

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
(ECA/SRDC-SA) LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

MISSION REPORT

Name: **Guillermo Mangué**

Purpose: **To Participate in the First Steering Committee Meeting
on ADF-2001**

Venue: **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Dates: **6- 9 June 2001**

Program Element: **International Cooperation and Inter-Agency
Coordination and Liaison**

Lusaka, 15 June 2001

I. BACKGROUND

The Economic Commission for Africa is planning to hold the third African Development Forum (ADF-2001) this year on the theme of Regional Integration in Africa. One of the main objectives which led to the creation of the Subregional Development Centres is "to serve as mobilizer of ideas and catalyst for promoting regional cooperation and integration, to facilitate networking and information exchange among development partners and to provide a link between ECA and the development partners in the subregions."

It is within this context that the Regional Cooperation and Integration Division (RCID) in collaboration with the SRDCs Coordination Unit (SRDCs-CU) invited all the SRDCs to the First Steering Committee meeting in Addis Ababa from 6 to 9 June 2001. The Director of SRDC-SA assigned me to participate on behalf of the Centre.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the mission was to participate in a series of meetings organized by RCID and SRDCs-CU in preparation for ADF-2001. Meetings were to review the draft Concept Paper and Aide Memoir for the Forum and to seek strategies and methodologies for resource mobilization, including participants, panelists and sponsorship.

II. OUTCOME

First Meeting

The first meeting of the series was the Consultative Meeting with ECA, OAU, ADB, RECs and SRDCs, which took place on 6 June 2001. The agenda and summary record of the meeting are attached as Annex I.

On 7 June 2001, internal consultations between SRDCs and the SRDCs-CU took place. These consultations were to schedule meetings with other Departments/Divisions of ECA on 8 June 2001. A total of 6 meetings were programmed according to the agreed schedule, which is attached as Annex II. The following is the summary of those meetings.

Second Meeting

The second meeting was between the Deputy Executive Secretary (DES), the Chief RCID, representatives of SRDCs and the Chief SRDCs-CU. The Meeting was to discuss the role the SRDCs could and should play in the preparatory process of ADF 2001, whose theme is on Regional Integration.

The first half of the meeting was to exchange information among SRDCs. DES and SRDCs-CU on pertinent issues. The following was reported:

The Director **SRDC-EA** indicated that the Centre had received a technical assistance request from the Rwandan Government to help in restructuring and develop a 20/20 vision plan for the government and the Centre had contacted African Futures to undertake the assignment. He also indicated that some US\$15,000 (for DSA) would be required to begin the implementation of this request. He indicated that the Centre was also receiving technical assistance requests from regional economic communities and to satisfy these and similar requests, a global sum of about US\$ 300,000 per SRDC per annum would be needed.

The Director **SRDC-NA** presented two principal follow-up activities concerning his subregion: the Conference on HIV/AIDS and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance. He also discussed the importance of producing the Bulletin of SRDC-NA for the sub-region and the continent in general. An Investment Forum included in its work program for 2002-2003 is planned for 5-7 March 2002 with an estimated cost of US \$20- 25 million. Given the fact that Forum may coincide with the Conference of Ministers, he was advised to hold the Forum at the end of February 2002 rather than later. Resource mobilization efforts as well as the venue of the Forum were also discussed.

The OIC of **SRDC-CA** outlined the efforts that are being made to resolve relocation of SRDC-CA to a common UN building. The Deputy Executive Secretary advised that the issue of re-locating of SRDC-CA and other major RECs were still under discussions with member States, a permanent solution is yet to be taken. A meeting is previewed for Monday 11 June 2001.

For **SRDC-SA** I indicated that resource constraints impeded the Centre from editing and printing certain publications of the Centre. I also indicated that SRDC-SA's efforts at printing the bulletin and the economic report were sub-standard to those of RECs and similar organizations in the subregion. I finally

pointed out that the process of editing the major publications of the Centre mentioned above from Addis Ababa was delaying their publication.

The second half of the meeting concentrated on discussing the role the SRDCs could play in the preparation of ADF 2001 and resource mobilization at the sub-regional level.

Given, the fact that the concept paper on ADF 200 1 was not yet finalized, the Director of SRDC-EA suggest a format and content that could be taken into consideration in finalizing the concept paper. He suggested that a possible title could be "Regional Integration Response to Globalization: Moving the African Union Agenda Forward." The concept paper could basically have three main domains:

- (i) Policy Dimension, which will review (a) regional process of economic integration and globalization: moving the African Union Agenda forward; (b) policy convergence objectives; and (c) attempts at building regional markets.
- (ii) Bridging Africa Together: The integration issues to be addressed here would be physical infrastructure in the continent thereby examining (a) the infrastructural development agenda; (b) the importance of water including the river basin development; and (c) the significance of developing energy markets.
- (iii) Investments: promoting single market investments areas.

The organizational aspect proposed the setting up of a steering committee responsible for the political aspects and an organizing committee that could follow the day-to-day aspects of preparing for the Forum. Given that it is not feasible to leave the SRDC/RECs with the responsibility for identifying possible key individuals (participants) sources of funding/sponsors in the time left, RCID and the organizing committee could write letters to African organizations in the key sectors to solicit their active participation in preparing background papers and contributing to effective organization of the Forum.

With respect to the mobilization of resources and given the time constraint, it was proposed that sensitization missions be mounted by SRDC Directors/RCID/etc. to various multilateral and continental organizations in the near future to solicit data, sponsorships and resources. Some of these

institutions included: ADB, World Bank, WADA, AAEP, AFRA, PATU, ITU, River Basins Commissions (CHAD and Zambezi), SADC, COMESA, etc. Other possible sources of financing included the UNDP, the European Union, Employer Associations. It was noted that for UNDP and EU, the disbursement of resources at country level needed instructions from their respective headquarters. Cost-sharing method in which two or more institutions shared the participation costs of some participants (DSA, air tickets, etc) was also proposed.

Immediate Follow-up Actions Required

The meeting endorsed a proposal made by the Deputy Executive Secretary, who suggested the following:

- (i) ECA to develop guidelines for resource mobilization, which should be put at the disposal of SRDCs, RECs, and others for use by all partner institutions for sensitization and identification of potential sponsors;
- (ii) ECA to forward the concept paper for ADF 2001 to SRDCs and RECs as soon as it is finalized; and
- (iii) SRDCs in collaboration with RECs, to develop, for early July 2001, a database of stakeholders, on the basis of criteria to be established by ECA.

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the series was between the ECA's regional advisors (RAs), the SRDCs and the SRDCs-CU. The Chief SRDCs-CU chaired the meeting.

In his introductory remarks Mr. A. Ouedraogo, Chief SRDCs-CU, informed participants that the meeting was to look at what the RAs expected from SRDCs and vice-versa and what could be the role of the SRDCs-CU in the process. He also informed the meeting that a more comprehensive brochure on ECA Advisory Services were under preparation and would be available in the three working languages of ECA (i.e. Arabic, English and French).

Mr. Ouedraogo also informed the meeting that regional advisory services currently available at ECA included the following areas:

- Gender;
- Economic Policy Analysis;
- Promotion of Women Rights;
- Public Administration Management, Governance and Democracy;
- Environment;
- Statistics;
- Communication and Information Technology;
- Water Resources Management;
- Private Sector Development; and
- Agriculture.

The meeting noted that most countries were not aware of the different advisory services available at ECA and urged the SRDCs-CU to expedite the publication and translation of the Advisory Services brochure for its prompt dissemination throughout the Continent.

It was also noted that while RAs were at the disposal of the member States there were, however, not easily available because most of them are booked three-four months in advance. Some practical cases were mentioned (i.e. DMD missions to COMESA and Namibia and Gender mission to Namibia). In this respect it was suggested that in cases of urgent request from member States and no regional advisor was immediately available, the concerned Division could deploy a regular staff available in the Secretariat with similar expertise like the RA.

For effective planning and coordination of the RA services it was suggested that SRDCs-CU should provide the Work Program of the different SRDCs to RAs, while the latter would provide their travel plan and mission reports regularly to SRDCs through the SRDCs-CU. It was also suggested that appropriate RAs should be invited to ICE meetings in the different subregions for them to have experience on the ground.

SRDCs-CU undertook to follow up on the above issues.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting of the series was between SRDCs, ISS/Communication team, RCID, DISD, CBS and the SRDCs-CU on the project on Decentralization, Automation Process and the Continental Integrated Information Network Project (CIIN). The Chief SRDCs-CU chaired the meeting.

During the meeting a presentation was made by ECA Information and Communication Team on the new ideas to provide SRDC offices with all the necessary management tools that ECA is using at Headquarters including inventory forms, leave plans and leave request, personnel action forms, etc.

Another aspect of the project was to link ECA with major RECs directly and/or through SRDCs for information exchange through the Internet. The attached brochure gives an overall picture of the project.

The meeting suggested that ECA Communication Team should undertake needs assessment missions to major RECs to identify their requirements before any further step is taken. This would avoid ECA planing in a vacuum.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth meeting of the series was between me (SRDC-SA), the SRDCs-CU, Mrs. Beatrice Labonne, Special Advisor, DESA (Geneva) and the RA on Environment. The meeting was to discuss the Project on Sustainable Development of Tradable Commodity-based Economies. The Chief SRDCs-CU chaired the meeting. The following is the summary of the discussions:

Briefing by Mrs. Labonne

Mrs. Labonne indicated that UNCTAD has provided US\$500,000 to address the issue of natural resources (oil, gas mineral and timber) management in developing countries, especially in Africa and Latin America. The modalities for implementation included the development of networks among practitioners and academics. It is in this respect that UNCTAD developed a web site to support networks (www.natural-resources-world.) For Latin America, the process is being conducted through the strengthening of existing networks. In addition a workshop on sustainable development of mining regions was organized.

In the case of Africa, the strategy proposed is slightly different and will consist of linking Africa and Latin America for an exchange of experience and use of existing networks to develop materials for distance learning. The first phase of the training module would encompass (i) raising awareness among decision-makers about the special challenges they face; (ii) facilitating the exchange of experience on management of natural resources wealth; and (iii) assessing the capacities of governments and institutions concerned with the development of

natural resources. In this respect the modalities of implementation of the project would include the organization of an international workshop/seminar in Africa.

Remarks by SRDC-SA

I welcomed the initiative and indicated that the Centre undertook a study on cooperation in mineral resources for development, which was presented to ICE meeting in 1998. Due to lack of resources, the recommendations of the experts could not be implemented. In addition, I also indicated that the Centre had a pending output since the 1998-1999 biennium work program entitled Natural Resource Accounting and that in the absence of an expert within RCID, the planned activity had not yet been implemented. Consequently, the proposed initiative could cover both the programmed activity by the Center and the needed follow-up to the study on mineral resources in Southern Africa. This was particularly important in view of the keen interest for the subject expressed by SADC and COMESA during the ICE meeting referred to above. Regarding the organization of the workshop/seminar and in view of resource constraints I suggested the possibility of organizing two separate seminars one for English-speaking African countries and another one for French-speaking countries, if that option was more cost effective. I finally indicated that SRDC-SA could consult a number of member States in the sub-region for hosting the workshop/seminar. However, for the Centre to look into the possibility of the potential host, bearing the expanses of logistics (Conference facility for about 50 experts, local transportation and other miscellaneous local charges, etc.) a clear *Aide Memoir* for the seminar would be necessary to facilitate our consultations with SADC, COMESA or any country in the sub-region.

Remarks by SRDCs-CU

The SRDCs-CU supported the proposal for organizing a workshop/seminar in Africa and co-sponsored by ECA (SRDC-SA) and UNCTAD. The Unit was of the view that, in case the amount earmarked against the Development Account was secured, what was further required was for Mrs. Labonne to pursue her consultations with DIFID so as to obtain the funding of the gap, while ECA (SRDC-SA) would undertake to obtain the decision of hosting the seminar by one of its member States or a sub-regional institution.

Follow-up Actions Recommended

The meeting concluded with the understanding that, while the preparatory process of the workshop/seminar could start this year, the actual implementation would be in early 2002. Preparatory arrangements during 2001 would require the following:

- ECA/SRDC-SA to provide Mrs. Labonne and SRDCs-CU with a copy of the study undertaken by the Consultant, together with the comments from the ICE;
- Mrs. Labonne to send to SRDC-SA and SRDCs-CU the *Aide Memoir* for the Project submitted for funding against the Development Account;
- SRDCs-CU to prepare a draft *Aide Memoir* for the joined workshop/seminar and forward copies to Mrs. Labonne and SRDC-SA for comments and possible amendments, bearing in mind that the proposed activity will be jointly organized by ECA and UNCTAD.

The SRDCs-CU undertook to follow up on the agreed issues above.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth meeting of the series was between me (SRDC-SA), the SRDCs-CU and Ms. Hilda Tadia, Regional Advisor, Gender and Mr. J. Balogun, Regional Advisor, Public Administration Management, Governance and Democracy. The Chief SRDCs-CU chaired the meeting. The following is the summary of the discussions:

Briefing from Mr. J. Balogun

The Government of the Republic of Namibia requested ECA (sometime back) to provide an expert in governance for a brief assignment. Mr. Balogun planned to undertake the mission but he postponed it several times. Mr. Balogun had since been overbooked and was now trying to discuss with the Director

SRDC-SA as to whether the Namibian request is still valid, so that Mr. J. Ngu of SRDCs-CU could undertake the mission alone or jointly with Mr. Balogun.

Briefing from Ms. Hilda Tatria

The Namibian Gender Coordination Unit requested assistance from ECA, through SRDC-SA, in undertaking a study on Gender in Development. SRDC-SA Gender Focal Point requested the assistance of the ACW to undertake jointly the mission. The SRDC-SA and ACW gender experts were yet to agree on the date to undertake that mission. Ms. Tatria would therefore, appreciate if SRDC-SA Gender Focal Point could make the necessary arrangements to agree on the date for the mission and propose the agreed dates to the Namibia Government.

I did not take any firm position on the issues mentioned above. I however, undertook to follow them up upon my return to base. The SRDCs-CU also undertook to see into it that these two requests are made as soon as possible.

Seventh Meeting

The seventh and last meeting of the series was between Mr. Ali Todaro, Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary and me (SRDC-SA). The meeting was to brief me on the arrival of the ES in Lusaka for the OAU Council of Ministers and the Summit.

The relevant information and documents were passed over to the Director SRDC-SA for appropriate action.



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**THE THIRD AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM (ADF-2001)
A BRIEF ON INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OAU, ADB AND RECs
UNCC, 6 JUNE 2001, 3:30 – 6:00 P.M.**

Draft Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks by the Executive Secretary
2. Briefing on ADF 2001 on "Regional Integration in Africa"
3. The role of OAU, ADB and the RECs in Pre-Forum and Forum activities
 - Identification of participants/resource persons/panelists
 - Sponsorship of participants
 - Organization of special events/exhibitions, etc
 - Membership of the Steering Committee (SC)
4. Any other business



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Cabinet Office of the Executive Secretary

SRDC Coordination Unit

**. SUMMARY RECORD
OF THE
CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH THE OAU, ADB and RECs
ON
The Third African Development Forum (ADF 2001)**

(Addis Ababa, 6 June 2001)

Background

1. In tandem with the Joint Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Economic Development (Algiers, 8-10 May 2001), the Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary had consultations with Programme Managers on the preparation of the third African Development Forum (ADF 2001). On the basis of a draft Aide Memoire prepared by RCID, both substantive and organizational issues were addressed.
2. In relation to the substance, the executive management sought the views of Programme managers on how to clearly establish a focus, from the broad and elusive theme of regional integration. Suggestions were made on building the content on either a response to Globalization or paving the way for the African Union.
3. Organizational matters discussed related to the governance of the Forum, including a drastic departure from previous ADFs in terms of number of ECA sponsored participants as well as, internal arrangements for planning and monitoring progress in the process and membership and terms of reference of the Steering Committee. In spite of the very tight schedule, decision was reached that the Forum should take place as planned (period from 9-13 December 2001).
4. Among the major conclusions reached was the important role of SRDCs in the process, both in terms of substance and mobilization of stakeholders and sponsors. In this respect, the following immediate actions were expected from SRDCs:
 - (i) Propose elements of content of the theme and sub-themes of the Forum, after consultations with major RECS;

- (ii) Identify the most appropriate preparatory activities in the respective sub-regions;
- (iii) Identify those individuals and groups of constituencies whose participation will make a difference and/or who could be valuable support of follow-up activities;
- (iv) Identify possible sources of funding/sponsoring key participants, including through RECs/IGOs/NGOs and Resident Coordinator system/UNDP country offices;
- (v) Forward to the DES, within two weeks as from 9 May 2001, inputs in relation to the above;

Following the consultations in Algiers, the Deputy Executive Secretary convened the first meeting of the internal Planning Committee (Wednesday, 23 May). The meeting reviewed issues pertaining to the governance of the Forum, how to link the process with that of the preparation of the first series of ARIA and AKNAF, and preliminary budget estimates. The meeting confirmed the important role expected from SRDCs, both in respect to substance and organizational matters. It suggested that the Aide Memoire for ADF 2001, circulated by RCID, will be revised upon receipt of SRDCs' specific inputs, before it is submitted to the executive management.

The executive management took the opportunity of the participation of Chief Executives of RECs in the Fourth Meeting of the Committee of AEC Secretariat Officials to organized the consultative meeting on ADF 2001, in lieu of the previously planned meeting of the Steering Committee.

Participation

The Following institutions took part in the meeting:

OAU
ADB
COMESA
CN-SAD
ECAAS
ECOWAS
IGAD
SADC
UNDP
ECA

ECA's delegation included the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary, the Director, RCID, Directors of EA-SRDC, CA-SRDC, NA-SRDC, a representative of SA-SRDC and the Chief, SRDCs Coordination Unit.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting included the following items:

1. Welcoming remarks by the Executive Secretary
2. Briefing on ADF 2001 on "Regional Integration in Africa"
3. The role of the OAU, ADB and the RECs in Pre-Forum and Forum activities
 - Identification of participants/resource persons/panelists
 - Sponsorship of participants
 - Organization of special events/exhibitions, etc.
 - Membership of the Steering Committee
4. Any other business.

Summary-Record and Major Recommendations.

1. Introductory remarks by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary welcomed participating institutions and thanked them for responding to his invitation for collaboration on a specific issue vital to all concerned and the whole continent. He said to see this consultation as a major step for revitalizing dialogue between the joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat and the RECs.

2. The ADF Concept and Plans for ADF 2001

The Executive Secretary recalled that the idea for an African Development Forum was to bring stakeholders around a theme to obtain a consensus and a framework under which African countries could take specific actions. He also recalled that the initial idea was shared with the Chief Executives of the OAU and ADB, as well as, with a number of African Head of States.

The Executive Secretary underlined the fact ADF should not be seen as just an event but a process leading to the Forum itself and concrete follow-up activities. He noted some of the impact and encouraging follow-up activities that resulted from DAF 1999 and ADF 2000, respectively on Information technologies and HIV-AIDS.

The Executive Secretary stressed the fact that the recent developments in the African region, with particular reference to the treaty establishing the African Union, corroborate the timeliness of ADF 2001. He also informed participants that in the on-going meeting of IDA Deputies (organized in Africa for the first time) several members strongly advocate the support of infrastructures development and private sector-led regional projects. This positive attitude is a good signal for support to regional integration processes by Africa's partners.

The Executive Secretary informed partner institutions that ECA is preparing a concept paper which, will be sent to them as soon as it is finalized. He noted that the timing is very tight but there

is need to pull the process off. What is required is to agree on the right issues and the modalities for conducting the process efficiently.

All participating institutions welcomed the initiative taken by ECA, stressed the importance of follow-up processes to ADF 200, and expressed desire to be closely involved in the process. They sought clarification on whether the questionnaire sent to them is related to the preparation of the concept paper. To this question, the Executive Secretary indicated that the Questionnaire is meant to support the preparation of the Annual Report on Integration in Africa (ARIA), the first of the series being expected to form a document for ADF 2001. He pointed out that the objective for ARIA is not to re-invent the wheel but rather to draw upon existing studies and take stock of progress and best practices.

Some institutions recommended that, both for ARIA and ADF 2001, ECA should draw from thinking on regional integration that took place recently. They referred to OECD consultations in Paris (March 2001) and Panel discussion on regional cooperation and integration organized in Valencia on the margin of the ADB Annual Meeting (May 2001)

3. Respective Roles of ECA/OAU/ADB/RECs

The Executive Secretary pointed out that each ADF is different in terms of constituency and process. He also noted that the cost of previous Forums appeared to be quite high with a greatest share devoted to sponsoring participation. He stressed that this was not sustainable and there is a need to explore different ways of financing, including sponsorship arrangements by partner institutions and member States and institutions/individual stakeholders themselves. He indicated that while at this moment it is difficult to specify the respective roles of partner institutions, there is possibility to express views and broad ideas on potential participants and eminent personalities who could serve as resource persons or keynote speakers. In respect to targeted number of participants, he suggested that it should not exceed 1,000 keeping in mind the necessity to cut off the total cost.

Most of partner institutions suggested that they could embark on sensitization and mobilization of constituencies, on the basis of guidelines prepared by They also were of the view that the panel discussions and break-out sessions should address practical constraints to implementation of integration protocols. Several participants were of the view that the contribution of Africa and ECA partners (including the United Nations system and Bretton Woods institutions) should be sought. Some participants suggested to explore the possibility of financing with private sector organizations, both within and outside Africa. One participant strongly advocated that priority should be given to mobilizing resources within Africa, so as to avoid interference in Africa's internal processes.

With respect to the membership of the Steering Committee, the meeting took note that the ECA, OAU and ADB would form the core, in addition to representatives of RECs and a limited number of eminent persons who will bring the political and leadership concept.

Immediate Follow-up Actions Required

The meeting endorsed a proposal made by the Executive Secretary consisting of :

- (i) the **RECs** to identify, in collaboration with **SRDCs**, to identify, *within the next two weeks*, very senior and prominent people who could serve as speakers/resource persons;
- (ii) **ECA** to forward the concept paper for ADF 2001.
- (iii) **RECs**, in collaboration with **SRDCs**, to develop, *for early July 2001*, a data base of stakeholders, on the basis of criteria to be established by **ECA**.
- (iv) **ECA** to send guidelines for use by all partner institutions for sensitization and identification of potential sponsors.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR SRDCs		
FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 2001		
TIME		
10:00 – 11:30	Meeting of SRDCs and RCID with the Deputy Executive Secretary on ADF 2001	Conference Room (9 th Floor) ✓
12:00 – 13:00	Meeting of SRDCs with Regional Advisors on technical assistance to member States	RCID Meeting Room ✓
LUNCH BREAK		
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting of SRDCs with ISS / Communication Team / RCID / DISD / CBS on decentralization/automation process and the Continental Integrated Information Network Project (CIIN)	RCID Meeting Room ✓
16:00 – 16:30	Meeting of SRDC-SA (only) with DMD (Prof. Balogun Mutala) and ACW (Ms. Hilda Tadia) on advisory service to Namibia	Room 6S13 ✓
16:30 – 17:00	Meeting of SRDC-SA (only) with the Geneva-based DESA on forthcoming Conference on Natural Resources Management (with Regional Adviser on environment).	Room 6S13 ✓
18:30	Cabinet office ES Briefing on ES visit to Insat (COAC - Bolatere)	Cabinet office A. Tidjane ✓

Strategic Use of the Knowledge Network

- C**onnectivity of all the RECs to promote networking activities via Intranet/Extranet
 -
- F**acilitate cross-border knowledge sharing and research partnerships with key knowledge end-users.
 -
- D**evelopment of integrated databases and local content to support decision making and to link the public, private sector, and civic society to the RECs
 -
- G**enerate demand-driven research relevant to practical policy issues
 -
- R**educe cost of communication and increase personal communication
 -
- E**nhance regional identity and global presence
 -
- I**ncrease competitiveness and productivity
 -
- L**ink and participate with other existing professional knowledge networks and the regular programs of the ECA (including research, advisory services, statutory policy conferences, the ADF process, seminars, and workshops)
 -
 -
- U**pgrade of equipment and training in the use of new information and communication technologies
 -
- D**evelopment of an effective communication strategy to make known the work of RECs

THE MISSION

To Inter-link the Regional Economic Communities (REC's) to build on a sustained basis the capacity required for effective knowledge sharing communication.

THE VISION

To establish a knowledge network to enhance regional knowledge and expertise of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to achieve economies of scale via Socio-economic investment.

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Beneficiaries

Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
Sub-regional spaces
Policy Makers
Institutes of higher learning
Civic Society
Private Sector
OAU/ECA/ADB

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A Strategic Networking Initiative for the Regional Economic Communities for Africa



Continental Integrate Information Network (CIIN)

A Knowledge Networking Project

(Draft)

Linking the REC's in Africa

Project Background

Continental Integrated Information Network (CIIN) is a strategic networking initiative that aims to enhance the goal of Regional Integration and Integration, which focuses on policy issues, structure development and related services in transport and communications, trade and movement of information persons and for the utilization of minerals and natural resources in Africa as a basis for African integration and the objectives of the African Economic Community.

This is an initiative that will not only bridge the continent between Africa and the rest of the world, but will speed up the process of Africa's digital inclusion.

Project Objective

To strengthen the knowledge sharing of the Regional Economic Communities via increased indigenous knowledge networking

content development

- capacity building
- connectivity to the Internet

African policy makers, institutes of higher learning, society organizations, and the private sector.

Complementary Initiatives

This is one of the important project initiatives since Africa needs to place its unified vision and harmonized strategies through the African Information Society Initiative as a guiding frame work in which to base information communication activities in Africa.

It will not only bridge the shortcoming with existing Knowledge Networks in Africa and globally, but it will also complement and supplement other initiatives to be implemented under AISI.

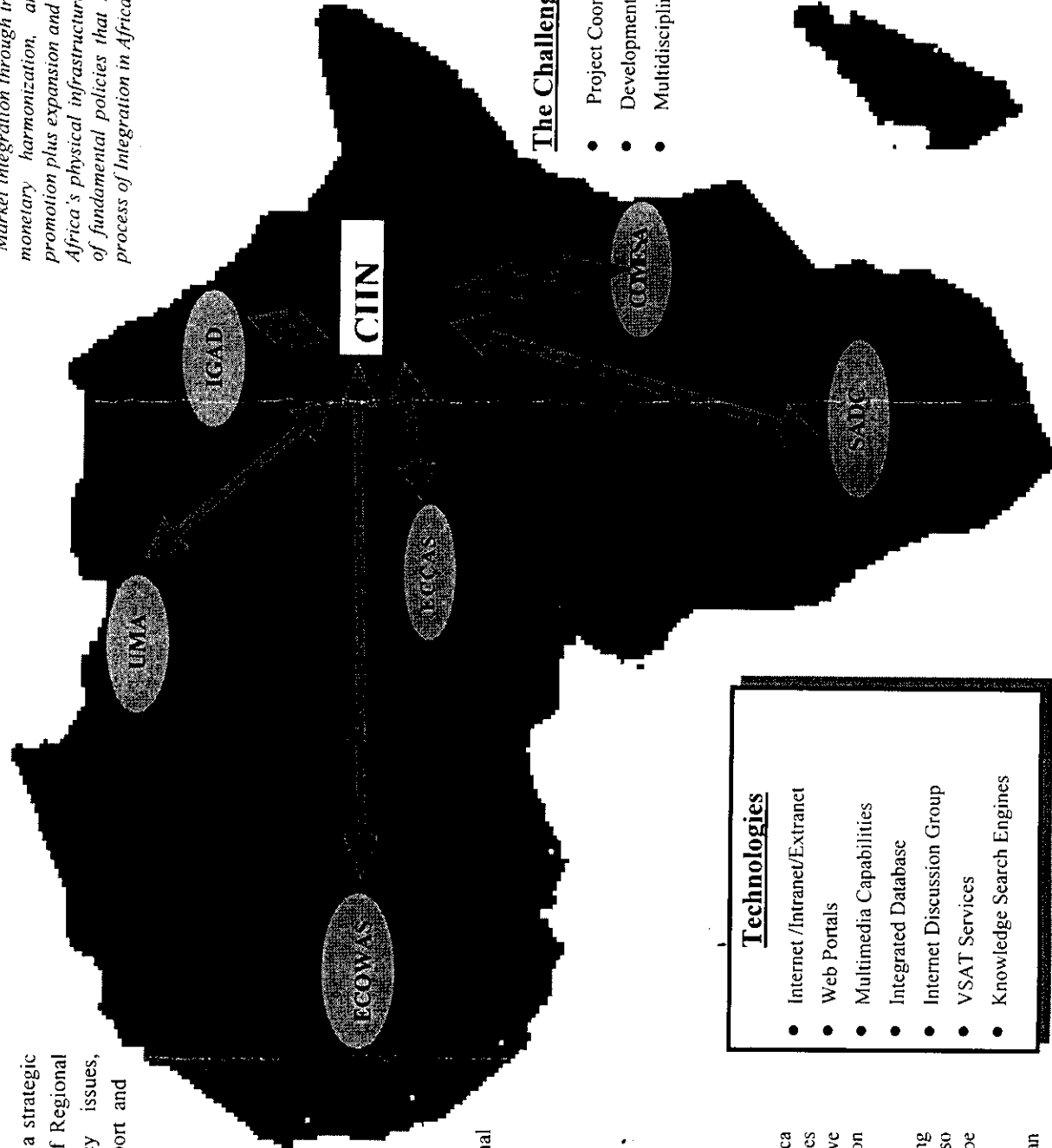
It also supports the current theme of the African Development Forum (ADF) 2001.

Continental Integrated Information Network Knowledge – Based Networking

The Successes

"Market integration through trade liberalization, monetary harmonization, and private-sector promotion plus expansion and interconnection of Africa's physical infrastructure are the two sets of fundamental policies that I believe aids the process of integration in Africa."

K. Y. Amoako



The Challenges

- Project Coordination
- Developmental Impacts
- Multidisciplinary talent pool

Technologies

- Internet /Intranet/Extranet
- Web Portals
- Multimedia Capabilities
- Integrated Database
- Internet Discussion Group
- VSAT Services
- Knowledge Search Engines