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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries
of the North African MULPOC

Tangier, Morocco,
21-22 March 1983

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES
OF THE NORTH AFRICAN MULPOC

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION

1. The Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC was held in Tangier, Morocco, 21-22 March 1983.
2. It was attended by representatives of the following States, members of the MULPOC: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia.
3. The representative of UNDP participated in the meeting on behalf of the Regional Bureau for the Arab States. The Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), the Centre d'études industrielles du Maghreb (CEIM), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) participated as observers.
4. Participants elected the following Bureau:
President: (Morocco)
Vice-President: (Egypt)
5. The secretariat of ECA served as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

6. The meeting adopted the following Agenda:
 1. Opening of the Meeting
 2. Election of the Bureau
 3. Adoption of the Agenda
 4. Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee of Experts
 5. Trade Promotion among North African Countries
 6. Development and Expansion of Afro-Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation
 7. The Implementation of the African Food Plan in North Africa
 8. The Problem of Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb countries
 9. The Extension of North African Maritime Transport

10. Report of the North African Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development
11. The Development of Wood-based Industries in North Africa
12. The Establishment of the North African Documentation and Information System
13. The Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management
14. The Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the MULPOC Work Programme 1982-1983
15. Date of the Next Meeting
16. Any other Business
17. Adoption of the Report
18. Closing of the Meeting

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

7. Before opening the debate on the various agenda items, the President expressed his appreciation to the Council for the honour done to his country in the course of the election. The Vice-President thanked the King, Government and people of Morocco for the warm welcome that had been extended to participants.

Consideration of agenda items 4 to 11

8. The President then invited the plenipotentiaries to proceed with consideration of the various agenda items. Representatives took note of the Report of the Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC and endorsed recommendations 1 to 7 attached to the present report in the form of resolutions.

Establishment of the PADIS subregional centre (agenda item 12)

9. One representative requested that the question of the establishment of the PADIS subregional centre should be referred to the ECA Conference of Ministers. The proposal was supported by two other delegations who justified their concurrence on the grounds of the scale of the PADIS project itself, the need to conduct a general policy review before proceeding with the establishment of the subregional centre and the importance of making a realistic appraisal of the subregion's human and financial resources. One of the delegations further proposed that a Committee of Experts should be set up to consider the question of the establishment of the subregional centre or a mission mounted to evaluate the Pan-African Documentation and Information System as a whole.

10. The Director of PADIS stated that the ECA Conference of Ministers could consider a North African MULPOC issue only when the Committee of Experts had presented a report on it to the Council of Plenipotentiaries. The Council

in turn should have submitted its conclusion on the matter to the ECA Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole which refers such matters to the Conference of Ministers. The Director also indicated that the MULPOC authorities were not competent to conduct an evaluation of PADIS at the continental level.

11. One representative suggested that the member States might recommend that ECA should conduct a mission to evaluate the implementation of the PADIS programme.

12. The President then adjourned the meeting to allow representatives of interested member States to formulate a draft resolution.

13. A draft resolution was submitted by three delegations recommending the establishment of a specialized technical committee to study the means of establishing a PADIS subregional centre and the submission of a report to the next meeting of the Committee of Experts and Council of Plenipotentiaries. The representative of Tunisia expressed reservations regarding the setting up of such a Committee, the terms of its mandate and the time allowed to conduct its mission.

Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management (agenda item 13)

14. A representative of ECA described the background to the establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management (NAGIM). The project went back to 1978 and the establishment of NAGIM had been recommended by the Meeting of the Committee of Experts in 1979. In 1980, the Committee had decided on the location of the Institute whose statutes were approved in final form in May 1981. The statutes had been signed by three member States which left one more signature to be secured in order to make up the number required to convene the Board of Directors. Egypt had recently informed the secretariat of ECA that it had decided to sign the statutes. Since the project had remained in the pipe-line for several years, a decision would have to be taken on it.

15. The representative of Morocco announced that his country was prepared to house NAGIM temporarily on the premises of the Institut supérieur de commerce et d'administration des entreprises (ISCAE) located in Casablanca until such time as NAGIM secured the number of signatures required to make it operational.

16. The representative of Egypt reaffirmed the importance that his country attached to the establishment of NAGIM but explained that he had not been authorized to sign the statutes in their present form. The statutes stipulated in sub-paragraph 7 of article 22 that "No State may express any reservations to the present Constitution after it has been signed". The signing of the statutes would commit the signatory States financially and in Egypt

only legislative bodies were competent to take decisions on the matter. As soon as the question was settled one way or the other Egypt would sign the statutes.

17. The representative of Algeria stated that (a) his country had invested heavily in management training; (b) the nation's development programmes had generated such demand that several management institutions were to be established throughout the country; (c) the long-standing importance that Algeria attached to the achievement of management capabilities led it to appreciate the establishment of such institutions at the national, bilateral or multilateral level. Algeria was prepared to contribute all it could to the establishment and development of such institutes and (d) would, in making its contributions insist on having a say in the programme orientation of such regional and subregional institutes.

18. Representatives submitted a draft resolution which was adopted by the Plenipotentiaries and can be found in the Annex to the present report under the title Resolution 8.

Mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the 1982/1983 Work Programme of the North African MULPOC (agenda item 14)

19. Under this agenda item, the Plenipotentiaries adopted the resolution annexed to the present report under the title Resolution 10.

Date of the next meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries (agenda item 15)

20. The representatives decided that, even though it would have been preferable for the Council of Plenipotentiaries to hold its meeting some time after that of the Committee of Experts, the next meeting of the Council would be held immediately after that of the Committee of Experts within the first quarter of 1984. Representatives requested ECA to ensure that the documents for those two meetings reached member States at least one month before the holding of the meetings.

Other business (agenda item 16)

21. There was no discussion under this agenda item. The representative of the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development made a statement on behalf of the Director of the Centre, reiterating the desire of CAFRAD to continue its co-operation with the MULPOC.

Adoption of the report and recommendations (agenda item 17)

22. After due consideration, participants adopted the present report and the resolutions annexed to it.

Closing of the meeting (agenda item 18)

23. A representative of ECA made a statement concerning the celebration of ECA's Silver Jubilee Anniversary and expressed the hope that member States would participate in those celebrations.

24. The delegation of Algeria expressed on behalf of all delegations, the keen appreciation of the meeting to the brotherly people, local authorities and Government of Morocco for their warm welcome and hospitality and the facilities provided to ensure the success of the meeting. The delegation also expressed its appreciation to all those who in diverse ways had contributed objectively and constructively to the success of the meeting. Its particular appreciation went to the Director and Staff of the MULPOC for the commendable work done in the general interest of the subregion. It further noted with satisfaction the meritorious efforts made by ECA for Africa's economic and social development and the strengthening of economic co-operation in Africa.

25. After the usual exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES
OF THE NORTH AFRICAN MULPOC

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC, at its third meeting held on 21 and 22 March 1983 in Tangier, Morocco

RESOLUTION 1: TRADE PROMOTION

Having considered the report in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/4 on trade promotion among countries of the subregion,

Bearing in mind the results of the multidisciplinary mission on the promotion of trade and financial co-operation among countries of the subregion,

Having taken note of the progress achieved by North African countries in bilateral co-operation particularly in the area of trade and the establishment of joint enterprises,

Taking note of the subregion's agricultural and industrial potentials and the advantages of trading with a view to securing a fuller integration of the economies of the subregion,

1. Congratulates the Director and Staff of the Tangier MULPOC for the efforts that have been made in the collection, analysis and processing of data on trade and financial co-operation in the subregion;
2. Requests the MULPOC Director to undertake arrangements for the compilation of a synthesis of studies undertaken in the area and to identify recommendations for further intensification of intra-subregional trade;
3. Invites the MULPOC Director to continue consultations with member States with a view to exploring the long and medium-term possibilities of developing, through joint bilateral or multilateral ventures, the potential in agricultural products identified in the Sudan with specific reference to animal products and by-products.

RESOLUTION 2: AFRO-ARAB CO-OPERATION
IN TRADE AND FINANCE

Considering the recommendations of the Afro-Arab Summit Conference held in March 1977, in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt,

Recalling the May 1981 Caracas programme of action,

Considering the Lagos Plan of Action for the social and economic development of Africa,

Considering the Amman Strategy for Arab States,

In light of ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 310(XIII) calling for co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA),

In light of the Resolution n° 2 of the North African Council of Plenipotentiaries of March 1979 calling on the North African MULPOC and ECA in close co-operation with appropriate intergovernmental and national institutions in North Africa to implement a programme directed towards the promotion of intra-subregional trade,

1. Recommends that the human, material and financial resources should be found and in good time placed at the disposal of the Tangier MULPOC in order to give it the capacity to expand its activities in response to the expressed needs of countries in the subregion,
2. Urges the Governments concerned to provide official support to the Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation project submitted to the Meeting of Experts in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III.5b;
3. Further urges the countries of the North African subregion to approve the project document as soon as possible so that the UNDP Bureau for Arab States, in consultation with ECA and ECWA can include it in the third programming cycle for 1984-1986 and make the necessary financial appropriations;
4. Invites the UNDP Bureau for Arab States to provide the financing necessary for the implementation of the project within the specified deadline, namely, January 1984 to December 1986;
5. Further invites the UNDP Office for Arab States, in concert with the North African States and the Economic Commission for Africa to guarantee the implementation of the project in accordance with the required terms and conditions;
6. Requests that the Committee of Experts and the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African Tangier MULPOC should monitor the implementation and management of the Afro-Arab development and financial co-operation project.

RESOLUTION 3: THE IMPLEMENTATION IN NORTH AFRICA OF THE REGIONAL FOOD PLAN

Having considered the report presented by ECA on the implementation of the Regional Food Plan for Africa (AFPLAN), especially on the implementation of three food development projects in the North African subregion,

Recognizing the importance of improving food production and productivity and strengthening intra-subregional co-operation and trade in food crops,

1. Approves the programme of work proposed by the secretariat for implementing the three projects mentioned in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/7;

2. Requests the secretariat to include in the objectives of the projects and terms of reference of the missions and consultants the preparation of a list of agricultural products of nutritional and economic relevance for the countries of the subregion;
3. Recommends that the studies should put more emphasis on the increase of agricultural productivity and production without neglecting intra-sub-regional co-operation and trade in food crops;
4. Agrees that the countries concerned should establish contact points for assisting the missions and consultants and for following up the implementation of the studies.

RESOLUTION 4: POPULATION, MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT IN MAGHREB COUNTRIES

Having considered the progress report presented by ECA regarding the study on Population, Migration and Development in the Maghreb countries,

Recognizing the urgency and importance of undertaking as soon as possible a study on migrant population of Maghreb origin to Europe,

1. Requests ECA to transmit the project document on the migration problems to member States of the MULPOC for comments;
2. Requests the Director of the North African MULPOC to co-ordinate the submission of such comments to ECA as soon as possible;
3. Further requests ECA to revise the project document incorporating such comments and to resubmit it through the MULPOC to the member States so that the latter may give in writing their agreement to enable the secretariat to undertake the necessary study as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION 5: THE EXTENSION OF NORTH
AFRICAN SEA LINKAGES

Recalling resolution n°3 of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC of 1-2 March 1982 requesting ECA in collaboration with North African MULPOC member States to undertake a study on the feasibility of extending North and Sub-Saharan African sea linkages including the assessment of shipping tonnage capacities in the countries concerned,

Noting the mission undertaken by ECA from 19 September to 15 October 1982 in accordance with resolution 3 adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries,

Having taken cognizance of the report submitted by ECA to the meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC from 17 to 21 March 1983;

1. Requests member States of the North African MULPOC to provide all the necessary data to complete the study as requested;
2. Requests ECA to submit a full report on the feasibility of extending North and Sub-Saharan African sea linkages including the assessment of shipping tonnage capacities to the next meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC in 1984.

RESOLUTION 6: THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Having considered the report of the second Meeting of the subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in Development held in Tangier, Morocco, 15-16 March 1983 (Document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.III/11),

Recognizing the importance of implementing concrete projects with specific goals and targets to improve the condition of women in the subregion,

Appreciating the continued support given by UNDP to the MULPOC women's programme.

1. Takes note of the report and approves the priority areas and activities identified by the subregional Committee in Annex I of the report;
2. Endorses the recommendations of the subregional Committee contained in Annex II of the report;
3. Calls upon ECA to finalize the recruitment of the Co-ordinator of the Women's Programme by 30 April 1983.

RESOLUTION 7: FOREST INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT

Having considered the reports presented by the Forest Industries Advisory Group (FIAG) (FAO/UNIDO/ECA), regarding the proposal for a project identification study on the medium-term development of Forest industries in the North African subregion;

Recognizing the importance of such a study in order to provide a basis for sound planning of the forest industries sector, reflecting national priorities and realistic subregional complementarity of bilateral or multilateral scope,

1. Approves the proposal of the project;
2. Requests FIAG to submit to the next meeting of Experts of the North African MULPOC a report on the progress of the study.

RESOLUTION 8: CONVENING OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH AFRICAN GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF MANAGEMENT (NAGIM)

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 306(XIII) and 318(XIII),

Recalling also resolutions in document PAMM/MAN/NA/12/82/Annex I of 2 June 1982,

1. Requests the North African MULPOC and ECA secretariat to convene the meeting of the NAGIM Board of Directors as soon as the required number of signatures ratifying the NAGIM statutes have been secured.

RESOLUTION 9: ESTABLISHMENT OF NADIS

Having considered the report of the Committee of Experts on the establishment of a subregional Centre for information and documentation in North Africa (NADIS),

Taking note of the various economic and technical aspects of this project,

Noting further that the discussion of this matter has indicated certain differences of view among member States,

1. Requests the Director of the North African MULPOC to approach member States as soon as possible with a view to convening a specialized technical committee to study the means of establishing this centre;
2. Requests the Committee to submit a detailed report to the next meeting of the Committee of Experts and Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC.

RESOLUTION 10: MOBILIZATION OF
MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Recognizing that the implementation of the Work Programme of the North African MULPOC for 1982-1983 necessitates the provision of supplementary resources in addition to those provided by the ECA regular budget and the allocations by UNDP for the women's integration and agricultural development programmes,

1. Calls upon member States of the North African MULPOC, in recognition of their primary responsibility for the success of economic development through multinational co-operation in the subregion to spare no effort in

making financial contributions or contributions in kind to designated projects in the current MULPOC Work Programme;

2. Reiterates its authorization for the Chairman of the Council of Plenipotentiaries to act in the name of all member States of the MULPOC in seeking assistance from member States or donor agencies and requests him to report to the next meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries;

3. Appeals to the Administrator of UNDP to extend UNDP assistance beyond the current programme period;

4. Requests all the United Nations Specialized Agencies to supplement the resources of the MULPOC by providing experts and carrying out studies at their own expense in implementing specific projects within their fields of competence.
