

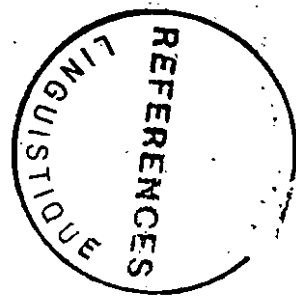
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PREPARATION OF REGIONAL PROJECTS

Definition

The African Regional Plan transforms the indicative proposals in the World Plan of Action into precise programmes of action selected on the basis of the needs and priorities of African States with a view to increasing their capacity to acquire and make use of technology for development.

Accordingly, the contents of the African Plan are selective rather than all-embracing. It should be noted that although the programmes and projects in the Plan were drawn up on the basis of surveys carried out in each member country, they are not necessarily circumscribed by national boundaries. In the selection of national programmes and projects, some might be found to be of common interest to several countries and will have to be implemented through intergovernmental co-operation. Such projects are termed regional. The success of these regional projects is dependent on the joint use of resources and staff and co-operation and co-ordination among States. The campaign against the main cattle disease, for example, might take the form of a regional project. Such a project, if undertaken within the confines of a single State, would not be effective, as diseases know no boundaries. Thus they can only be completely eradicated through joint action. The establishment of photogrammetry centres is another example of a regional project.

Identification of regional projects

It is fairly easy to identify such projects in view of their regional or international character. In the preparation of country plans, National Committees will inevitably select certain projects that are considered valuable to the country but which can not be implemented exclusively within their national boundaries except with the co-operation of neighbouring or other countries.

ECA, the agencies of the United Nations system and the African Regional Group of United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development might themselves put forward projects they feel are of a regional character for consideration at meetings of the National Committees.

Ultimately it is upto the National Committees or government organs to take final decisions as to whether projects brought to their attention are of a regional character or not.

Projects which National Committees feel to be of a regional character could then be transmitted to ECA, which would call together the countries concerned to discuss the matter.

Responsibility for regional projects

The projects that a State identifies as regional projects would be sorted out by ECA according to the group of countries where they could be successfully implemented.

The next step would be to secure the acceptance of projects that certain countries had identified as regional by all the countries concerned. Once policies had thus been harmonized, a multinational group could be established to deal with regional projects.

Each country could designate representatives competent to deal with the project content to participate in a multinational working group composed of representatives from neighbouring and other countries interested in the regional project. United Nations institutions within whose spheres of competence such projects fell could be associated with the multinational group if the latter so requested.

In the case of each multinational group, an agreement acceptable to all the countries participating in the regional projects would have to be worked out to define the goals and statutes of the group, organize its secretariat and establish its headquarters. The projects submitted to the multinational groups would be discussed in order to single out those which were of high priority and acceptable to all the States concerned. A few of these projects would be accepted and would become the object of studies as in the case of country projects.

National representatives would then submit the projects prepared in this way to their Governments for comments and approval. The Governments concerned would have to consider and agree to make a financial and material contribution to the projects they accepted.

When the projects had passed through the Governments concerned, they would again be submitted to the multinational working group for the technical details and financial and material questions to be worked out. A scale of contributions from the States concerned would have to be proposed.

Together the States should support these detailed costed projects and present them to the various sources of supplementary financing.

Relations between ECA and the multinational working group

As in the case of country projects, ECA should assist in the establishment of the multinational groups. It would also provide liaison among the various agencies in the United Nations system. It should also launch the promotion of the regional projects in developed countries that might grant assistance for their implementation.

Review and appraisal machinery for regional projects

The multinational groups would be responsible for undertaking a critical review and appraisal of the results obtained in the implementation of the regional projects within their purview.

It is expected that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development will offer its advice and assistance to the secretariat of the Commission on the co-ordination of activities in member States involved in regional projects.