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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Bureau of the
Subregional Committee for the Integration
of Women in Development,
North African MULPOC

Douala, 11-12 March 1982

Third Meeting of the Africa Regional
Co-ordinating Committee for the
Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

Douala, 15-17 March 1982

PROGRESS REPORT OF ATRCW ON ACTIVITIES
IN THE NORTH AFRICAN MULPOC SUBREGION

March 1981-MARCH 1982

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development for the North African MULPOC was held from 10-12 March 1981 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- i) to formally establish the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and to elect its Bureau;
- ii) to review the existing programme of work and projects planned by ECA/ATRCW for the subregion, and;
- iii) to adopt a work programme and priorities for the period 1981-1983 for the consideration and approval by the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC.

2. The report of the Inaugural Meeting was duly presented to the Second Meeting of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), held in Addis Ababa, 12-14 March 1981 and to the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC held in Tangiers, Morocco, from 30 November to 3 December 1981.

3. The Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee elected the following Bureau:

President : Tunisia
Vice-President: Sudan
Rapporteur : Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Bureau is due to hold its first meeting on 11-12 March 1982 in Douala, United Republic of Cameroon, prior to the Third Meeting of the ARCC scheduled for the same venue from 15 to 17 March 1982.

II. WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES

4. The work programme and priorities adopted by the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee were as follows:

Work programme and priorities for 1981

- Report to member States on the project for integrated rural development with focus on appropriate technology and handicrafts (Egypt).
- Report to member States on the survey of traditional technologies (Sudan, Egypt).
- Report to member States on the study of national development plans to determine to what extent they include women (Tunisia, Morocco).
- Consultancy services to strengthen national machineries.
- Inaugural meeting of the subregional committee for the integration of women in development.
- Training in the use of local raw materials (Sudan).
- Training women in non-traditional activities (Tunisia, to continue 1982-1983).

Work programme and priorities for 1982-1983

- Strengthening national machineries for the integration of women in development.
- Strengthening of the technical competence of leaders of those machineries in the planning, identification and evaluation of projects.
- Training leaders of national machineries in human relations and communications skills.
- Programmes to improve the health and educational level of rural women.
- Training women in entrepreneurship and management
- Training in non-traditional activities for women.
- Income generating activities to improve the status of women.
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries of the subregion through the African Women's Development Task Force Programme.

- Study of the legal status of women (Tunisia).
- Training in technology for rural women.
- Introduction of production and marketing co-operatives for women.
- Second meeting of the subregional committee on the integration of women in development of the North Africa MULPOC.

5. Considering that most of the activities programmed for 1981 had not been implemented due to the inadequacy of funds and the absence of a Co-ordinator for the Women's Programme in the MULPOC (as explained in Section III below), the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts in December 1981 consolidated all the priorities still to be met in the draft work programme of the MULPOC for 1982-1983 to be presented to the Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC scheduled for 1-3 March 1982 in Tangiers.

6. The MULPOC draft work programme on the Integration of Women in Development for 1982-1983 (Ref.: document ECA/MULPOC/TANGIERS/II/3/Rev. II) is as follows:

VIII. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(1) Project title and aims

The Integration of Women in Development.

(2) Summary description of the project

As women constitute a very large portion of the human resources of the subregion and as they already contribute significantly to the livelihood of its peoples, it is important that the integration of women be taken into account in all development activities of the MULPOC in addition to specific programmes that may be directed towards women. It has been decided that a Co-ordinator should be appointed to promote the needs of women in all priority areas of the work of the MULPOC as well as specific programme for women.

The following specific priority areas and activities for women have been recommended by the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and by the Second Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts:

- (a) Strengthening of national machineries for the integration of women in development through leadership training and development of technical skills;

- (b) Study of national development plans to determine to what extent they include women;
- (c) Programmes to improve the health and educational levels of rural women;
- (d) Training women in entrepreneurship and management;
- (e) Training in non-traditional activities for women;
- (f) Income-generating activities to improve the status of women;
- (g) Exchange of knowledge and experiences among the countries of the subregion and between the North Africa and other MULPOC subregions;
- (h) Study of the legal status of women;
- (i) Training in technology for rural women;
- (j) Introduction of production and marketing co-operatives for women;
- (k) Activities to increase awareness and sensitize women and the public on the changing role of women in development;
- (l) Meeting of the Bureau of the Subregional Committee; and
- (m) Second Meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

(3) Work Plan

Phase I: January to December 1982

- (a) Missions by Co-ordinator of Women's Programme to the MULPOC countries to assess needs and identify specific projects within priority areas;
- (b) Feasibility studies and surveys on selected topics;
- (c) Advisory and consultancy services to selected national machineries; and
- (d) Meeting of the Bureau of Subregional Committee (February/March 1982).

Phase II: January to December 1983

- (a) Training workshops on selected priority topics at national and/or subregional level;
- (b) Study tours to programmes and projects in identified countries and/or subregions;
- (c) Establishment of co-operatives and non-traditional enterprises in selected countries; and
- (d) Second Meeting of Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

(4) Inputs

ECA Inputs: The African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) of ECA will provide technical backstopping and advisory services to the project.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS AND APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR

7. The question of the constraints on the human and financial resources for the implementation of the North African MULPOC Work Programme was fully discussed (as agenda item 15) by the Meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts which made the following recommendations (see document ECA/MULPOC/Tangiers/II/13, Annex I, Section G):

MOBILIZATION OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULPOC
WORK PROGRAMME

- (1) The Meeting noted that, unlike other MULPOCs, the North African MULPOC was still financed totally from the **resources** of the regular budget of ECA. Notwithstanding resolution 9 adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries in Rabat (Morocco) in March 1979 and the repeated efforts of the ECA Executive Secretary, the desired results had not been achieved with regard to the mobilization of financial resources.

- (2) In view of the foregoing and for the purpose of implementing the MULPOC work programme, it was recommended that:
- (a) States members of the North African MULPOC should make voluntary contributions in cash or in kind in support of the MULPOC;
 - (b) The Executive Secretary of ECA should pursue his representations with the UNDP Bureau for Arab States to secure adequate financial resources for the North African MULPOC as for the other MULPOCs;
 - (c) The specialized agencies of the United Nations and Arab institutions should also provide assistance for the implementation of the MULPOC work programme.

8. Concerning the appointment of the Coordinator for the Women's Programme in the MULPOC, there had been serious delays. Although the UNDP had earmarked funds for the appointment and that of an agricultural expert for the MULPOC in 1981, the necessary project document had not yet been signed by the MULPOC member States to enable the projects to be implemented and the funds utilized. The Meeting of Experts in December 1981 agreed that since a majority of the MULPOC member States had signed the project document by that date, ECA and the MULPOC Director should take urgent measures to secure a renewal of the funds by UNDP for 1982 and to make the two appointments as early as possible.

9. The UNDP approved in February 1982 the renewal of the funds for the two posts. According to the approved procedure, the MULPOC Director is currently advertising the post of the Coordinator of the Women's Programme in all the MULPOC countries. The Bureau of the Subregional Committee will be consulted by ECA/ATRCW in the final selection.

10. The North Africa MULPOC is expected to formulate soon a four-year project request to be submitted to UNDP for consideration within its current 1982-1986 programming cycle exercise. It would be necessary for the Bureau of the Subregional Committee to give guidelines to ATRCW for preparing the women's component of the MULPOC's four-year project document. In this respect the Bureau may wish to study the whole MULPOC work programme for 1982-1983 adopted by the Committee of Experts (document ECA/MULPOC/TANGIERS/II/3/Rev. II) which is submitted here for information, for an overview of the current and immediate future activities in the subregion.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN THE SUBREGION

11. In view of the human and financial constraints noted above, the activities undertaken in the subregion have been mainly those that could be financed from the limited budgets of the various projects in ATRCW.

Meetings

12. ATRCW financed participation in the following meetings:

- (i) Inaugural meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development of the North African MULPOC, Addis Ababa 10-12 March 1981: The meeting organized and financed by ATRCW was attended by delegates from the following member States: Algeria, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan and Tunisia. Observers were also present from the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) sponsored by ATRCW, and from FAO and ILO.
- (ii) Seventh Congress of the "Union Nationale des Femmes Tunisiennes" (UNFT), Tunis 8-12 August 1981: A staff member represented ATRCW at this meeting of the national machinery which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of the Law on Personal Status ("Loi du Statut Personnel") that made fundamental changes in the status of Tunisian women. The ATRCW representative also had consultations with the President of UNFT and with UNDP on the development of activities to benefit women;
- (iii) Meeting of Technical Committee of Experts, Tangiers, 30 November - 3 December 1981: The ATRCW Liaison Officer for the MULPOC attended and serviced the meeting at which the report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Subregional Committee was presented;
- (iv) Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries, Tangiers, 1-2 March 1982: A representative of ATRCW attended and serviced the meeting at which the MULPOC work programme including the women's component was approved.
- (v) First Meeting of the Bureau of the Subregional Committee, Douala, 11-12 March 1982: ATRCW organized and financed the meeting.

Projects

13. The projects undertaken within the framework of the Work Programme and Priorities of the subregion were:

(A) TECHNOLOGY

- (i) Survey of traditional technologies: Under the ATRCW Appropriate Technology Unit the Ministry of Social Affairs of Egypt carried out this survey at the end of 1981 to identify indigenous technologies and technology development projects in order to upgrade and popularize the appropriate technologies within the country.
- (ii) Regional Workshop on Composite Flour Development, Khartoum, November/December 1981: This regional workshop was organized by the ECA/FAO Advisory Group on Food Industries Development in Africa for technical and policy-making representatives of selected countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania. The Chief Technical Adviser of the ATRCW Handicrafts and Small-Scale Industries Unit (HSIU) attended the meeting and contributed to the orientation of the composite flours programme towards a broad-based indigenous food processing programme which would involve women and select suitable technologies.

(B) INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A feasibility study for the implementation of a pilot project at the micro level was completed by a national consultant in December 1981 under ATRCW/HSIU in Sersena village in the Farouk Governorate of Egypt. The integrated rural project will be developed in 1982.

(C) EMPLOYMENT

- (i) A feasibility study was carried out by a consultant under ATRCW/HSIU on Employment Needs of Rural Women in Egypt in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs. A project to train rural women in employment skills using local raw materials has been developed upon the findings of the study and, USAID is presently considering its funding.
- (ii) Development of Training at SUBA Centre for Women in Khartoum, Sudan: The first phase of this project was completed in April 1981. Based upon the request of the government of Sudan to expand the activities so as to cover the other parts of the country, a project

for a period of 4 years has been prepared and presented to the Belgian Government by ECA/ATRCW. This phase of the project would not only extend the work to cover other parts of Sudan, but would have facilities for training women from neighbouring Arab speaking countries. The response from the Belgian Government is still awaited.

- (iii) A preliminary identification of potentialities for developing income-generating activities for urban and rural women in Tunisia was undertaken by a consultant in 1981. It was found that proposals could be developed along the following lines, provided that some in-depth feasibility studies were undertaken as a prerequisite:
- (a) agro-based cooperatives in the South-West, South-East and Central regions, which the new Plan has as pilot agricultural development zones for the short-term and long term future;
 - (b) development of women's handicrafts, in connection with the tourist market;
 - (c) development of commercial and secretarial training, also in connection with the tourist trade.

Discussions continue on the above findings and possible follow-up activities.

(D) CO-OPERATIVES

- (i) As a follow-up to the seminar on Cooperatives held in Khartoum in October 1979, a special programme for cooperatives for women has been introduced in Sudan. Pilot projects in the development of cooperatives have also been established in Sodiri, Omdurman and some villages outside Khartoum.
- (ii) ATRCW/HSIU assisted in obtaining from the Voluntary Fund for the UN Decade for Women (VFDW) Six months consultancy assistance for developing the carpet industry in Sodiri, Sudan. The Unit is currently helping to identify a suitable expert who would assist the cooperative in all aspects from wool spinning to improved weaving techniques and the introduction of new marketable designs for the carpets.
- (iii) In January/February 1982, a woman cooperative organizer and instructor from Sudan underwent two-weeks internship at the ATRCW headquarters. While in Ethiopia she had opportunity to study a number of projects in integrated rural development and income-generation assisted by ATRCW including the successful Bethlehem Training Centre in Addis Ababa and the Rural Skills Development Project in Kile village.

Study of Refugees

14. In response to General Assembly resolution 35/181 of 15 December 1980 on assistance to refugees in Sudan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has arranged a series of technical feasibility missions to Sudan to study various sectors of the country's socio-economic development affected by refugees with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government to pursue effective strategies and to plan and locate new refugees settlements as an integral part of overall rural and urban development.

15. One of these missions was the multi-disciplinary UN Inter-Agency Mission of Education and Social Development/Welfare Service which visited Sudan from 21 January to 20 February 1982. The ECA served as the lead agency of the Mission composed of experts from ECA, ATRCW, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNHCR. The ATRCW Liaison Officer for the North African MULPOC represented the Centre on the Mission and contributed significantly to the in-depth study of the overall educational and social development problems and the particular situation of women refugees within them. The draft report of the Mission with its recommendations has been submitted to the Government of Sudan and UN Headquarters which will issue it officially for the consideration of ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

CONCLUSIONS

16. With the establishment of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and the recent meetings of the Technical Committee of Experts and Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC, a new momentum has been created for promoting social and economic development and cooperation in the subregion. The meetings have defined new approaches and orientations for implementing the MULPOC work programme. The scope of activities for the advancement of women in all sectors and within total national development has also been clearly defined by the Subregional Committee and endorsed by the superior organs of the MULPOC.

17. Nevertheless, major constraints still exist especially in human and financial resources. It is necessary therefore for the Subregional Committee and ARCC to intensify their efforts to mobilize support from the member States and international organizations for the full implementation of the urgent programmes designed to improve the conditions of life for all the peoples of the subregion and Africa as a whole.