  
Burkina Faso Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 615863  
Fax: (251-1) 612094  
E-mail: simporel@yahoo.fr

Mr. Nana Benjamin  
Third Secretary  
Burkina Faso Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 58 63  
Fax: (251-1) 61 20 94  
E-mail:

Mr. Samate Kloutan  
Press attaché  
Burkina Faso Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 58 63  
Fax: (251-1) 61 20 94  
E-mail:

## Cameroon

Mr. Ayafor Konwufine Clement  
First Secretary  
Cameroon Embassy  
P.O. Box 1028  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 52 98  
Fax: (251-1) 61 52 98  
E-mail: ayafor.kc@hotmail.com

## Congo (Brazaville)

Mr. Sica Prosper Ernest Francois  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Congo Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 18 29 38 Mobile (251-9) 21 34 77  
Fax: (251-1) 18 29 38  
E-mail:

Mr. Miamona Jean-Prosper  
First Secretary  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 18 29 38  
Fax: (251-1) 18 29 38  
E-mail: jpmiamona@hotmail.com

## Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Dibi B. Zephirin  
Counselor  
Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire  
P.O. Box 3668  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 54 30  
Fax: (251-1) 71 21 78  
E-mail:

Mr. Kouadio K. Severin  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire  
P.O. Box 3668  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 54 30  
Fax: (251-1) 71 21 78  
E-mail:

## **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Mr. Makonga Monga Mulenda  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 01 11, Mobile: (251-9) 21 50 78  
Fax: (251-1) 71 34 66  
E-mail:

Mr. Ilume Tembele Rene  
Counselor  
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 01 11, Mobile: (251-9) 21 71 02  
Fax: (251-1) 71 34 66  
E-mail: ilumerene@hotmail.com

## **Egypt**

Mr. Hesham Hassan Abdel Wahab  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Egypt  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 553077  
Fax: (251-1) 552722  
E-mail: heshamwahab@hotmail.com

Mr. Maged Naffee Mosleh  
Second Secretary  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Cairo

Tel: (202) 5747847  
Fax: (202) 5747847  
E-mail: maged2@hotmail.com

## **Equatorial Guinea**

His Excellency Mr. Moiche Apolinar  
Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 62 62 78  
Fax:  
E-mail:

**Ethiopia**

His Excellency Mr. Mekonnen Manyazewal  
Minister of State for Finance and Economic Development  
Addis Ababa

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Mr. Techane Zewdie  
1<sup>st</sup> Secretary – International Organizations and Economic Cooperation  
Directorate-General  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tel.: (251-1) 15 06 45  
Fax: (251-1) 51 43 00  
E-mail:

Mr. Desalegne Mesfin  
A/Head-Policy and legal Department  
Environment Protection Authority

Tel.: (251-1) 62 47 60  
Fax: (251-1) 61 00 77  
E-mail: cdp@telecom.net.et

Mr. Girma Yossef  
Head – Agriculture and Environment  
Science and Technology Commission

Tel.: (251-1) 15 55 04  
Fax: (251-1) 51 88 29  
E-mail: estcagri@yahoo.com

Mr. Tamiru Habte  
Head-Natural Resources Management and Regulatory Department  
Ministry of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 62312

Tel.: (251-1) 51 89 77  
Fax: (251-1) 15 51 69  
E-mail:

**Gabon**

His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Mendoumenze  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Gabon  
P.O. Box 1256  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 55 0121  
Fax: (251-1) 55 0121/61 37 00  
E-mail

Mr. Miembet Sylvestre  
Counselor  
Embassy of Gabon  
P.O. Box 1256  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 10 75/61 10 90  
Fax: (251-1) 61 37 00  
E-mail: gsmiembet81@hotmail.com

## Ghana

Mr. Adu Alex Owiredo  
Embassy of Ghana  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 14 02  
Fax:  
E-mail:

## Guinea

Mr. Mamady Condé  
Embassy of Guinea  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 663661  
Fax: (251-1) 651296  
E-mail:

## ✓ Kenya

Mr. Elkana Nyakundi Ongiuti  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30521  
Nairobi

Tel: (254-2) 716103  
Fax:  
E-mail: anyango@maji.go.ke

✓ Mr. Francis C.P. Keiru  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology  
P.O. Box 30040  
Nairobi

Tel: (254-2) 240557/334411, Ext.30465  
Fax: (254-2) 214287  
E-mail:

✓ Mr. Indiazi, Moses Adogo Lidodo  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
P.O. Box 30028  
Nairobi

Tel/Fax: (254-2)714311  
E-mail:

His Excellency Mr. G.N.O. Agoi  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Kenya  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)610033  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Ms. Jane B. Makori  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Kenya  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)610033  
Fax:  
E-mail:

### **Libyan Arab Jamahiriya**

Mr. Mohamed M. Hattab  
First Secretary  
Libyan Embassy  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 511077  
Fax:  
E-mail:

### **Lesotho**

His Excellency Mr. Leteka Masuhla H.  
Ambassador  
P.O. Box 7483  
Embassy of Lesotho  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 614368/9  
Fax: (251-1) 612828  
E-mail:

Mr. Ramonono Motjoka D.  
Embassy of Lesotho  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 614368/9  
Fax: (251-1) 612828  
E-mail:

**Madagascar**

Mr. Ludovic R. Setilahy  
P.O. Box 60004  
Embassy of Madagascar  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 612555  
Fax: (251-1) 610127  
E-mail:

**Malawi**

✓ Mr. Alick K. Manda  
Senior Scientific Officer  
National Research Council of Malawi  
P.O. Box 30745  
Lilongwe 3

Tel.: (265) 771550/774469  
Fax: (265) 772431  
E-mail: nrcm@sdnp.org.mw

Mr. Lawrence Mkona  
Counselor  
Embassy of Malawi  
P.O. Box 2316  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 711280/713210  
Fax: (251-1) 712945  
E-mail:

**Mali**

✓ Mr. Modibo Haidara  
Directeur General  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST)  
BP 3052  
Bamako

Tel.: (223)21 90 85  
Fax : (223)21 84 46  
E-mail: cnrst@spider.toolnet.org

Mr. Hamid Sidibé  
Counselor  
Embassy of Mali  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)716630  
Fax: (251-1) 712601  
E-mail:

## **Mauritius**

His Excellency Mr. Prithiuraj Fookeepah  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Mauritius  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)615997  
Fax: (251-1)614704  
E-mail:

Mr. Ah Yao Lam Chiou Yee  
Deputy Head of Mission  
Embassy of Mauritius  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)615997  
Fax: (251-)614704  
E-mail :

Mr. Clifton S. Wade  
Attaché  
Embassy of Mauritius  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)615997  
Fax: (251-)614704  
E-mail:

## **Morocco**

Mr. Khalid Bouziane  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Morocco  
P.O. Box 60033  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)531700  
Fax: (251-1)511828  
E-mail: morocco.emb@telecom.net.et



## **Mozambique**

Mr. Ana Nemba Uaiene  
Embassy of Mozambique  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 625538/9  
Fax:  
E-mail :

## **Namibia**

Ms. Constance Karuaihe  
Counselor  
Embassy of Namibia  
P.O. Box 1443  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 611966  
Fax: (251-1) 612677  
E-mail : nam.emb.@telecom.net.et

## **Niger**

Mr. Tahirou Maliki  
Counselor  
Embassy of Niger  
P.O. Box 5791  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)651305  
Fax: (251-1)652692  
E-mail:

## **Nigeria**

✓ Mr. S.A. Ekpa  
Minister Counselor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Abuja

Tel: (234-9) 6002510  
Fax: (234-9) 5230205  
E-mail:

Mr. Lateef Oyede  
Embassy of Nigeria  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 550644  
Fax: (251-1) 552307  
E-mail:

✓ Mr. Musa Chindo Umar  
National Population Commission  
Abuja

Tel: (234-9) 5235282  
Fax: (234-9) 5230205  
E-mail:

## Rwanda

✓ Mr. K.A. Banda  
EAO  
P.O. Box 4654  
Kigali

Tel: (250) 86549  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Mr. Augustin Karenzi  
Embassy of Rwanda  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 610300  
Fax: (251-1) 610411  
E-mail: kam8tsigat@yahoo.com

## Senegal

H.E. Mame Balla SY  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Senegal  
P.O. Box 2581  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 611376  
Fax: (251-1) 610020  
E-mail:

Mr. Bassiron Sene  
Counselor  
Embassy of Senegal  
P.O. Box 2581  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 611376  
Fax: (251-1) 610020  
E-mail:

Mr. Khaly Adama Ndaye  
First Counsellor  
Embassy of Senegal  
P.O. Box 2581  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 611376

Fax: (251-1) 610020

E-mail:

## **Sierra Leone**

Mr. Ibrahim Lamin Mohamed Sesay  
Principal Planning Officer  
Ministry of Development & Economic Planning  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel.:

Fax: (232) - 22 24 20 62

E-mail:

## **South Africa**

Mr. Tumagole Patrick Tsholetsane  
Embassy of South Africa  
P.O.Box 1011  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 30 34

Fax: (251-1) 71 13 30

E-mail:

Mr. J.N. Mamabolo  
Embassy of South Africa  
P.O.Box 1011  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 30 34

Fax: (251-1) 71 13 30

E-mail:

Mr. Mahcomola Motjope  
Embassy of South Africa  
P.O.Box 1011  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 71 30 34

Fax: (251-1) 71 13 30

E-mail:

## **Sudan**

Mr. Abdelkarim Ahmed Yousif  
Counsellor  
Embassy of The Sudan  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 516477  
Fax:  
E-mail:

## **Tanzania**

Mr. Pascal N. Mdemu  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
and Higher Education  
P.O.Box 2645  
Dar-es-Salaam

Tel.: (55-022) 26 68 884  
Fax:  
E-mail: pnmdemu@yahoo.com.uk

Mr. Julius Saidi Mkwizu  
Embassy of Tanzania  
P.O.Box 1077  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 51 81 55/50 37 01  
Fax: (251-1) 517358  
E-mail: tz@telecom.net.et

Ms Elizabeth Mgya  
Embassy of Tanzania  
P.O.Box 1077  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 518155 /512358  
Fax: (251-1) 517358  
E-mail: tz@telecom.net.et

## **Tchad**

H.E. Mr. Mahamat Abdelkerim  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Tchad  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 38 19  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Mr. Adoum Brahim  
Counselor  
Embassy of Tchad  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 61 38 19

Fax:

E-mail:

Mr. Hountinto Abdou  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Tchad  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 61 38 19

Fax:

E-mail:

## Tunisia

His Excellence Mr. Zouheir Allagui  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Tunisia  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 621840

Fax: (251-1) 621842

E-mail: emlanj.tunisia@telecom.net.et

Mr. Mohamed Ali Ben Abid  
First Secretary  
Embassy of Tunisia  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 621840

Fax: (251-1) 621842

E-mail: afrique40@hotmail.com

## Uganda

✓  
Dr. Jotham Musinguzi  
Director  
Population Secretariat  
Ministry of Finance and Planning  
P.O.Box 2666  
Kampala

Tel.: (256)-41-342-292

Fax: (256)-41-343 116

E-mail: popsec@imul.com

Mr. Joseph Omodo  
Embassy of Uganda  
P.O.Box 5644  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 513088  
Fax:  
E-mail:

## Zambia

H.E. Mr. Simataa Akapelwa  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Zambia  
P.O.Box 1909  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 71 13 02  
Fax: (251-1) 71 15 66  
E-mail:

✓ Mr. Lukwesa Kaemba  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED)  
P.O. Box 50062  
Lusaka

Tel: (260-1) 25 18 62  
Fax: (260-1) 25 18 62  
E-mail: lkaemba@zamtel.zm

✓ Mr. Beaton Samson Kaluba  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
P.O.Box 50464  
Lusaka

Tel: (260-1) 25 20 81  
Fax: (260-1) 25 20 81  
E-mail: dpdmstvt@zamnet.zm

✓ Mr. George Zulu  
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development – ETC Department  
P.O.Box 50062  
Lusaka

Tel: (260-1) 25 11 05/250886/250501  
Fax: (260-1) 25 01 14  
E-mail: ispmofed@zamtel.zm

✓  
Mr. Green Mbozi  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries/  
Planning & Cooperatives Development (MAFF/PCD)  
P.O.Box 50197  
Lusaka

Tel: (260-1) 25 03 08

Fax: (260-1) 25 05 04

E-mail: gmbori@zamnet.zm

## **Zimbabwe**

His Excellency Dr. N. Ndondo  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Addis Ababa

Tel.: (251-1) 61 38 72/7

Fax:

E-mail:

Mr. L.K. Dzvuke  
Counselor  
Embassy of Zimbabwe  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 61 38 72/7

Fax:

E-mail:

## **ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS**

### **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

✓  
Mr. Alemneh Dejene  
Senior Sustainable Development Officer  
Environment and Natural Resources Service  
Research, Extension and Training Division  
Sustainable Development Department  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome, Italy

Tel: 39-06-5705-2445

Fax: 5762610/57053152/57055155

E-mail:

Mr. Sintayehu G/Mariam  
National Programme Officer (OAU and ECA)  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1)511399  
Fax:  
E-mail:

### **Organization of African Unity (OAU)**

Mr. Abdellatif Benhadi  
Chief of Population and Development  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 517700  
Fax: (251-1) 517844  
E-mail:

### **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Ms. Eskedar Abebe  
Intern  
Addis Ababa

### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Mr. Cheik Sow  
Representative of UNEP  
ECA/4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 443063/445402  
Fax: (251-1) 521633  
E-mail:

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

Mr. George Chaponda  
Principal Officer  
P.O. Box 176  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 444108  
Fax:  
E-mail:



Ms. Chiara Cardoleti  
Associate Expert Relations  
P.O. Box 176  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 444108  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Ms. Beverley Byfield  
Senior Expert Relations Officer  
P.O. Box 176  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 444108  
Fax:  
E-mail:

## **OBSERVERS**

### **Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)**

Mr. Jacques Edjangué  
Deputy Head of Mission  
Addis Ababa

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

### **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)**

Dr. Samuel Benin  
P.O. Box 5689  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 463215, Ext. 140  
Fax: (251-1) 461252  
E-mail:

### **Italian Embassy**

Ms. Anna Maria Ceci  
Deputy Director Italian Cooperation  
Addis Ababa

Tel: (251-1) 552264/65/66  
Fax:  
E-mail:

## **SUB - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (SRDCs)**

✓ Mr. Gabriel NAHIMANA  
ECA/CA – SRDC  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Tel.: (237) 231461  
Fax: (237) 233185  
E-mail:

✓ Mr. Z.W. Kazeze  
Population Affairs Officer  
ECA/SA-SRDC  
Lusaka, Zambia

Tel.: (260) 1 231062/228502  
Fax: (260) 1 236949  
E-mail: zkazeze@yahoo.co.uk

✓ Mrs. Aimée Andrianasolo  
ECA/NA – SRDC  
Tanger, Morocco

Tel.: (212) 39 32 23 46/47  
Fax: (212) 39 34 03 57  
E-mail: andrianasolo@hotmail.com

✓ Mr. Kampion Banda  
ECA/EA – SRDC  
Kigali, Rwanda

Tel.: (250) 86549  
Fax: (250) 86546  
E-mail: bandakas@yahoo.com

Ms. Hadija Gava  
ECA/EA-SRDC

Tel.:  
Fax:  
E-mail: hngava@yahoo.com

### FSSDD ADVISORY BOARD

✓ Madame Cécile Ndjebet-Ntamag  
Cameroon Ecology (NGO)  
P.O.Box 14564  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Tel: (237) 9919623/3464097  
Fax: (237) 2220471/3464097  
E-mail: cndjebet@hotmail.com

✓ Prof. Jeremy A. Ridl  
University of Natal  
P.O.Box 520  
Bothas Hill 3660  
South Africa

Tel.: 273-1 (031) 2602554/7834610  
Fax: 273-1 (031) 7834610/2602864  
E-mail: Ridlj2@nu.ac.za

✓ Dr. Kamel Esseghairi  
Director  
Tunisian Institute of Sustainable Development  
and NGO Management  
Executive Director, Tunisian Association Women for  
Sustainable Development  
BP 377 (7 RUE REMADA)  
2000 LE BARDO – Tunisie

Tel.: (216-1) 71 510 714  
Fax: (216-1) 71 510 714  
E-mail: kesseghairi@yahoo.com

### List of Panelists

✓ Prof. Ruth K. Oniang'o  
Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology  
Department of Food Science and Post Harvest Technology  
P.O.Box 62000  
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel.: (254-2) 249799/631200, Mobile (254) 733 731632  
Fax: (254-2) 249799  
E-mail: oniango@iconnet.co.ke

✓ Prof. Ademiyi Osuntogun  
Foundation for Environmental Development  
& Education in Nigeria (FEDEN)  
12A, Enugu Close,  
Crystal Estate,  
Amuwo-Odofin,  
Badagry Express Way,  
P.O.Box 74277  
Victoria Island  
Lagos, Nigeria

Mobile: 254-733 73 16 32  
Tel.: (234-1) 774 2077, 5890271  
Fax: (234-1) 2641430  
E-mail: niyinle@yahoo.com

✓ Prof. Christopher J. Chetsanga  
Scientific and Industrial Research and  
Development Centre  
P.O.Box 6640  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel.: (263-4) 860321-9  
Fax: (263-4) 860351  
E-mail: cjchetsanga@sirdc.ac.zw

✓ Prof. John O. Oucho  
Department of Population Studies  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Botswana  
Private Bag 0022  
Gaborone, Botswana

Tel.: (267) 3552825  
Fax: (267) 356591/308868  
E-mail: ouchojo@mopipi.ub.bw

✓ Dr. Michael A. S. Foster  
Ruth Towers  
15 Clement Hill Rd.  
P.O.Box 6987  
Kampala, Uganda

Tel.: (256-77) 707744  
Fax: (256-77) 280838  
E-mail: amfoster@cgnnet.com

**ECA Secretariat**

Mr. Josué Dioné  
Director, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: jdione@uneca.org

Mr. Abdoulaye Niang  
Senior Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: aniang@uneca.org

Mr. Don Oben  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-515749  
Fax: 251-1-510350  
E-mail: doben@uneca.org

Mr. Ousmane Laye  
Senior Human Settlement Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: olaye@uneca.org

Mr. Moulie A. Gibril, FSSDD  
TAS Specialist, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: mgibril@uneca.org

Mr. Evans Mwangi  
Regional Adviser on Environment, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-443016  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: emwangi@uneca.org

Mr. Kodjo Abassa  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: kabassa@uneca.org

Mr. Maurice Tankou  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: mtankou@uneca.org

Ms. Mamou Ehui  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: mehui@uneca.org

Mr. A. Lamine Gueye  
Population Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: lgueye@uneca.org

Mr. J. Louis Hamel  
Scientific Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: jhamel@uneca.org

Mr. Kwadwo A. Tutu  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: ktutu@uneca.org

Mr. Awere-Gyekye Kwame  
Environment and Development Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: awre-gyekye@uneca.org

Ms. Isatou Gaye  
Environment Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: gaye.uneca@un.org

Ms. Joan Kagwanja  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: Jkagwanj@uneca.org

**Mr. Fidèle Byiringiro**  
Associate Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: fbyiringiro@uneca.org

**Ms. Donatella Giubilaro**  
Associate Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: dgiubilaro-demonio@uneca.org

**Mr. Han Chol O**  
Associate Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: chan@uneca.org

**Mr. Hilary Nwokeabia**  
Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD  
P.O.Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-1-517200  
Fax: 251-1-514416  
E-mail: nwokeabia@uneca.org