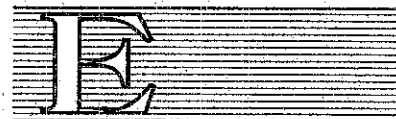


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SUMMARY OF UNECA MEETINGS COVERING THE PERIOD OF JULY TO DECEMBER 1993

Statistical Development

During the period under review the secretariat organized the meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD), from 6-7 July 1993 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objectives of the meeting were as follows: provide a forum for the secretariat of CASD as well as its sub-committees to report on activities undertaken since the last meeting in November 1992; discuss the draft guidelines for monitoring statistical development, and some proposals concerning the celebration of the 1993 African Statistics Day.

The main decisions/actions were as follows: the secretariat of CASD was requested to draw-up, for the next meeting of CASD concrete proposals as to how to mobilize financial support from funding agencies for statistical development, the CASD meeting adopted the various reports of its sub-committees on training, on organization and management of national statistical systems, and on data processing; the meeting also accepted the terms of reference of those three sub-committees; the meeting requested UNSTAT, convener of the fourth sub-committee on research, methods and standards, to revise/finalize the draft terms of reference of the sub-committee to enable the secretariat of CASD produce a brochure comprising the Terms of Reference of all the sub-committees; the meeting requested

the Terms of Reference of all the sub-committees; the meeting requested that the activities of the secretariat of CASD located within the ECA Statistics Division, form and integral part of UNECA regular programme of work. It was proposed that the next meeting of CASD will take place in March 1994, in Addis Ababa, in connexion with the Eighth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

Workshop on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) for English-speaking African countries

The workshop, which was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-17, December 1993, was organized in cooperation with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

The main objectives of the workshop were: (i) to train trainers for the implementation of the 1993 SNA in African countries; and (ii) to formulate strategies and priorities at the regional level for the compilation of accounts and tables of the 1993 SNA.

The workshop identified a number of measures to be taken at the national and international levels, including resource mobilization, to ensure the smooth implementation of the 1993 SNA in the African region. It also worked out detailed recommendations on practical steps in the compilation of the main national accounting aggregates, the summary accounts for the nation and the integrated economic accounts of the revised SNA, as well as on the sub-sectoring of institutional sectors, the treatment of selected transactions, data collection programmes, and the preparation of handbooks and other training materials.

Development Information

In the field of development information, the secretariat organized the following workshops:-

1. A regional workshop on "Information Management Strategies with specific reference to information technology management in Africa",

in Nairobi, Kenya, 5-19 July 1993. The objective of this workshop was to review modules prepared by PADIS on information technology management in Africa. Recommendation was made to have PADIS organize more such workshops to sensitize African member States to utilize information technology in development.

2. Electronic communication workshop for Addis Ababa University staff, 15-17 October 1993. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the participants to electronic communications.
3. PADIS subregional workshop on information processing tools and information exchange, Niamey, Niger, 4-8 October 1993. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the modalities of exchanging development information among the West African countries, covered by the ECA Niamey-based MULPOC.
4. Workshop on electronic communication techniques for selected government institutions in Ethiopia, one electronic network usage, 19-20 November 1993. The objective of the workshop was to train the participants in the usage of electronic networks.
5. Workshop on electronic communication techniques for non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in Ethiopia, 23-25 November 1993. The objective of this workshop was to train the participants in electronic communications.
6. Electronic communications workshop for Ethiopian Science and Technology member institutions, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 19-23 November 1993. The objective of the workshop was to train the participants in the usage of electronic networks.

Advancement of Women

In the area of advancement of women the secretariat organized an Inter-Agency Task Force for the preparation of the Regional and World Conferences on Women, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28-29 September 1993. Its major objectives were to deliberate on the

responsibilities for the preparation of the Regional Conference Documents, mobilization of resources for the preparatory activities and to address the question of support staff to ATRCW. At the end of the meeting, the Task Force agreed upon who would prepare what Conference documents and strategies for resource mobilization both financial and for support.

A Training of Trainers Workshop for women entrepreneurship promotion and access to credit was organized in Kabwe, Zambia, from 1-30 November 1993, in collaboration with the Pan African Institute for Development. The objective of the workshop was to develop a critical corps of trainers in Sub-Saharan Africa who would effectively transfer entrepreneurial and technological skills to women entrepreneurs thereby enhancing and strengthening their capabilities, resulting in improved business practices and performance in selected countries of the region. By the end of the workshop, tracer studies were recommended as well as the creation of a network among the participants. A course on project preparation and proposal writing was also strongly recommended. Each participant came up with an action plan for the application of the skills learnt at the workshop.

From 22-25 November 1993 the secretariat participated in the organization of the Regional Conference on Women, Peace and Development along with OAU and the Government of Uganda. The objective of the Conference was to examine the situation of women in the process of political changes and the role they can play in conflict resolution and peace building. The four major areas of focus were the nature and effects of conflict and underdevelopment; women in the struggle for peace; the empowerment of women in the peace process; and peace education. The outcome of the Conference was the adoption of a Plan of Action in the areas of social justice, empowerment, education, peace education, institution and capacity building, and peace.

An inaugural meeting of the Federation of African Women Entrepreneurs (FAWE) was organized in Accra, Ghana, 1-3 June 1993, under the auspices of the UNECA pursuant to Resolution 736 (XXVII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers on Women and their access to resources in the 1990s, which requested the UNECA to facilitate the creation of a Federation

of African Women Entrepreneurs with a view to strengthen the overall efforts towards the economic empowerment of African women. This resolution was adopted in response to recommendations of both the Nairobi Forward-Looking strategies and the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: the role of Africa in the 1990s, which emphasized the need to create an enabling environment for the enhancement of women's economic capabilities.

An ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting to consider strategies for enhancement of women's skills in main-streaming and decision-making was organized in Addis Ababa from 6-10 December 1993 in order to adopt strategies for enhancement of women's skills in main-streaming and decision-making and to explore the role the media can play in the preparations of the regional/world conferences and main-streaming of women's concerns. The meeting recommended the establishment of an African Communication Centre for effective communications and flow of information on women and development.

Science and Technology for Development

During the period under review, the secretariat organized the following conferences, meetings and seminars:

The fifth session of the Regional Conference on mineral resources development and utilization in Africa (RCDUMRA) took place in Addis Ababa, from 10-17 November 1993. The objective of the Conference was to promote cooperation among African countries in the field of mineral resources.

The fifth session discussed a paper reviewing the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the fourth regional conference and developments affecting the mining sector during 1990-1992 and future prospects. The theme of the fifth session of the Conference was "Mineral Resources Development and Environment in Africa". Under this main theme, participants discussed papers on three sub-themes, namely:

- (a) The development of mineral resources in Africa and protection of the

- physical environment;
- (b) The development of mineral resources in Africa and the political and economic environment; and
 - (c) The development of mineral resources and the African social environment.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Session of RCDUMRA could be summarized as follows:

Mineral development policies

- Compilation by ECA in collaboration with the World Bank of a compendium of member States mining laws, taxation and fiscal regimes.
- Review by member States of their mining laws, taxation and fiscal regimes.

National legislation on environmental impact assessment

- Insertion by member States of internationally acceptable environmental standards in their mining legislation.
- Development of national capacities and capabilities for environmental impact assessment.
- Establishment of mechanisms of cooperation for sharing experience in the mitigation of harmful effects from mining on the environment, etc.

Establishment of data banks for mineral resources development

- Preparation by ECA of guidelines which will enable member States to establish standardized data banks.
- Small scale mining and environment.

- Assistance to small scale miners to enable them address issues of adverse effects of mining on environment.

Wastes from mineral resources development

Exploration of possibilities for using wastes from mineral resources development with a view to establishing downstream projects.

Future African Intergovernmental Machinery on mineral resources

Improvement of the current machinery to include the energy sector. This decision which was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers had been welcomed by the African Conference on mineral resources. The new machinery is entitled: "Conference of African Ministers Responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy."

Intra-African cooperation in the field of mineral resources and energy development and utilization

Identification of multinational projects by ECA in collaboration with OAU, subregional and regional economic groupings and specialized institutions.

Seminar on "Energy Policy and Planning and the Environment"

A seminar on "Energy Policy and Planning and the Environment" co-sponsored by the Economic Development Institute (EDI/World Bank), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire (EECI and CIE) was held in Abidjan, from 20-29 October 1993 for French-speaking participants.

The seminar was the second one to deal with energy and the environment issues that was co-organized by EDI/World Bank and the ECA. It was attended by approximately 30 senior officials from 12 French-speaking countries and 2 Portuguese-speaking countries.

The seminar was composed of lectures, round tables, case studies and discussions in working groups.

Conclusions and recommendations

During the seminar, emphasis was placed on the deregulation of public enterprises of the energy sector, the institutional reforms including the privatization and pricing policies of energy; a whole day was devoted to the institutional framework, the organization and the privatization of the electricity sector.

The participants came to the conclusion that the privatization of public enterprises of the energy sector was not a panacea and that Electricité de France (EdF), for example, performs well because it is organized as an "industrial model" (i.e., like an industrial corporation) under a performance-based regulatory system.

It was recognized that policies and strategies aimed at energy efficiency and conservation could result in investment savings by reducing generating capacity margins in the electric energy sector, in delaying the afforestation programmes and in contributing to the environment protection.

The seminar has required a substantial coordination among the different participating institutions and has strengthened the working relationship between the EDI/World Bank and the ECA in organizing jointly training seminars and workshops.

A Training Seminar on Skills and Methodologies for Assessment of Environmentally Sound Technology in Africa which was jointly organized with the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) and was hosted by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology took place in Kampala, Uganda, from 20-24 September 1993.

The Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22-25 November 1993, was attended by representatives of Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia,

Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and by the following international and regional organizations: UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO, World Bank, OAU, ARCT, PTA, IGADD, and ILCA. The meeting focused on methodologies for the planning and management of science and technology, the role of subregional and regional associations and professional institutions in the management of science and technology, the acquisition and transfer of nuclear science and technology for agricultural production and food preservation, institutional capacity building in science and technology policy, the integration of science and technology, economic and development policies and technology assessment for better technology priorities and choices.

The meeting of the North African working Group of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, Tunis, 13-16 december 1993 was attended by representatives from Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, as well as from the following organizations: ECA, OAU, IFSTAD, UNDP, FAO and ALECSO. The participants reviewed the situation of science and technology in North Africa and suggested policy measures to improve the situation.

The second annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Group for Water in Africa (IGWA) was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10-11 June 1993. This was a follow-up of the first meeting which took place in July 1992, and established IGWA as a standing body for inter-agency cooperation and coordination.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss on position papers that were to be prepared and presented at the second meeting by each agency participant making proposals "on how the activities of intergovernmental and international organizations in Africa could be better coordinated and harmonized". However, only ECA prepared and presented a paper on this subject at the meeting. In discussing the ECA paper, it was emphasized that coordination and harmonization should be done at the donors level as well as in their assistance to subregional and regional organizations. Similarly

coordinated approach and commitment by member States to their IGOs were considered *sine qua non*.

Other agencies presented their current and planned water resources development activities in Africa.

The meeting arrived at the following conclusions and identified future activities by the Group in specific areas.

Conclusions

- There is a need for coordination and harmonization of activities in the water sector in Africa, especially in water data collection and information dissemination.
- There is a need for an organization to act as a clearing house on a limited scale for collection, compilation and dissemination of such information. Initially, ECA may prepare a list of activities by all member agencies of the Group as a first step in setting up the clearing house system. In this regard, all member agencies were requested to provide the catalogue of their present and future activities to ECA secretariat before the end of 1993.

Follow-up Activities

- Organization of an ad-hoc inter-agency meeting on their activities in the Nile basin area. This meeting is to be convened and organized by UNEP with support from the ECA secretariat and other IGWA member agencies. The meeting is to be held as soon as possible.

Based on information on their activities (current and future), the Group (IGWA) should endeavour to establish a set of priorities for coordination of their activities in various water sub-sectors. This is to be finalized by the next meeting on the basis of a draft framework on those priorities to be developed by the ECA secretariat with inputs from other member agencies.

The meeting requested UNEP to prepare a paper on mechanisms/modalities/approaches and other concrete ways for coordinating and harmonizing water activities in Africa by the IGWA member agencies. In this connection, the meeting requested the member agencies to provide detailed information on their sector philosophy/strategy or policy and on their planned activities to the UNEP secretariat with copies to UNECA.

Transport and Communication

During the period under review, the secretariat organized the Fourteenth meeting of the Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) of UNTACDA II, in Abidjan, from 23-24 November 1993 to consider reports of activities carried out since the last meeting of the Committee; include a civil aviation diagnostic study in the list of projects for selection; consider revised project selection criteria; first African Transport Forum and RMC work programme 1994/1995.

Ninety-nine new projects were admitted into the decade programmes based on recommendations of RMC Technical Committee; RMC adopted its 1994/1995 work programme.

The secretariat also organized the meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the statutes of the Trans-African Highway Bureau, in Morocco, on 14 September 1993. This meeting was requested by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning during its ninth meeting held in Addis Ababa, in March 1993. The objective of the meeting was to consider, adopt and sign the statutes of the Bureau of the Trans-African Highways. The statutes were adopted and eleven out of the fourteen countries that attended the meeting signed the statutes.

Human Resources Development

In the field of Human Resources development, the secretariat organized a series of workshops, training, symposium and expert meetings:

A national training workshop on reforming of taxation policies, systems

and improvement in tax administration was organized in Ethiopia, from 29 November to 3 December 1993. The workshop focused on tax reform concepts and strategic measures for improvement of tax administration, tax office management techniques and practical situations affecting tax officials of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia in their routine handling of administrative problems as well as their familiarization with experiences of other African countries. The key conclusion of the workshop was that without a strong and efficient tax administration, any endeavour to reform the tax administration within the framework of the on-going economic reform programmes were likely to be futile. The workshop then recommended greater emphasis on human resource development in tax administration as well as on enhancing institutional and other support services. With respect to taxpayer compliance, the workshop emphasized the need for taxpayer education through use of bulletins written in simple communicable language. In addition, the workshop recommended that field auditors should assist tax payers on how to keep proper records as well as on how to declare income in their tax returns. That view was expressed against the observed high level of illiteracy in the country. The detailed deliberations of the workshop are contained in Development Workshop No. 7 of December 1993. (ECA/PHSD/ PAM. 93. 6[2.2(1)]).

The secretariat also organized an ad-hoc experts group meeting on Curriculum Reform and Development and Self-confidence Building in Africa in cooperation with UNESCO/BREDA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during 18-21 October 1993, [ECA/PHSD/93/6/(3)]. The meeting was attended by twenty-eight participants from African countries. The objectives of the meeting were to evaluate past attempts at curriculum reform in Africa and the effectiveness of these attempts in fostering the qualities of self-confidence and in meeting the requirements of socio-economic development in Africa; and to formulate an action plan for reforming education curriculum so as to make it more responsive to development needs, as well as identify practical modalities for follow-up action to ensure the effective implementation of the plan.

A major outcome of the ad-hoc experts group meeting was the elaboration and adoption of a "Joint UNECA/UNESCO Plan of Action for Effective Curricula Reform for Development, Economic Transformation and

Self-confidence Building in Africa". The Plan of Action spelt out the measures and strategies for developing curriculum particularly at the grass-roots levels so that teachers and other stake-holders should be fully involved in the process of curriculum development; as well as the follow-up measures for monitoring, coordinating and networking curriculum development and evaluation.

Regional Cooperation

The secretariat, in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace held a symposium on "From Conflict to Concord: Regional Co-operation in the Horn of Africa", in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 8-12 July 1993. The symposium took the form of both an academic conference and policy forum at which the one hundred fifty delegates who attended the symposium deliberated on four central themes: the social and cultural content of the conflict in the Horn of Africa; lessons of political history; the economic and human dimensions of reconstruction and development; and international support for regional co-operation in the Horn of Africa.

In the Final Communiqué issued at the end of the symposium, the recommendations included, among others, the maintenance of open borders across the countries of the Horn as well as easing visa requirements, establishing a customs union; and the conservation of the environment, interstate transport and communication as well as energy use and development. All these require collective action by political communities in the Horn.

Popular participation

The secretariat also organized, within the framework of the Popular Participation in Development Project, a national workshop on the theme "Enhancing Dialogue, Co-operation and Interface between the Government and Popular Development Organizations in Namibia during 11-13 August 1993 in Windhoek, Namibia. The objectives of the workshop were to collectively reflect on the existing relationship between the government and NGOs in Namibia; examine the different ways in which NGOs interact with government; elaborate on ways to enhance dialogue and co-operation

between policy makers and implementors, on the one hand, and NGOs on the other; and identify measures needed to create a climate of trust and openness and increased opportunities for interaction and dialogue between the Government of Namibia and NGOs.

The workshop came up with a number of recommendations clustered around three major themes: (i) popular participation in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes; (ii) modalities for enhancing interface between the government and NGOs; and (iii) interface between NGOs and the National Planning Commission. Amongst the many recommendations adopted was that the National Planning Commission should be the focal point for NGO-Government liaison; that NGOs should be involved in the formulation of the National Development Plan from its inception through its implementation; and the Government should create a more enabling environment for NGOs to allow for effective collaboration. The deliberations of the workshop were presented in the Popular Participation Workshop Series No.3.

Informal Sector

A national workshop on Creating an Enabling Environment of the Informal Sector in Ethiopia was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12-14 October 1993 [ECA/PHSD/HRP/93/14/4/(b)]. The main objective of the workshop was to recommend policy measures and programmes aimed at improving the productivity of the informal sector and to assist it graduate into micro- and small-scale enterprises capable of contributing substantially to the generation of income and employment. A related objective was to sensitize the policy makers and implementors, financial institutions, the private sector, NGOs, and other support institutions about the new emerging roles and needs of micro- and small-scale enterprises in Ethiopia; as well as propose policy measures and strategies for promoting productive self-employment and invigorating the sector by enhancing its productivity and integrating it with other sectors of the economy.

The workshop recommended, among others, that (i) there was need for a comprehensive survey of the informal sector in Ethiopia; (ii) the Government should give formal recognition to the informal sector as a

viable, productive and socially valuable sector of the economy, and (iii) an enabling environment of the promotion of the informal sector must be created to remove the constraints affecting its development. In this regard, provision must be made for improved access to: (i) credit and financial resources; (ii) training and skills improvements; and (iii) basic business inputs.

Social Development

An Ad-hoc Experts Group Meeting on the Impact of Economic and Social Changes on the African Family was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-17 December 1993. It was convened pursuant to Resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989 of the United Nations General Assembly, proclaiming 1994 as International Year of the Family (IYF). It was also part of ECA's and OAU's activities in response to Resolutions 713(XXVI) of 12 May 1991 and 9(XIV) of 2 May 1993 of the ECA Conference of Ministers, urging all concerned to prepare and observe the International Year of the Family and to develop long-term strategies and programmes in support of African families.

The ad-hoc expert meeting, on the basis of its examination of various issues concerning African families, adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations, for the consideration and implementation of African governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, the Organization of African Unity, United Nations bodies, as well as private agencies and individuals concerned. These include among others: review and revision of existing policies, family laws and legislation in African countries in order to bring them in line with changing circumstances; promoting and encouraging appropriate programmes and policies in support of the family; developing mechanisms to anticipate and mitigate the negative consequences of structural adjustment programmes and political conflicts on the families; launching educational and information campaigns to enhance awareness of the AIDS pandemic; provision of family planning services as an important component of health services; assisting displaced and refugees families; strengthening social security policies and programmes in support and protection of the family; and promoting exchange of information and

experience on family issues among member States.

In order to promote the International Year of the Family, it was recommended that national institutions, the public and individuals, with the active support of the United Nations agencies, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, should actively participate in the preparation for and celebration of the Year. Focal points should be established; national and community leaders, family groups, women organizations, and youth should be mobilized; educational and information campaigns on family issues should be launched; and periodic review on progress made and the impact of the recommendations should be conducted.

Investment and Development

During the period under consideration, the secretariat organized an ad-hoc experts meeting on the revitalization of investment for Africa's development: prospects in the 1990s and beyond, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 November to 1 December 1993.

The main purpose of the meeting was to examine the factors affecting the investment climate in Africa - the constraints, the impediments and the prospects for increased investment, revamped productivity and economic growth. Specific issues thus considered by the experts group meeting include: (i) Patterns of Resource Mobilization and the Overall Investment Climate in Africa; (ii) Rationalization of Investment Strategies and Policies with a view to investigating consequences; (iii) Foreign Direct Investment: Trends and Prospects; and (iv) The quality of investment and the role of the Government in the planning structures.

Major conclusions included policy reforms and the policy changes needed to stem capital flight of both financial and human capital, create competent civil service, provide business support services, encourage transparency and good governance, and reorient aid policies and modalities to support national development priorities. It was decided that each African country should seek the right fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies to promote investment; take full and proper consideration of the trade-offs

between efficiency and effectiveness of investment; and seek measures to refocus and attract investment as a means to economic integration within the region. it was equally agreed that an end to conflicts and civil wars would create optimal conditions for investment and development, and that resources released from military expenditures could be used as important resource for socio-economic growth and development in Africa.