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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICASUMMARY OF UNECA MEETINGS COVERING THE PERIOD
OF MAY TO DECEMBER 1992

The following is a summary of UNECA meetings covering the period from May to December 1992.

Water Resources

During the period under review, two expert group meetings and one ministerial meeting of the Undugu Group were organized. The first expert group meeting was held at UNECA from 27-28 May 1992 and the second expert meeting was held at Cairo, Egypt from 28-30 June 1992. One ministerial meeting (the 9th) of the Group was organized by UNECA at Dakar, Senegal on 28 June 1992. All ten Undugu Group countries were represented at these three meetings. The main issue of discussion at all these meetings was the draft Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation among Undugu countries which was earlier prepared by the UNECA secretariat. At the Cairo expert meeting in November 1992, a modified version of the draft Memorandum was approved by the experts from the Undugu countries for presentation at the 10th Ministerial meeting of the Group.

Inter-agency meeting

UNECA convened and organized at Addis Ababa from 9-10 July 1992 an inter-agency meeting on the coordination and harmonization of water activities in Africa by these agencies. Participants from UNHQ/DESD, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNESCO, WMO, WHO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNU, LCBC and ADB participated at this meeting. The meeting decided to establish an inter-agency group for water activities in Africa by these organizations. The meeting agreed on the objectives, terms of reference and the work programme for the Group (IGWA).

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Energy Resources

During the period under review, the secretariat organized two meetings on Energy Resources. The first meeting of African Experts was called in Addis Ababa on 6-8 October 1992 to consider various applications of nuclear science and technology in the field of food and agriculture. Five experts attended the meeting which discussed the various aspects of nuclear science and technology in Africa. The meeting also considered operationalizing the Technical Advisory Committee on Nuclear Science and Technology and formulated a project document to be submitted to potential donors for funding.

The second meeting was held on November 9-12, 1992. The seminar on Energy Policy and the Environment was co-sponsored by UNECA and EDI/World Bank and the Government of Ethiopia. Sixteen participants from Ethiopia and five other African member States attended the seminar. The seminar was aimed at assisting African countries in eliminating lack of adequate energy policy and strengthening planning and research capacity and management in African member States.

Statistical Development

The second meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical development was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 24 and 25 November 1992. There were representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT), the International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the French Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE), the Centre Européen de Formation des statisticiens - économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD) - Paris, the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Statistics Sweden, the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University (ISAE), and the East African Statistical Training Centre (EASTC).

The meeting was also attended by the Chairperson (Kenya) of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (PSD).

The objectives of the meeting were as follows: to provide a forum for the Secretariat of CASD as well as its Sub-committees to report on activities undertaken and those underway since the establishment of CASD in March 1991 and proposed plans of action; to finalize the terms of reference of CASD and its Sub-committees taking into account lessons learnt since the first meeting; to discuss the draft Guidelines for Needs Assessment and proposals for monitoring statistical development/capacity.

The main decisions/actions were as follows: Membership of CASD would not be open to all actors in statistical development in Africa, since the actors are many and the inclusion of all of them could render unwieldy the functioning of the Committee; members of CASD and its

Sub-committees were to main-stream their activities in their agency/institution work programme so that such activities are performed on a continuous rather than on ad-hoc basis; UNECA should play an important and catalytic role in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and in this regard the Secretariat of CASD needs to be strengthened both in terms of resources and technical capacity for it to function efficiently; finalized its terms of reference; welcomed the initiative of the Conference of Finance Ministers of the African States of the Franc Zone which was established in October 1992. The "AFRISTAT" Foundation, encouraged by France, in order to strengthen the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for statistical development in Africa in the 1990s; set up the following Sub-committees in accordance with the modalities of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

Sub-Committee

Convener(s)

Training

Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration (ODA)

Research, Methods, Standards

United Nations Statistical Division

Data Processing

Statistics Sweden

Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems

World Bank and UNECA

(Report No. ECA/STAT/CASD.2/92/7).

Transport and Communications

The various meetings organized by UNECA in the sector of transport and communications were conceived with the intention of implementing the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) Programme. They include the following:

- (a) The first meeting of UNTACDA II Working Group on strategies for development of equipment in transport and communications sector in Africa took place in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 May 1992 for the purpose of:
 - agreeing on the Terms of Reference of the Working Group for the period of implementation of UNTACDA II programme;
 - defining strategies for implementation of UNTACDA II programme with regard to the development of transport and communications equipment; and

establishing the work programme of the subsectoral working group during the "first phase" of the implementation of UNTACDA II programm.

The meeting decided that each specialized agency member of the group should provide inputs and prepare, in its own respective field of competence, a document which will make it possible to finalize the consolidated strategies document for the sector. As regards the work programme, the meeting agreed that this issue should be addressed at the group's next meeting after the approval of the Terms of Reference and the adoption of the subsectoral strategies.
(Report No. Trans/WGTCE/92/5).

- (b) The inter-governmental meeting of African experts and senior officials on development of cooperation among ports was held in Addis Ababa from 18-20 May 1992. Its main objective was to consider the issue of regional cooperation among ports in information exchange and human resource development. In this respect, the meeting formulated a series of recommendations for promotion of such co-operation at national as well as sub-regional and regional levels. (Report No. E/ECA/Trans/84).
- (c) In compliance with operative paragraph 16 of resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.91/85 on RASCOM, UNECA organized, jointly with ITU, the second meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for telecommunications, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 25-27 May 1992, at which the African Regional Satellite Communication Organization was established and the question of hosting the organization debated.
- (d) The inter-governmental meeting of African expert on Trans-African Highways was held in Addis Ababa from 28-30 July 1992 with the purpose of reviewing the report on the reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau and acquainting the experts with the Decade strategy on roads and road transport programme. The meeting amended the draft statutes of the proposed Bureau and recommended the statutes for adoption by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.
(Report No. E/ECA/TCD/87).
- (e) The meeting on implementation of Yamoussoukro declaration on new air transport policy in Africa was organized in Bangui, Central African Republic, from 7-10 September 1992, for the Central African subregion. Unfortunately, the low participation at the ministerial level did not allow the meeting to deliberate or take decisions on the issues for which the meeting was called.
(Report No. Transcom/592).
- (f) The meeting on UNTACDA II Working Group on air transport in Africa took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 2-4 November 1992, and adopted the work programme of the group, allocated tasks for implementation of UNTACDA II programme in air transport, and discussed and made recommendations on the ways and means of implementing the following:

- Harmonization of UNTACDA II projects in the field of air transport; and

- Identification of key parameters for monitoring the UNTACDA II programme.
(Report No. E/ECA/TCT/88).

Science and Technology

During the period under review, the secretariat organized the Seventh UNECA/UNESCO Joint Concertation Meeting (JCM) which was held at Africa Hall from 7 to 8 October 1992. The meeting reviewed progress in the implementation of collaborative activities in science and technology, statistics, human resources development, communications and electronic information systems, since the 6th JCM. Consideration was also given to future collaborative activities including those appearing in the proposed 1994-1995 Programme Budgets of the two secretariats.

Industrial Development

The secretariat organized an Ad Hoc experts group meeting on the promotion of investment in industrial projects in the context of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II). The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 14-17 December 1992 for French-speaking African experts. It was intended to improve on the quality of the technical publication entitled "Mobilization of financial resources for investment in industrial projects in the context of the Second IDDA" before its finalization and dissemination. To this effect, African French-speaking experts were given an opportunity to exchange their experience in the field of resources mobilization, discuss in detail the technical publication and make pertinent recommendations to UNECA and African member States for improvement of the document, formulation of policies and incentive measures geared towards assisting private sector, in particular small-scale industries and the informal sector in getting involved in the financing of productive activities.

The meeting made some recommendations including the following which should be taken into consideration in the finalization of the technical publication.

- (a) Member States are the main responsible for the formulation and implementation of industrial development policies and strategies. Therefore, they should establish and strengthen mechanisms and incentive measures for the promotion of industrial investment;
- (b) Banking and financial services should be improved and liberalized with a view to creating competition among financial institutions; and
- (c) Promotion of physical and institutional infrastructures for industrial investment.
(Report No. ECA/IHSD/IPPIS/023/92).

A Regional Workshop on Cooperation in the Efficient Utilization of Existing Fertilizer Production Units in Africa was held from 23-27 November 1992 in Tangiers, Morocco, and was jointly organized by the IHSD of UNECA and the Islamic Development Bank.

The principal objective OF the regional workshop was to revise a technical publication prepared by UNECA and complement it with written communication provided by the participants with a view to improving the document and proposing recommendations at the national, subregional and regional levels so as to enhance the industrialization process in the region through cooperation in the field of production of fertilizers from natural gas.

The following recommendations were made by the meeting:

- (a) Contacts should be established and relationships fostered between fertilizer producing and potential user countries so as to increase trade among them;
- (b) Financial organizations should be sensitized in order to promote the financing of viable fertilizer projects in Africa;
- (c) UNECA, the regional groupings such as PTA, ECOWAS, ADB, IDB, etc. should fully play their role and promote the flow of all necessary information for technical, economic and trade cooperation.
(Report No. UNECA/IHSD/IDPS/CHM/017/92).

An Ad Hoc Expert Group meeting on Natural Gas in Africa for French-speaking experts was organized in Addis Ababa from 23-26 June 1992.

The principal objective of the meeting was for the experts to critically review a technical publication prepared by UNECA and make useful contributions from their own prepared documents with a view to proposing recommendations at the national, subregional and regional level.

The main recommendation from the group was the request that UNECA should undertake a study with the objective of identifying the areas of cooperation between the countries with experience in the area of the transformation of gas.
(Report No. ECA/IHSD/IDPS/CHM/004/92).

Food and Agriculture

In the area of food and agriculture, a seminar for the Tangiers-based MULPOC countries on training needs in agricultural development planning and programming was convened in Tangiers from 26-29 October 1992. The objective of the seminar was to diagnose on-going practices in agricultural development, planning and programming; to probe available educational and training possibilities; to assess institutional and resource constraints; to determine gaps in training requirements; to examine training prospects and to recommend appropriate remedial measures. The countries which participated at the seminar were Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and the Sudan. The major recommendations made by the seminar were an increased utilization of excess capacities in educational and training institutions, an enhanced dissemination

of relevant information through the launching of a training project for this purpose, fostering inter-country cooperation in training, improving the working conditions and capabilities of existing manpower, a regular assessment of training needs, intensification of measures aimed at mobilising resources for education and training, and effective implementation of in-service training programmes and promotion of self-help training schemes.
(Report No. JEFAD/FADPPS/92/5/(b)(ii)/3/2).

A workshop on the promotion of traditional and non-conventional food resources in Africa was held in Douala, Cameroon from 23-26 November 1992. The objective of the workshop was to provide a forum for the exchange of views and experiences on the availability and utilization as food of some wild animals and plants. In attendance were 15 participants from eight countries: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, and Togo. Among the major recommendations of the workshop were the setting-up of a research and information network on traditional, non-conventional foods in Africa and the formulation of a programme of action in related fields.
(Report No. JEFAD/APISS/93/5(b)(iii)/5/2).

Development Management

During the period under review, two workshops were organized within the framework of Special Action Programme for Administration and Management (SAPAM) regional project. These were, namely, the Senior Policy Workshop on "Strengthening the Viability of the African University in the 1990s and Beyond" held at Mbabane, Swaziland from 25-29 May 1992; and the Senior Policy Workshop on "Enhancing the Interface between Government Policy and Decision-making Entities and Research/Training Institutions in Support of Economic Reform and Development in Africa" held in Rabat, Morocco, from 21-25 September 1992.

Rabat Workshop

This workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Administrative Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office of the Kingdom of Morocco. The workshop was attended by senior public servants, academics from the universities and national and regional research institutions as well as representatives of international institutions.

The objective of the Workshop was to identify and build upon current good practices in policy interface between government decision-making entities and universities/research institutes.

The discussions of the workshop were based on case studies commissioned within the framework of SAPAM project to examine experience and practices on policy interface in five African countries namely Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania. Policy interface was defined as the process of interaction - through dialogue, research and consultancy assignments - between government decision making entities and universities research institutions in support of policy making.

These case studies found that the range of public policy questions covered in such interfaces included economic management, health matters, technology policy, international

affairs, social and population issues, environment, agriculture and rural development, reform of the political process and public enterprise management.

Recommendations centered on guidelines for:

- (a) enhancing the interface between policy makers and experts in universities and research institutions;
- (b) sustaining the process for the promotion of more effective interfaces in particular through networking at the national regional and international levels.

Mbabane Workshop

This workshop was organized in collaboration with the Association of African Universities and the University of Swaziland. The workshop was attended by Ministers, Vice-Ministers, senior university administrators and representatives of international organizations.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- examine the problems pertaining to staff retention in African universities and to propose measures for coping with the rising exodus of teaching and research staff;
- explore the role private universities can play in meeting demand for higher education in light of the overstretched capacities of public universities under financial pressure as a result of austerity measures taken by their respective governments and to examine the lessons that can be learnt from the few private universities that exist in African countries;
- assess the potential and limits of cost recovery schemes in the light of governments' financial constraints.

The recommendations centred around the three main sub-themes of the workshop namely: staff retention; the role and viability of private university in Africa; and cost recovery schemes.

Among the measures for promoting staff retention in African universities, it was emphasized that the remuneration package for university staff should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it was competitive and attractive. The use of non-taxable fringe benefits should be explored to supplement salaries. Government should foster staff retention in universities by using the reservoir of expertise available in their universities in formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes.

With regard to the private university, governments were urged to play a strong and effective role in regulating private universities. the private universities should be encouraged to expand their areas of teaching and research and that governments' encouragement for the establishment of private universities should take the form of tax incentives among other means.

Cost recovery schemes embrace a wide range of activities. The recommendations for fostering these schemes included better management of income generating activities; promoting

initiatives to obtain resources from the private sector as well as from alumni; and establishing consultancy services.

Human Resources Development

The secretariat in collaboration with government institutions in member States organized and conducted meetings, seminars and training workshops with the primary objective of upgrading and strengthening the professional knowledge, practical skills and attitudes of personnel and officers engaged in curriculum development and evaluation; in employment planning and productivity enhancement strategies; and in integrating manpower and employment policies in long-term national development planning.

In particular, the secretariat collaborated with the National Curriculum Centre (NCC) Manzini of the Ministry of Education, Swaziland from 18-29 May 1992 in organizing and servicing a national training workshop on curriculum development and evaluation for forty-four senior educational officers and administrators, senior inspectors of schools, teacher trainers, tutors, educators, education officers, examination officers, course designers and curriculum developers and evaluators. The participants critically reviewed and examined the problems, issues and prospects of education development in Swaziland with special reference to curriculum development process; the selection and organization of content, and developing instructional materials. Concrete proposals were made for professionalizing teaching so as to take into account the concerns of curriculum development and evaluation.
(Report No. ECA/PHSD/HRP/92/3/5 (b)(iii)).

From 15-19 June 1992, the secretariat collaborated with the National Manpower Board of the National Planning Commission of Nigeria in organizing and conducting a national seminar on integrated long-term manpower and employment policy of Nigeria. The seminar which was attended by fifty five participants was designed to sensitize human resources policy makers, planners and practitioners to discuss policy measures needed to tackle the worsening unemployment problem in Nigeria. The main objective was to focus on an integrated long-range manpower and employment policy that could guarantee productive employment generation and enhance positive gains from the current structural adjustment programme.
(Report No. ECA/PHSD/HRP/92/4/4(b)).

From 6-10 July 1992, the secretariat collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Ethiopia in organizing and conducting a national training workshop on employment planning and productivity enhancement in Ethiopia. The workshop which was attended by twenty-three participants identified and analyzed the socio-economic constraints on employment growth, as well as the educational and training systems which could be made relevant to development needs, and among other things, proposed strategies for employment creation and productivity enhancement, especially in agriculture and agro-industries.
(Report No. ECA/PHSD/HRP/LEP/92(b)(iv))