



21948

DISTR: LIMITED

ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/19
April 1997

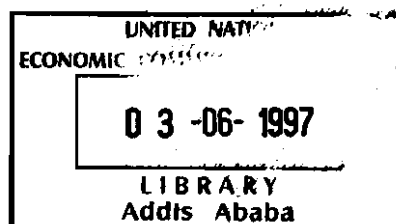
English
Original: French

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Multinational Programming and
Operational Centre
Gisenyi (MULPOC)

Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts

22 - 25 April, 1997
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)



REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE GISENYI-BASED MULPOC
ADDIS ABABA, 22 - 25 APRIL 1997

ECA
330.2676(063)-
R4255

0.4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ii
PART ONE : OPENING OF THE MEETING	1
PART TWO : ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS	5
RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 RELATING TO THE SETTING UP OF THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	19
RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 RELATING TO INCREASED COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION	20
ANNEXE I : VOTE OF THANKS	22
ANNEXE II : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	23

ECA
330.2676 (063)
R4255
C.4

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	:	African Development Bank;
CEPGL	:	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries;
COMESA	:	Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa;
EAC	:	Eastern African Cooperation;
EA/SRDC	:	Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Development Centre
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product;
IGAD	:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGO	:	Intergovernmental Organization;
IOC	:	Indian Ocean Commission;
MULPOC	:	Multinational Programming and Operational Centre;
KBO	:	Kagera Basin Organization;
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organization;
OAU	:	Organisation of African Unity;
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme;
TPC/EAC	:	Tripartite Permanent Commission for Eastern African Cooperation
UN-OPS	:	United Nations Office of Project Services
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	:	United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
WHO	:	World Health Organization;

PART ONE: OPENING OF THE MEETING

I. ORGANIZATION

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, was held from 22 to 25 April 1997, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and provisional headquarters of the MULPOC.

2. The main objective of the meeting was to consider activities accomplished by the MULPOC in the implementation of its 1996 work programme for the East African subregion, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly during its 50th session.

II. OPENING (Agenda item 1)

3. The opening session was presided over by Mr. Marcel Mulumba, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Zaire in Addis Ababa, Head of the Zairean delegation and the outgoing Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

4. Three speeches were made during the opening session, respectively by :

- (i) His Excellency, Dr. Mulatu, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
- (ii) Mr. R. Okello, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division of ECA, representative of the Executive Secretary of ECA; and
- (iii) Mr. M. Mulumba, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Zaire.

5. Dr. Mulatu welcomed the participants and wished them a pleasant stay in Addis Ababa. He thanked the Secretariat of ECA for the support accorded to the Gisenyi-based MULPOC in the implementation of its work programme and congratulated the MULPOC for the work accomplished during the period 1995-96, despite the very many difficulties faced.

6. On behalf of all the countries of the subregion, he commended the positive initiatives taken by the ECA to set up the MULPOC of East Africa whose main mission was to identify priority development areas, give technical support to the States and serve as a catalyst to the regional cooperation and integration process.

7. He appealed to participants to formulate appropriate actions that would make it possible, *inter alia*, to alleviate the misery of the people, eradicate, if not, reduce the

impact of natural disasters and socio-political conflicts raging in the subregion, rationalize the intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies currently operating in the subregion. He underscored that those relevant actions were particularly designed to involve countries of the subregion in the socio-economic integration process recommended by the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

8. He also expressed the wish that emphasis should be laid on the need to build, together, the sustainable socio-economic development of countries of the subregion within the framework of the African Economic Community.

9. Taking the floor, Mr. Okello underlined the economic context marked, certainly, by hopes emanating from the resumption of growth in most African States and also from the many persistent challenges and uncertainties resulting from the necessary adaptations to the new world order and political problems. The fight against poverty was therefore, a major challenge to the continent. Such a fight presupposed for African States, the establishment of peace, success in the democratic changes, continuation of structural reforms, control of population growth, diversification of exports and acceleration of the regional integration process.

10. He further stated that it was within that multi-dimensional fight that the ECA had undertaken the profound revision of its programmes and structural reforms one characteristic of which was to transform the MULPOCs into Sub-Regional Development Centres (SRDCs) and increase their human resources. The objective would be to make services proffered to the States, the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations, more operational. It was in that connection that an SRDC for East Africa would, among other things, be set up.

11. Finally, he expressed the wish that the analysis and proceedings of the Committee would make it possible to improve on the recommended approaches to the various issues discussed in the reports submitted to the Committee, and enrich the brainstorming on the reforms undertaken by the Commission.

12. As for Mr. Mulumba, he expressed the Committee's hearty thanks to the authorities and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the cordial and brotherly welcome extended to all the delegations.

13. He then reviewed MULPOC's accomplishments since the third meeting of the Committee, concerning adopted priority areas which were: food security and sustainable development, industry, transport and communications, trade, human resources, the advancement of women, and subregional socio-economic integration.

14. With regard to food security and sustainable development, a survey on pre- and post-harvest food losses was conducted. In industry, a study was carried out on small-scale food processing technologies and their utilization in the rural areas. Concerning the transport and communications sector, reports had been prepared on

the development of river and lake transport in the subregion. As regards information dissemination and the exchange of experiences on activities relating to the integration of women in the socio-economic development of the countries of the subregion, a review 'Women and Development', had been published. A survey had also been conducted on the harmonization and rationalization of the subregion's economic cooperation and integration programmes.

15. He also mentioned other activities which included the organization of the Triangular Consultative Meeting - Economic Operators/Investors/NGOs - on Integration Projects of the Subregion as well as the preparation of a report on the socio-economic situation of countries of the subregion.

16. He specified that the Secretariat had also prepared the 1997 work programme and priorities of the East Africa MULPOC. Considering the importance of that programme, he urged the Committee to pay particular attention to it.

17. He hailed the positive performances recorded by the MULPOC in spite of the very many difficulties encountered. He underscored that the performances were particularly the result of the commitment of his staff and assistance received from the ECA substantive services.

18. He finally highlighted the importance of international cooperation which would make it possible to seek tangible and lasting solutions to the socio-economic development problems of the countries of the subregion.

19. Finally, he wished full success to the proceedings of the Committee.

III. ATTENDANCE

20. Member States of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC and the countries of the East African subregion who attended the meeting were: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire.

21. The following member States of the United Nations attended the meeting as observers: China, Finland and Japan.

22. The following agencies of the United Nations system and African intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting also as observers: FAO, UNHCR, UN-OPS, UNDP, WHO and IGAD.

23. The detailed list of participants appears at Annex 2 of this report.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2)

24. The Committee elected the following officers :

Chairman : Ethiopia
Vice-Chairman : Rwanda
Rapporteur : Tanzania

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK(Agenda item 3)

25. The meeting adopted the following agenda :

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Report of the Director on the implementation of the work programme and priorities (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/04)
5. Assessment of socio-economic conditions in the East African Subregion (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/05)
6. Harmonization and rationalization of the economic cooperation and integration programme of the East African Subregion (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/06)
7. Triangular consultative meeting - economic operators/investors/NGOs - on integration projects of the Great Lakes Subregion (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/RCT/04 - ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/09)
8. Food and agriculture (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/07)
9. Industry (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/08)
10. Transport and communications (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/10a, b, c)
11. Integration of women in development (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/11)
12. Information note on activities of the ECA Substantive Divisions in the Gisenyi-based MULPOC Subregion
13. Draft work programme and priorities for 1997. (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/12)
14. Preparation for the Eighteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW/Twenty-third Meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning (DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/13)
15. Any other business
16. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
17. Consideration and adoption of the report and recommendations
18. Closing of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC

PART TWO: ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

I. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1996 WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES

(Agenda item 4; DOC. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/04)

26. The Director of MULPOC, Mr. Peki, presented his report on the implementation of the 1996 work programme and priorities to the Committee.

27. He recalled that the implementation of the 1996 Gisenyi-based MULPOC's work programme had coincided with the process to restructure the ECA requested by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995 and supported by the Commission's Conference of Ministers. He also informed the Committee that the reform process had been marked by extensive consultations, first, within the Commission and, then, with high-ranking national experts and finally, with ECA's major partners. The outcome of those consultations was, among other things, the reduction, from nine to five, of the number of ECA sub-programmes geared towards: (i) an analysis of the social and economic policy, (ii) food security and sustainable development, (iii) development management (iv) information at the service of development, and (v) regional economic cooperation and integration.

28. He said that MULPOC's programmes had also been reviewed in order to target the following priorities: (i) proffer technical assistance to and promote cooperation with regional economic communities, (ii) facilitate the establishment of networks and the exchange of information among the governments, the civil society and the private sectors and (iii) provide services and coordinate the operational programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies, in collaboration with the UNDP.

29. He mentioned the plan to extend the Gisenyi-based MULPOC to countries in East Africa and the renaming of all MULPOCs as Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs).

30. On MULPOC's activities, Mr. Peki specified that the 1996 work programme had been fully implemented and that the related documents had been submitted for the scrutiny of the Committee which he entreated to carry out an in-depth analysis and then make the relevant recommendations.

31. The Committee took good note of the report of the Director of MULPOC.

II. ASSESSMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION (Agenda item 5 - Doc.ECA/EA/MUL/ICE/IV/05)

32. The Secretariat presented document ECA/EA/MUL/ICE/IV/05 on the assessment of the socio-economic conditions in the East African subregion. The Committee was informed that the subregion, as a whole, had witnessed some GDP growth of 2.8 per cent in 1995 as well as some slight progress at the level of social indicators. Those achievements, in some of the countries, were linked to post-war performances and in other cases, they were as a result of economic reform programmes and good agricultural performance.

33. That generally good performance notwithstanding, some countries, especially, those experiencing political problems and instability, still registered some lacklustre performances.

34. The same situation was obtained at the social development front. Indicators improved in the stable countries but either stagnated or depreciated in the countries rocked by social disturbances. About 3.9 million people were rendered refugees as a result of the conflict among member countries and the index on education, health and nutrition reflected that very state of existence. Overall economic reforms were one common matter in the subregion. Even though the reforming countries still had some distance to go in removing structural impediments, the economic environment was seen as becoming friendlier than the previous years. Thus, the subregion's GDP growth rate was estimated at 4.2 per cent in 1996 and 3.0 per cent in 1997. The short term economic and social development prospects were thus of some upbeat expectations.

35. In the ensuing discussions, participants thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive report and the manner in which issues of pivotal importance to the economies were presented. The Committee pointed to some omissions and as such provided further information to make the document more complete.

36. The issue of transport and economic activities on Lake Victoria was brought up. It was pointed out that the rapidly multiplying water hyacinth weed constituted a serious problem on the Lake. As such, the matter should be highlighted in reports towards finding possible solutions. That was noted as a very important matter for future studies.

37. With respect to the refugee problem in the subregion, the Committee noted that the manner in which the matter had been projected, served the issue well. It was also pointed out that there had been some positive changes at that front. Countries should, however, seek to solve the problem at the source and to see in what way subregional organizations such as MULPOC could help resolve conflicts.

38. Unemployment in the subregion was also pointed out as a crucial socio-economic indicator which should have features in the report. In the absence of sufficient data, however, the Secretariat explained that the issue could not be dealt within the analysis.

39. Comments were made about the positive developments observed in the subregion. The delegate of Rwanda stated that the country did not suffer any more from any domestic crisis and as such had a settled economic and social environment. The delegate of Kenya, on the other hand, mentioned the many efforts made by his country to promote industrialization programmes.

40. The Committee took note of those comments and requested the Secretariat to consider them in any subsequent study, and then adopted the report.

III. SURVEY ON THE RATIONALIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION

(Agenda item 6 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/06)

41. Presenting the survey, the Secretariat of MULPOC highlighted the complex nature of the cooperation network, characterized, particularly, by the high number of IGOs, the overlapping of their geographical spaces and the similarity of their participation areas. That situation justified the need for rationalization, considering the financial constraints of the States and the objectives set by the Abuja Treaty. On the basis of that analysis, the document recommended three possible approaches to rationalization :

- (a) the merger of institutional frameworks existing within one single Regional Community;
- (b) task distribution among the Regional Community, subregional Communities and other intergovernmental organizations; and
- (c) the harmonization of the annexed protocols of the treaties establishing East African IGOs.

42. The first approach should involve the merger of existing institutions and their programmes, hence major political decisions; the taking charge of the assets and liabilities of the IGOs to be integrated in the Regional Community; and the management of locally redeployed staff.

43. The objective of the second approach would be to proceed, on the basis of mutual recognition and acceptance by existing institutions, to distribute tasks between the Regional Community and other IGOs. A distribution plan had been recommended based on the categorization of subregional and regional programmes and projects, according to their various capacities to involve, at the same level, all the States of the subregion or a part of them.

44. The third approach should be translated into the standardization of the main market instruments and mechanisms designed to remove any disparity which could be synonymous with mutual exclusion and the atomization of the regional market. With regard to other sectoral policies, the harmonization of protocols would be done through the management of disparities in order to ensure a better complementarity of subregional entities, since each IGO had focused its efforts on a few sectors where its space had obvious comparative advantages. The implementation of that formula would first require a comparative study of the trade liberalization plans of existing communities and institutions as well as an exhaustive listing of the subregion's development potential designed to establish an IGO specialization strategy through their development projects.

45. After analyzing the three scenarios, the approach to rationalization through task distribution, was proposed because it was the easiest to implement. However, it was a transitional solution, since the ultimate objective set within the Abuja Treaty, was to have one institutional framework. An implementation strategy and a management rationalization process were also formulated, through a draft protocol agreement setting up a cooperation commission among the East African IGOs.

46. The presentation of the survey was followed by debates which focused, particularly, on furnishing further clarifications on the configuration of the regional integration spaces, COMESA's integration plan, the exact role of the future commission, the form of the draft instrument annexed to the report and the updating of certain items of information on IGAD. The Committee also insisted on the need for flexibility in programme categorization, the consideration of the bilateral framework as the third phase of the management of cooperation projects, and the introduction of political cooperation in the programmes of the various IGOs. Furthermore, it recommended that all phases of the rationalization process should be coordinated at the level of the joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat and the African Economic Community/OAU.

47. The Committee adopted the survey.

**IV. TRIANGULAR CONSULTATIVE MEETING - ECONOMIC OPERATORS/
INVESTORS/NGOS - ON INTEGRATION PROJECTS OF THE GREAT LAKES
SUBREGION**

(Agenda item 7 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/09)

48. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the organization in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 23 to 26 September 1996, of the above mentioned meeting.

49. Its objective was to further involve economic operators, investors and NGOs in the regional integration process by offering them opportunities and a framework for consultations on projects initiated by the subregion's IGOs and private operators. The meeting recognized the participation of several regional and non-regional economic operators, NGOs and development partners including the delegation from the European Union, and the Francophone Business Forum.

50. At the end of their deliberations, participants in the Kinshasa meeting adopted two recommendations. The first focused on the need to institutionalize an annual meeting among the region's economic operators and the second, on the organization of a Round Table Meeting of the African and European NGOs in order to pave the way for partnership and cooperation amongst them.

51. The Committee took due cognisance of the annexed report and recommendations.

V. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Study on post harvest food losses in the East African subregion

(Agenda item 8 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/07)

52. The Secretariat pointed out that in the subregion, post-harvest food losses recorded, represented 2 to 26 per cent and even 50 per cent of total food production, depending on the type of products and the storage conditions. Therefore, the losses contributed, considerably, to the reduction of available foodstuffs. Food losses were mostly caused by insects, micro-organisms, birds and rodents, and facilitated by the deficient food storage and conservation systems, particularly, for such products as bananas or tubers.

53. Huge food losses also occurred during the handling and processing of certain products.

54. The study made a diagnosis of the methods used in the storage and conservation of foodstuffs at the level of the producer and purchasing, distribution and processing centres. With regard to the producer, the most commonly used methods were storehouses with all their variations, earth jugs; baskets; bags; casks and

calabashes; small huts; sieves; holes in the ground; or roofs. Hangars and stores, silos, containers and even open-air storage systems were in use at the purchasing, distribution and processing centres.

55. Those food storage and conservation methods were, however, not very efficient. The study thus underscored that the improvement of food storage and conservation methods and systems in order to reduce pre- and post-harvest food losses, required the implementation of actions at the national and subregional levels.

56. At the national level, it would be necessary to popularize food storage and conservation systems as well as processing technologies that had so far stood the test. Appropriate measures had therefore been proposed in the said study.

57. The realization of detailed national surveys on pre- and post-harvest food losses/collection also constituted a priority programme to be implemented at the national level.

58. At the regional level, the study proposed (i) the organization of a subregional seminar on the prevention and reduction of pre- and post-harvest food losses/collection; (ii) the implementation of a subregional programme for the prevention and reduction of food losses; and (iii) the execution of a subregional project for the processing of tubers and root crops. In that respect, the Secretariat informed the Committee that MULPOC's 1997 work programme had provided for the organization of a seminar on the training of trainers whose themes included the prevention and reduction of post-harvest food losses.

59. During consideration of the study, the Committee laid emphasis on the need to better assess what had been done in food storage, towards the prevention and reduction of food losses, in order to identify the actions to be implemented. The United Nations specialized agencies should participate in that respect on the basis of the respective comparative advantages. In that regard, the Secretariat underscored that the new directions concerning ECA and MULPOC activities, had laid special emphasis on close cooperation with all United Nations specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, within the framework of dynamic partnership.

60. The Committee adopted the study and then urged the Secretariat to take appropriate steps to implement the recommendations formulated, in close collaboration with the member States as well as other partners involved in the prevention and reduction of food losses in the subregion.

VI. INDUSTRY**- Small-Scale Food Processing Technologies and their Use in the Rural Areas of the East African Subregion**

(Agenda item 9 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/08)

61. Food processing constituted a major economic activity in the East African subregion for the following reasons: food processing led to the consumption of seasonal agricultural products over the whole year and therefore minimized serious price fluctuations resulting from the periodic gluts and shortages of the fresh products; food processing generated substantial foreign exchange in the East African countries like Kenya which had produced a large surplus of agricultural products.

62. The countries of the East African subregion recognized the importance of the food processing sector and were focusing their efforts on the promotion of processing technologies. The conservation of agricultural products had become complex as a result of attacks by insects and decay. Increasing efforts were being made to utilize food processing technologies to increase the production of any other foodstuffs liable to help the people of the East African subregion substitute their usual eating habits with a lighter, healthy and balanced diet, based on various types of locally produced edible oils, fish, bread and honey.

63. A special study conducted on oil extraction from groundnut and palm nuts, focused on the pre-processing of raw materials as well as on the choice of simple extraction technology that could be used by small-scale mills likely to be installed in rural or small urban areas where the majority of the population in the countries of the subregion were residing.

64. Any assistance in favour of the small-scale food processing activities in the rural areas should take into consideration the socio-economic framework concerned, so as to include the following social groups: crop harvesting farmers, fishermen, the small-scale food producers in the rural areas (e.g. harvesting staff and their family), crop and fish traders, the suppliers of various inputs, and production equipment and local consumers. The acceptance of such assistance by the above groups, its impact on productivity and income, and its effectiveness in bringing about the desired changes, were important factors to be considered.

65. The consumers cooperatives expected to organize the wholesale and retail of food products and training in the rural areas, were operating through small-scale food producers. Its training operations could target all food products, such as edible oil, fish, vegetable and juice. The cooperatives would identify the training needs and coordinate the training of various cooperative members in such areas as food processing, storage, marketing and trading.

66. The small-scale food producers involved in the early stages of the food processing activities had a special responsibility to ensure the environmental adaptation of their technology throughout the entire production cycle. The adoption of an integrated preventive environmental strategy would make it possible to improve efficiency and reduce risks in that respect.

67. During consideration of the document, the participants expressed concern about the source of finances to establish small-scale food processing plants. They enquired also on the concrete facilities provided by the four countries selected in the study to encourage the development of the small scale food processing plants. An observation was made on the inefficiency of the cooperatives in the development of small scale activities in general.

68. The Secretariat stated that the finances would come from domestic savings, subsidy from the government, credit or loans from financial corporations, industrial development banks and national or commercial banks.

69. It further stated that the increased participation of private small-scale food processing plants should be encouraged through the provision of a range of measures and incentives intended to improve their operations such as access to credit and the provision of appropriate technologies and training. The Secretariat took note of the observations made by the Committee on cooperatives.

70. The Committee adopted the study.

VII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Report on the development of river and lake transport in the East African subregion

(Agenda item 10 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/10a, b and c)

- (a) Joint-ventures and other forms of collaboration in the development of the transport market on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika**
- (b) Current market and transport operation system on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika**
- (c) Establishment of the Lake Victoria Authority**

71. Since the three documents on transport were inter-related, the Committee decided to consider them together.

72. Introducing those documents, the Secretariat specified that they fell within the framework of the implementation of the action programme for the development of lake transport in the subregion, approved by the policy organs of MULPOC.

73. The studies submitted to the Committee concerned the aspect of the programme relating to the organization of lake transport operations.

74. Such organization revolved, with regard to Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika, around the establishment of a joint enterprise.

75. Since national liberalization and privatization policies as well as structural adjustment programmes were increasingly requiring the divestiture of States, the MULPOC proposed the commercialization of the project.

76. Considering that such commercialization could not be designed without an accurate assessment of the transport market on the two lakes, the MULPOC was requested to conduct a related study. Detailed analysis of the demand and supply as well as other factors which had an impact on the market, were presented in the study.

77. The document on joint-ventures and the various forms of cooperation envisaged for the smooth operation of the transport market, focused on the above mentioned diagnosis and gave the relevant directions to economic operators involved in the project. The document also included a detailed analysis of the political, economic and technical environment in which such joint-ventures would operate.

78. The problems identified, required that a cautious policy should be adopted in the project commercialization. Firstly, the objectives would consist of identifying the interested operators, providing them with an appropriate consultative framework within existing cooperation mechanisms and promoting the project within that same framework.

79. The next step would derive from the results of those direct consultations, and would focus on such concrete actions as the execution of the feasibility study, preparation of the financial document and the search for the required funding.

80. The progress report on the study on the establishment of the Lake Victoria Authority, proposed the terms of reference of activities that the MULPOC would undertake in that respect.

81. Difficulties that the MULPOC encountered in initiating such activities were highlighted in the document.

82. During consideration of those documents, the Committee expressed the wish that MULPOC's activities, in the area of inland water transport in the East African subregion, should not be limited solely to lake transport concerns operating on Lakes Kivu, Tanganyika and Victoria.

83. The Secretariat pointed out that since MULPOC's activities were increasingly focused on the promotion of subregional cooperation and integration, its participation in the area of inland water transport would, as a matter of priority, target inter-State water navigation.

84. Nevertheless, at the behest of the States, the MULPOC could, at the same time, help promote transport on national navigable waterways. In that respect, the States were called upon to forward their requests to the MULPOC.

85. The Committee adopted the reports as well as the terms of reference of activities that MULPOC would undertake on Lake Victoria as proposed in Document ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/10c.

VIII. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

- The review 'Women and Development

(Agenda item 11 - Doc.ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/11)

86. Introducing the review 'Women and Development', the Secretariat presented the main themes treated therein namely : (i) women in the face of the subregion's socio-economic development; (ii) national mechanisms for the advancement of women in view of their integration in national socio-economic development activities; (iii) health and education; (iv) follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, in September 1995; and (v) the current situation of the project to establish an African Women Development Bank (AWDB).

87. The countries of the East African subregion were convinced that without the tangible integration of women in national socio-economic activities, it would be difficult to attain balanced and sustainable development. Therefore, the countries of the subregion established mechanisms for the promotion of women integration.

88. With respect to the follow-up to the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, the review underscored that the national mechanisms established had been strengthened, with the assistance of the ECA and UNESCO, by a certain number of new initiatives which were : (i) the setting-up of a data-bank on national experiences on women, gender and development; (ii) the institution of a peace prize for African women; and (iii) the setting-up of the consultative unit of the office of the Director-General of UNESCO for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in favour of women in sub-Saharan Africa.

89. Though women's participation in national socio-economic development activities had indeed been increasing, the project to set up the African Women Development Bank was encountering difficulties linked to the lack of funds to carry out feasibility studies on its establishment. In the area of health and education, the women were

still encountering problems of discrimination despite measures already taken to promote their advancement.

90. Finally, the Secretariat underscored the great importance of the review 'Women and Development' which served as a means for the fruitful exchange of ideas and concrete experiences on socio-economic activities undertaken by women. In that regard, the Secretariat appealed for the increased participation of the subregion's women in the preparation of subsequent issues of the review.

91. Information on the mechanisms for funding and the granting of loans to women for project execution in their respective countries, was communicated.

92. The Committee took good note of the contents of the review and recommended the continuation of its publication.

IX. INFORMATION NOTES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIONS IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION
(Agenda item 12)

a) The Establishment of an African Information Society Initiative (AISI)

93. Presenting the related document, the Secretariat recalled the process which led to the establishment of AISI starting from the African Regional Symposium on Telematics to the setting-up of the high-level Committee on AISI, the adoption of resolutions by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the setting-up of the AISI Technical Coordinating Committee comprising the various ECA partners in the area.

94. Emphasis was laid on the strategies and related objectives, and on the AISI's implementation areas. Those various aspects were discussed with special emphasis on the advantages that African countries could derive from the new information and communications technologies in the areas of employment, health, education, trade and tourism.

95. The Secretariat then discussed the appropriate institutional, legislative and statutory framework liable to help African States enter the new information era through the establishment of information, documentation and technological infrastructures.

96. Having taken note of that information, the Committee expressed its concerns about the costs, the connection of the rural areas and the liberalization of the telecommunications sector in general. The Secretariat furnished the necessary explanation on the expressed concerns. It informed the Committee of the existence of private suppliers and centres of scholarship and of the experience of

telecommunications centres in South Africa and Egypt which the ECA was studying so as to disseminate and hence enable other countries to benefit from it.

97. The Secretariat took note of the remarks made by the Committee.

b) New Strategic Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa
(Doc. E/ECA/CM.22/2)

98. The Secretariat presented the document for information purposes.

99. It specified that the ECA restructuring process proposed in the document, was adopted by the Thirty-First Annual Session of the Commission/Twenty-Second Conference of Ministers.

100. The process led to the refocussing of ECA participation on five sub-programmes and the setting-up of a new structure for the Commission's technical organs.

101. The five sub-programmes were: i) economic and social policy; ii) food security and sustainable development; iii) development management; vi) information at the service of development; and v) regional cooperation and integration.

102. The themes relating to the integration of women in the development process and the development of human resources and institutions, were included in each of those sub-programmes.

103. The strengthening and reorganization of the MULPOCs were also some of the important aspects of the new strategic directions.

104. The Committee took good note of that information.

c) Rehabilitation and Development Programme for the Great Lakes Subregion

105. The delegate of UN-OPS/UNDP, Mrs. C. Alcoreza, presented the programme which was still at the formulation phase. With regard to the execution of activities under that phase, she stated that UN-OPS/UNDP was seeking to establish active partnership among United Nations agencies and that it would thereafter consult the States and IGOs of the Great Lakes subregion comprising Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Zaire, possibly including Kenya and Ethiopia at a later stage.

106. On the issue relating to the criteria for selecting the countries covered by the programme, she specified that the crisis situation, the massive population displacement and refugee reception areas were among the factors used in that programme's configuration.

107. The Committee highly commended the efforts being made to establish and implement the programme.

X. 1997 DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES FOR THE SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF EAST AFRICA (SRDC)
(Agenda item 13 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/12)

108. The Secretariat presented the 1997 work programme for the Subregional Development Centre of East Africa.

109. It informed the meeting that the programme was an extract from the ECA 1997 revised work programme contained in Document E/ECA/CM.23/CRP1.

110. The Secretariat specified that the extract which was Document ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/12, had been presented in order to inform the Committee of the work programme of the East African Subregional Development Centre.

111. Thus, taking into account the priorities included therein, the 1997 programme of the East African SRDC would focus mainly on (i) international cooperation; (ii) documentation meant for the policy organs; (iii) functional services; and (iv) consultancy services.

112. The strategy for the implementation of the programme would thus seek to : (i) facilitate networking and the exchange of information among the government, the civil society and the private sector at the level of SRDCs; (ii) provide coordinating services for the operational programmes of the UN and its specialized agencies, in collaboration with the UNDP and the UN Coordinator at the national level; and (iii) increase ECA participation in the subregion of the East African SRDC.

113. The Committee took note of the 1997 work programme of the East African Subregional Development Centre.

XI. PREPARATION FOR THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (TEPCOW)/TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
(Agenda item 14 - Doc. ECA/GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/13)

114. The Secretariat informed the Committee of the holding of those meetings at the ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa, respectively, from the 28 April to 2 May 1997 and from 5 to 8 May 1997.

115. It urged member States of the MULPOC to effectively participate in the above meetings.

116. The Committee took good note of the information and the request made to it.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

(Agenda item 15)

117. Under other business, the Committee exchanged views on the process to restructure the MULPOCs, particularly, their change of name to Sub-Regional Development Centres (SRDCs) proposed by the ECA, and the setting-up of an SRDC for the East African subregion.

118. At the end of discussions on those issues, the Committee agreed to formulate a recommendation in support of the change in name and the functioning of the East African SRDC.

XIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda item 16)

119. Under that agenda item, the Committee requested the Secretariat, considering the negotiations underway, to consult with member States, at the right moment, in order to agree on the date and venue of its next meeting.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Agenda item 17)

120. The Committee adopted the report on its deliberations, and the two recommendations on:

- (i) the setting-up of the East African Subregional Development Centre; and
- (ii) the strengthening of subregional cooperation and integration.

XV. CLOSING OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

(Agenda item 18)

121. A statement of the Director of MULPOC, the presentation of a vote of thanks to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the closing speech of the outgoing Chairman of the Committee brought the meeting to a close.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

**RELATING TO THE SETTING UP OF THE
EAST AFRICAN SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

**(Sponsored by Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar,
Mauritius, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire)**

**The Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, holding in
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 25 April 1997**

Considering the new strategic directions defined by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Document E/ECA/CM/22 "Serving Africa Better: Strategic Directions for the Economic Commission for Africa", and adopted by the Thirty-First Annual Session of the Commission/Twenty-Second Conference of the Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning, particularly, Resolution 810 (XXX1) relating to the strengthening of the MULPOCs :

Considering the revised programme of activities and the restructuring of the Commission resulting thereof;

Desirous to see the Commission more involved in the preoccupations of the Member States through increased assistance to the States and their Regional Economic Communities and Intergovernmental Organizations;

Supports the initiative taken by the Commission to name the MULPOCs as Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs), a name which better corresponds to the objectives of their mission;

Expresses satisfaction at the project to set up a Subregional Development Centre (SRDC) for the subregion;

Requests the Executive Secretariat of the Commission to do everything possible to ensure the functioning of this Centre.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

**RELATING TO INCREASED COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION IN THE EAST AFRICAN SUBREGION**

**(Sponsored by Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar,
Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire)**

**The Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC, holding in
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 25 April 1997 ;**

Reaffirming the determination of the member States of the East African subregion to strengthen subregional cooperation, the main objective of which is to attain the effective integration of the subregion and, in particular, to open up the landlocked areas of its territory both internally and externally;

Considering that the high number of IGOs operating in the subregion, the overlapping of their geographical spaces as well as the similarity of their missions, terms of reference, and participation areas, situations, can have a negative impact on the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

Recalling the provisions of the Lagos Plan of Action relating to the special importance of measures to be taken to prevent and reduce post-harvest food losses as well as those of Resolution 3362 (S-VII) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly highlighting the need to assist member States in their efforts to reduce post-harvest food losses;

Fully aware of the vital role played by the transport sector, in particular, inland water transport, to effectively support cooperation and integration actions designed to open up the East African subregion, largely drained by Africa's Great Lakes;

Congratulates the Secretariat of the MULPOC for the activities undertaken towards the implementation of the 1996 work programme for the East African subregion;

Supports the recommendations formulated in the documents prepared by the Secretariat within the framework of the implementation of this work programme and submitted for the consideration of the Committee, more particularly: (i) the survey on the rationalization and harmonization of the economic integration and cooperation programmes of the East African subregion; (ii) the survey on post-harvest food losses in the East African subregion; (iii) the study on the development of river and lake transport in the East African subregion; and (iv) the review 'Women and Development';

Urges the member States to encourage the IGOs concerned, to be resolutely involved in their programmes' rationalization process;

Requests the joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat to support the efforts made to attain the objectives of rationalizing and harmonizing the integration and cooperation programmes of the East African subregion particularly, those relating to the setting up and functioning of the Cooperation Commission proposed in the study;

Requests the international community to increase its assistance to member States of the subregion in the preparation and implementation of strategies for increased agricultural production and reduced post-harvest food losses;

Invites member States to define and/or implement strategies designed to increase agricultural production and reduce post-harvest food losses;

Requests the Secretariat of the MULPOC to take the necessary steps to ensure the rapid implementation of studies on the development of river and lake transport in the subregion, notably, the setting-up of a specific inter-State organ for the management of these activities, pursuant to the related terms of reference annexed to Document ECA/ GSY/MUL/ICE/IV/10c;

Invites member States to promote and strengthen the role of women in the subregion's economic development activities and to mobilize women associations to effectively participate in the publication of the review 'Women and Development'.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC holding in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 25 April 1997 to consider the implementation of the 1996 work programme for the East African subregion.

Having noted the particular attention that the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has accorded participants in the meeting

Having noted furthermore the excellent measures taken by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as well as the exceptional quality of services made available to both the participants and the Secretariat of MULPOC thanks to which the meeting's deliberations were a resounding success,

Considering the unswerving commitment of the member States of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC and the entire East African subregion to further intensify their cohesion and subregional cooperation thus contributing to the establishment of the African Common Market in accordance with the objectives of the Abuja Treaty

Considering, finally, the open-mindedness, friendliness and mutual confidence which prevailed during the deliberations of this meeting placed under the enlightened Chairmanship of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Convey to the Government and people of Ethiopia, its most profound gratitude for the cordial and brotherly welcome - a remarkable reflection of the pure Ethiopian tradition - extended to the delegates, the invited guests as well as the Secretariat throughout these proceedings.

Done in Addis Ababa, 25 April 1997

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBER STATES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mr. Getachew Asfaw, Team Leader, MEDAC, P. O. Box 1037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
Tel. 55-28-00/333,

Mr. Tenagne Bayeh, Team Leader, MEDAC, P. O. Box 1037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
Tel. 12-89-71,

Mr. Solomon Yirga, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia,

Mr. Getachew Abebe, Expert, MEDAC, P. O. Box 1037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
Tel. 12-89-53

Mr. Teklu Bekel, Expert on Regional Integration, Ministry of Economic Development
and Co-operation, P. O. Box 1035, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: 11-16-56

ERITREA

Mr. Kidane Tsegai Kelati, Head, Inland Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance
Eritrea, Eritrea

Mr. Yosief Yosief Habtemichael, Embassy of the State of Eritrea, P. O. Box 2571,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 51-28-44

KENYA

Ms. Margaret Nyandong, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Kenya, P. O. Box 3301,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 61-00-33

MADAGASCAR

Son Excellence, M. SE M. Bakoniarivo Jean Delacroix, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire, Ambassade de la République de Madagascar en Ethiopie, P. O. Box 60004, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 61-25-55

M. D. Raveloson, Premier Conseiller d'Ambassade de la République de Madagascar en Ethiopie, Représentation permanente auprès de la CEA, P. O. Box 60004, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 61-25-55

MAURITIUS

Mr. Jingree Khemraj, Second Secretary, Mauritius Embassy, P. O. Box 200222, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 61-47-04

RWANDA

Dr. Joseph Mutaboba, 1er Conseiller à l'Ambassade du Rwanda, Ambassade du Rwanda, P. O. Box 5618, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: 61-03-00

M. Ntambabazi Vincent, 2ème Conseiller à l'Ambassade du Rwanda, P. O. Box 5618, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: 61-03-00

TANZANIA

Mr. George G. Mwanjabala, Charge d'Affaire a.i., Embassy of Tanzania, P. O. Box 1077, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 51-81-55

Mr. Gordon Ngilangwa, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Tanzania, P. O. Box 1077, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 51-81-55

UGANDA

Mr. Kabushenga Geoffrey, Counselor, Uganda Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel. 51-30-88

Mr. Henry Picho-Okello , Head of ECA Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kampala

Ms. Gava Hadija, Ag. Commissioner, Uganda Ministry of Planning & Economic Development,
Tel. 232317, Kampala

ZAIRE

Mr. Marcel Mulumba Tshidihba, Charge d'affaires A.I., Embassy of Zaire, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

II. OBSERVERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

CHINA

Mr. Yang Tong, China Embassy Staff member, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

FINLAND

Mr. Sari Jormanainen, Development Cooperation Officer, Embassy of Finland, P. O. Box 1017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel.: 51-39-00

JAPAN

Mr. Geneth Amdemikael Geneth, Embassy of Japan, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: 51-10-88

III. OBSERVERS OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FAO

Mr. A.V. Obeng, Liaison Officer (OAU/ECA), FAO Representation in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa

UNHCR

Mr. David Lambo, Regional Liaison Representative for Africa, Post Box 1076, Addis Ababa,
(Tel.: 61-28-22; Fax: 61-16-66)

Ms. Joan Allison, Liaison Officer, P. O. Box 1076, Addis Ababa, (Tel.: 61-28-22; Fax: 61-16-66)

Ms. Kathrine Starup, Associate Liaison Officer, UNHCR, P. O. Box 1076, Addis Ababa,
(Tel.: 61-28-22; Fax: 61-16-66)

UNDP

Mrs. Hannah Gutema, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP, P. O. Box 5580, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

UNDP/UNOPS

Ms. Carmen Alcoreza, Consultant, Project Grand Lacs, UNDP/UNOPS, P. O. Box 47074, Nairobi, Kenya

WHO

Dr. Aboneshe Haile-Mariam, World Health Organization, Tel. 5140037, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

IV. OBSERVERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

IGAD

Mr. Moges Belayneh, Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development, P. O. Box 2428, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ECA SECRETARIAT

Mr. Peki Kana Kwala, Director, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. Rajohnson Jacques, Economic Affairs Officer, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. Nsabimana Dismas, Agronomist, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. Abdoul Kane, Asso. Economic Affairs Officer, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. M. T. Raghavan, Asso. Programme Management Officer, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. Nwokeabia Hilary, Asso. Programme Management Officer, ESPD
Ms. Rawda Oumer, RCID, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, DMD, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ms. Awa Fall, DMD, P. O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ms. Roman Legesse, Secretary, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Ms. Afomeya Wehib, Secretary, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Ms. Maaza Molla, Secretary, Gisenyi-MULPOC
Mr. Berhanu Tesfaye, Documentalist, Gisenyi-MULPOC