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Regional Conference of African Ministers Responsible  
for the Development and Utilization of Mineral  
and Energy Resources

**Technical Preparatory Committee**

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**PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN  
MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The decision to transform the Regional Conference on Mineral Resources Development in Africa into the Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy in order to enable it to deal with issues relating to the mining and energy sectors was taken in line with resolution 757(XXVIII) of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and nineteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 1993.
2. The resolution aimed at:
  - (a) Reducing the number of the Commission's policy and subsidiary organs by regrouping conferences around specific themes;
  - (b) Rationalizing conference and meeting programming and preparations; and
  - (c) Avoiding duplication and overlapping of meetings in order to help Governments to save on the costs of attendance.
3. The first Regional Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy was held in Accra, Ghana from 20 to 23 November 1995 and adopted two resolutions on the two sectors: (a) to promote the development and utilization of mineral resources; and (b) to promote the development and utilization of energy resources in Africa.
4. During the consideration of energy issues, the Conference of Ministers noted, among other things, that:
  - (a) The contribution of the energy sector to Africa's socio-economic development remained marginal despite its considerable energy resource endowment;
  - (b) The coordination and integration of energy activities at the subregional and regional levels was an urgent necessity;
  - (c) The role of Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other development partners was crucial to the sustainable development of energy resources;
  - (d) Reforms were underway to optimize the role of these actors in the development of the sector; and
  - (e) Energy was a crucial factor for the transformation and development of the rural areas where the majority of Africans live.
5. This document revisits the main recommendations of the Conference regarding the energy sector and activities conducted in their implementation by member States, ECA and other subregional, regional and/or international institutions. It also describes certain remarkable events that have occurred since that Conference and major trends in energy sector management and markets.

## II. THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

### Recommendations

6. The recommendations of the Conference regarding the promotion of energy resources development and utilization in Africa were grouped under four headings, namely: (a) policies and strategies; (b) private sector participation and deregulation; (c) poverty alleviation; and (d) regional cooperation and integration.
7. These were subsequently submitted to the thirty-first session of the Commission and twenty-second meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning held from 6 to

8 May 1996 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and endorsed on 8 May 1996 by that ECA policy organ in resolutions 818(XXXI) and 819(XXXI) respectively covering the mining and energy sectors.

8. The recommendations in resolution 819(XXXI) on the energy sector do not specifically call on ECA for their implementation as do some of the recommendations contained in resolution 818(XXXI) on the mining sector but refer far more to member States. Accordingly, it has been found necessary to group activities conducted by member States, ECA and other subregional, regional and international institutions in accordance with the major following themes: (a) promoting regional and subregional cooperation; (b) implementing institutional reforms in the energy sector; (c) promoting the use of new and renewable sources of energy; (d) implementing energy conservation and energy efficiency programmes; and (e) women in energy supply and utilization.

9. In those recommendations aimed at promoting regional cooperation and integration in energy matters, the Ministers invited and/or requested:

(a) Member States to:

- (i) continue to formulate and implement coherent energy strategies and policies that will enhance greater contribution of energy to socio-economic development which emphasizes regional and subregional cooperation, drawing upon the valuable experiences gained in various subregional and regional institutions;
- (ii) pursue subregional and regional cooperation and the interconnection of their energy systems whenever and wherever viable;
- (iii) promote solidarity through the development of regional cooperation, the exchange of experiences, the coordination of programmes and the exploitation of complementary energies which exist in most African subregions, together with the sharing of training facilities and technological innovation management.

(b) ECA and other African organizations to:

- (i) establish energy networks for the exchange of information on the development and utilization of energy resources in general and new and renewable energy resources in particular;
- (ii) continue the implementation of the African Energy Programme (AEP) of the African Development Bank (ADB) and to strengthen the ADB organ responsible for energy matters; and
- (iii) establish the African Energy Commission initially and provisionally as a loose body serviced jointly by existing institutional capacity in ECA, OAU, ADB and the subregional economic groupings until the time becomes opportune for the creation of the African Energy Commission.

10. In their recommendations regarding institutional reform and improved management of energy sector enterprises, including private sector participation and deregulation, the Ministers invited member States to:

(a) Initiate concrete actions which include sectoral reforms and participation of the private sector by creating the necessary conducive and enabling environment for the optimal operation of the energy sector, in order to improve efficiency, production and supply of energy; and

(b) Encourage sectoral reforms so as to allow their energy institutions greater autonomy and to make them more competitive.

11. In their recommendations regarding promotion of the use of new and renewable energy sources, in the particular case of rural electrification, the Ministers invited and/or requested member States to:

(a) Initiate, at the regional and subregional levels, the local manufacturing of turbines and generators for mini-hydropower as well as the setting up of manufacturing plants for equipment to utilize renewable energy resources in order to increase access to energy in the rural areas and achieve sustainable rural electrification programmes;

(b) Establish appropriate legal, fiscal, financial incentives and establish appropriate credit mechanisms and physical infrastructure to facilitate access to energy by low-income consumers to meet their energy needs;

(c) Establish specialized governmental agencies to handle rural electrification and increase supply of energy in cooperation with non-governmental organizations; and

(d) Develop their new and renewable energy resources for the alleviation of poverty and the increase of productive activities.

12. In their recommendations regarding programmes for rational energy use, control and efficiency, the Ministers invited member States:

(a) To formulate innovative mechanisms for providing financial assistance to small- and medium-scale energy users in the industrial and agricultural sectors in accessing energy and the related equipment and appliances; and

(b) To establish energy conservation and efficiency programmes as an important element of their energy policies and strategies.

13. Since women are major players in household energy supply and utilization, particularly in the rural areas, member States were invited to tailor their energy policies and strategies to meet the specific needs and aspirations of their populations (with particular reference to gender mainstreaming) for the economic betterment of their rural people especially.

#### Implementation activities

14. Most of the recommendations mentioned above are principally targeted at member States which have the duty of implementing them. For the 1996-1997 biennium, ECA incorporated in its work programme the monitoring of activities conducted at the national, subregional, regional and/or international levels since resolution 819(XXXI) was endorsed by its Conference of Ministers.

15. This document reviews the main initiatives taken by member States, ECA and other subregional, regional and/or international institutions in the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference by themes as mentioned earlier.<sup>1</sup>

#### Regional cooperation and integration

16. In the area of regional cooperation and integration, ECA has followed with interest the conclusion of protocols of agreement in energy cooperation among subregional economic groupings and progress with regard to the implementation of energy grid interconnection projects between member States. Mention will also be made of the proposed establishment of the African Energy Commission and the implementation of ADB's African Energy Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering of recommendations refers to the order in resolution 819(XXXI).

(i) Energy strategies and policies (recommendations 1 and 13)

17. A number of protocols of agreement in energy cooperation have been concluded by some subregional economic groupings since the Accra Conference. These are the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the East African Cooperation (EAC) grouping.

SADC protocol of cooperation

18. A protocol of agreement to cooperate in energy matters was signed by Heads of State and Government of the 12 SADC member countries on 24 August 1996 in Maseru, Lesotho.

19. The SADC member countries signatory to the protocol are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

20. In that protocol, the Heads of State and Government resolved, among other things:

(a) To take collective action in ensuring the progress and welfare of the people of the subregion through the provision of energy for the use of all the people, particularly those in the low-income bracket; and

(b) To promote the socio-economic development and economic integration of member countries with a view to achieving a high degree of self-sufficiency and sustainability in energy supply.

UEMOA energy programme

21. From 7 to 9 April 1997, the UEMOA Commission organized an expert meeting at Bamako, Mali, attended by ECA which made a contribution to the consideration of the UEMOA energy programme to be implemented within UEMOA as well as the proposed revitalization of the erstwhile Bamako Solar Energy Center (CRES).

22. This meeting was followed on 11 April 1997 by the Conference of Energy Ministers of the eight UEMOA countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo) to adopt the UEMOA energy programme.

23. The energy programme adopted by the UEMOA Council of Ministers focuses on:

(a) The preparation of a subregional energy policy including the strengthening of the institutional framework and the establishment of an integrated energy planning system;

(b) The acceleration of electricity grid interconnection;

(c) The promotion of new and renewable source of energy;

(d) The development of rural electrification;

(e) The rational use of energy;

(f) Fossil fuel and alternative fuel supply;

(g) Rationalization of fuel supplies; and

(h) Institutional capacity building for the development of electricity supply facilities and improved electrification.

**EAC energy cooperation strategies**

24. The Heads of State of the East African Cooperation member countries of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have endorsed the recommendations of the East African Subregional Cooperation Strategy for the period 1997-2000 including the energy cooperation scheme proposed by the fourth meeting of the Permanent Tripartite Commission on East African Cooperation held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania on 12 March 1996.

25. The projects approved include:

(a) Interconnection of the electricity grids of member countries, especially between Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania;

(b) Electricity supply to border areas;

(c) A study on the implementation of the electricity supply master-plan for the East African subregion; and

(d) A study on the prospects for the joint conduct of research projects and promotion of information-sharing on petroleum and gas exploration in the subregion.

(ii) Power grid interconnection projects (recommendation 5)

26. Many power grid interconnection projects (electricity, pipe lines for the transport of natural gas and petroleum products) have been identified or have reached an advanced stage of preparation. Among them are:

**The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)**

27. SAPP comprises 12 national corporations of the SADC member States, namely: ENE of Angola, BPC of Botswana, LEC of Lesotho, Escom of Malawi, EDM of Mozambique, Nam-Power of Namibia, Eskom of Southern Africa, SEB of Swaziland, Tanesco of the United Republic of Tanzania, SNEL of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), ZESCO of Zambia and ZESA of Zimbabwe.

28. Since the signing of the intergovernmental and inter-corporation agreements in 1995, projects for the development of interconnected grids and joint operation of power generation facilities have been identified. These include (a) the link between the Nam-Power grid in Namibia and the Eskom grid in South Africa; (b) the Mpanda Uncua hydropower station planned for the lower Zambezi basin below the Cabora Bassa dam; and (c) the up-grading of the electricity power lines from the Inga hydro-power stations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

29. Other power grid interconnection projects identified are:

(a) Rehabilitation of the high-tension link between the Cabora Bassa hydropower station in Mozambique and South Africa (which is nearing completion);

(b) Linking the Cabora Bassa hydropower station in Mozambique to the Zimbabwe electricity grid through a proposed 400 KV high-tension line; and

(c) The project for supplying South Africa with gas from the Pande deposit in Mozambique (currently under study).

**Grid interconnection in the UEMOA and ECOWAS member Countries**

30. Plans for the interconnection of electricity grids and the construction of gas and oil pipelines have been identified. Among those being implemented are:

- (a) The proposed interconnection of the electricity grids of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso;
- (b) The interconnection of the electricity grids of the OMVS countries (Mali, Mauritania and Senegal) to the Manantali hydropower station for which financing has been secured;
- (c) The proposed interconnection of the electricity grids of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali for which financing is being negotiated;
- (d) The completed feasibility study on the interconnection of the Burkina Faso and Ghana electric power grids;
- (e) The current negotiations on the proposed West African gas pipeline which would pass through Benin and Togo to supply Ghana with Nigerian natural gas;
- (f) Feasibility studies on the construction of a pipeline to carry petroleum products from Ghana to Burkina Faso; and
- (g) The agreement concluded between Cameroon and Chad on the construction of a pipeline for exporting petroleum from Chad.

**Power grid interconnection in the EAC space**

31. Plans for power grid interconnection within the subregion as proposed by the Tripartite Commission and approved by the three Heads of State are:

- (a) The feasibility study (financed by the European Investment Bank- EIB) on extending the Eldoret pipeline in Kenya to Kampala, Uganda; and
  - (b) The completed study (financed by ECA) on the interconnection of the power grids of KBO and CEPGL member countries.
- (v) **Establishment of the African Energy Commission**

32. As the instance of the World Energy Council, the first consultative meeting to discuss the establishment of the African Energy Commission and the prospects for cooperation between the Council and four regional and international institutions in Africa (ADB, ECA, OAU and UNEP) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 7 and 8 November 1995.

33. As a follow-up to these consultations, the World Energy Council invited ECA to its headquarters to fine-tune the modalities for cooperation with African regional energy institutions.

34. The various consultations between ECA and the World Energy Council led to the formulation of the energy programme for Africa by the Executive Meeting of the Council which met at Kusadasi, Turkey in October 1996. According to its terms of reference, the programme will run parallel to the establishment by OAU of the African Energy Commission and organize training seminars for African experts and regional meetings in collaboration with African subregional and regional institutions.

35. A consultative meeting among representatives of the joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat attended by a representative of the United Nations Department of Development Support Management Services (UN/DDSMS) and



an expert from the Energy Institute of Latin America (OLADE) was organized on 14 October 1996 at ADB Headquarters in Abidjan.

36. The representative of OAU informed participants at that meeting that his organization was updating the feasibility study on the establishment of the African Energy Commission initially prepared by ECA and would be presenting the preliminary findings to the next Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy.

(vi) **ADB's African Energy Programme (AEP)**

37. In accordance with the Accra Conference recommendation that the President of ADB should pursue the implementation of the AEP project and strengthen the ADB organ responsible for dealing with energy issues, it must be noted that action has been taken with regard to the organization of a consultative meeting on the establishment of the African Energy Commission and a training seminar held on Women and Sustainable Energy Development.

**Institutional reforms in the energy sector** (recommendations 6 and 7)

38. With regard to institutional reforms aimed at improving the management of energy-sector enterprises, including privatization and deregulation, ECA organized an ad hoc meeting of high-level experts to reflect on the issue and participated in the institutional reform seminar on the sub-Saharan electricity sector organized by the World Bank in Johannesburg, South Africa.

(a) **Ad hoc meeting of experts on guidelines for natural resources and energy development with particular emphasis on privatization and deregulation.**

39. From 14 to 16 October 1996, ECA convened a meeting of high-level experts to exchange views on conditions that will enable the private sector to contribute to natural resources and energy development in Africa and also on the legal and regulatory framework that will enable the national economy and the people concerned to benefit from the process.

40. The meeting brought together 12 experts from various sectors involved in natural resources and energy development and was attended by officials from seven countries, the OAU and ECA secretariats.

41. In the energy sector in particular, the experts sought to identify the reasons for institutional reform of the energy sector including privatization and deregulation. They found that the inadequate and inefficient energy systems in the majority of African countries were the reason why Africa had the lowest energy consumption in the world.

42. They concluded that a combination of the financial, technological and human resources that the private sector could mobilize for energy development could help to make the supply of final useful energy available for the development of industry, agriculture and services as well as for the consumption of households and institutions.

43. Most of the guidelines proposed by the group of experts with a view to privatizing and deregulating the energy sector concerned the electricity subsector which had a track record of success particularly in Côte d'Ivoire with the Compagnie Ivoirienne d'Electricité (CIE) regarding the management of this public utility and the Compagnie Ivoirienne de Production d'Electricité (CIPREL) for independent power generation.

44. In the electricity subsector, the commonest privatization methods were: (a) management privatization without transfer of ownership as in Ghana and Mali; (b) capital infrastructural and privatization as is the case of CIPREL in Côte d'Ivoire.

45. For the implementation of privatization programmes, the experts recommended that a privatization committee should be set up with membership from concerned institutions such as ministries of energy, economic planning, finance and trade, senior management and staff representatives of the enterprises to be privatized. All committee members should be selected on the basis of their technical competence and integrity.

(ii) Seminar on institutional reform of the electricity sector in sub-Saharan Africa

46. From 5 to 8 December 1995, this seminar was organized jointly by the Africa desk of the World Bank and the joint UNDP/World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

47. The seminar was also sponsored by many other institutions including the Belgian Agency for Cooperation and Development, the British Commonwealth Development Corporation and the Overseas Development Administration, Electricité de France, Electricidade de Portugal/Internel, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and KFW, the French Ministry of Cooperation and the South African Electricity Corporation (ESKOM).

48. Participants in the seminar were selected on the basis of their likelihood to initiate reforms and/or were officials from their national electricity corporations.

49. ECA was present at the seminar and made a contribution, taking advantage of the opportunity to disseminate widely the Accra Conference working paper on the privatization or deregulation of energy-sector enterprises in Africa as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Accra Conference.

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

50. In the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, ECA would have to follow closely the 1996-2005 World Solar Programme contained in the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development.

(i) The 1996-2005 World Solar Programme

51. This programme was launched at the summit of Heads of State and Government held on 16 and 17 September 1996 in Harare, Zimbabwe and will be reflected throughout the programme period in the preparation and implementation of top-priority national, regional and international projects under the authority and directives of the World Solar Commission.

52. The programme aims at demonstrating the technical feasibility, economic viability and both the social and political acceptability of some 300 high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy over the period 1996-2005.

53. The aims and objectives of the 1996-2005 World Solar Programme are:

(a) To deepen understanding of the role that renewable sources of energy can play in environmental protection, energy supply (particularly in rural and remote areas), create jobs and improve the socio-economic situation of rural people (particularly women in the developing countries); and promote greater energy independence;

(b) To foster a political, social and economic climate conducive to the development of renewable sources of energy by demonstrating the economic viability and social acceptability of such projects;

(c) To promote and harmonize cooperation with regard to education, training and research as well as the transfer of research findings to the industrial sector at the regional, interregional and international levels;

(d) To strengthen the commitment of the international community, more especially that of multilateral and bilateral donors as well as national involvement; and

(e) To build local technological and industrial capacities and encourage the creation of small-scale financing and distributing systems.

54. The 1996-2005 World Solar Programme was again discussed at the UEMOA Energy Experts meeting held in Bamako, Mali from 7 to 9 April 1997 and attended by a representative of ECA.

55. ECA will help to monitor the implementation of the programme by disseminating information on the implementation of various national projects and projects involving subregional economic groupings when it will have completed the establishment of the energy networks recommended by the Accra Conference.

(ii) UEMOA strategy for the promotion of renewable sources of energy

56. The aforementioned meeting organized by UEMOA member countries from 7 to 9 April 1997 in Bamako, Mali considered the proposed UEMOA energy programme and the community strategy for promoting renewable sources of energy as well as the plan for revitalizing CRES activities.

57. The community strategy has three main programme approaches, namely:

- (a) Human resources development strategy;
- (b) Establishment and operation of research - development centres;
- (c) Mastery of technology and promotion of industrial investment; and
- (d) Equipment repair and maintenance.

58. The idea of revitalizing CRES was accepted by all UEMOA member countries but its resumption of operational activities as a UEMOA institution would have to follow these stages:

- (a) Identification of actual capabilities of CRES and the physical state of CRES premises;
- (b) Definition of tasks assigned to CRES;
- (c) Preparation of a revitalization plan; and
- (d) Mobilization of funds for (a) and (b).

59. Since ECA was involved in formulating the UEMOA energy programme, and the community strategy for promoting renewable sources of energy, it should be involved in monitoring the implementation of the programme and the pursuit of the strategy.

Solar village construction project in Benin

60. ECA is equipping a solar village in Benin as its contribution to the implementation of the national programme for the electrification of 36 rural villages with photovoltaic solar systems.

Implementation of energy conservation and efficiency programmes

(i) UEMOA programme for the rational use of energy

61. In the community energy scheme adopted by UEMOA in April 1997, the rational use and control of energy are recognized as forming part of the energy policy objectives of the various UEMOA countries although the pursuit of those objectives have run into institutional, technical, economic and financial obstacles.

62. Proposals have been made for:

- (a) Human capacity-building;
- (b) Institutional strengthening;

- (c) The establishment of a subregional energy efficiency standard for industry, construction and transport; and
- (d) The promotion of improved stoves.

63. Since ECA was involved in the formulation of the rational-use component of the UMEOA energy programme, it could monitor the implementation of the programme and disseminate the experience of UMEOA member countries to the countries of other subregions.

(ii) Energy control programme (PRISME) of the energy institute of French-speaking countries (IEPF)

64. IEPF initiated its international programme of support to energy harnessing (PRISME) as far back as 1992 in the French-speaking countries of Africa and has succeeded in setting up a network of national implementation committees.

65. ECA is closely following the implementation of PRISME and could use its national implementation committees as a launching pad for establishing the energy networks recommended by the Accra Conference.

(iii) Energy savings bureaux (BEE)

66. As part of the PRISME programme, some countries have set up national implementation committees and energy savings bureaux to monitor activities undertaken to secure the rational use and conservation of energy.

67. ECA is following with particularly deep interest the activities conducted by the Ivorian BEEs and maintaining contact through the BEE information bulletins it regularly receives on the promotion of energy savings activities in the building and industrial sectors.

Women and energy

68. In cooperation with UN/DDSMS, ADB organized a training seminar on Women and Sustainable Energy Development at its headquarters in Abidjan from 14 to 16 October 1996.

69. The objective set by the organizers were:

(a) To promote a shift of attitude and perception towards a new approach for energy development, management and utilization in which the needs and interest of women are taken into account, their role duly recognized and their participation expanded;

(b) To identify energy technologies used mainly by women and those which could help to improve their condition;

(c) To identify ways in which the participation of women in energy development, management and utilization (with particular reference to renewable sources of energy) could be increased;

(d) To secure a better understanding of the role of women in sustainable biomass management and utilization; and

(e) To discuss the importance of financing schemes and credit mechanisms that enable women to have access to the capital for developing sustainable energy systems.

70. The training seminar was so organized that following plenary presentations and round tables, two working groups were set up to deal respectively with 'strategies and policies enabling the participation of women in energy development' and 'institution-building for training, credit financing and issues relating to laws and regulations'.

71. In the second working group, the representative of ECA presented a document on capacity-building for the energy transition in Africa: promotion of training and research centres for human resources development with regard to energy and technology development (with particular emphasis on increasing the number of women receiving scientific and technical training, an education in economics and middle-level engineering and the provision of energy extension services).

### **III. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN THE AFRICAN ENERGY SECTOR OVER THE PERIOD 1996-1997**

#### **Those occurring over the period 1996-1997**

72. Two major policy events marked the period, namely: (a) the holding in Harare, Zimbabwe on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit at which Heads of State and Government launched the 1996-2005 World Solar Programme; (b) the holding on 26 and 27 February 1997 in Dakar, Senegal of the Pan-African Energy Forum by the World Energy Council to discuss Africa's energy priorities up to the year 2020.

#### **World Solar Summit**

73. In their Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development which formed the preamble to the launching of the 1996-2005 World Solar Programme, the Heads of State and Government committed themselves to:

- (a) Working to increase the use of solar energy to boost the economic and social development of all peoples;
- (b) Working to formulate policies and effective mechanisms to speed up and facilitate the use of solar energy by eliminating duplication and bureaucratic inertia; and
- (c) Making wider use of solar energy through the mobilization of sufficient technical and financial assistance.

74. To attain these objectives, the Heads of State and Government:

- (a) Called on all nations to participate in the institution and implementation of the 1996-2005 World Solar Programme;
- (b) Invited the World Solar Commission to continue to provide high-level guidance towards the attainment of the Summit objectives;
- (c) Invited UNESCO to play a preponderant role in the implementation of the programme by working closely with competent international organizations; and
- (d) Invited the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chief Executives of the United Nations specialized agencies and programmes together with national governments, IGOs and NGOs, universities and research institutions and the private sector to participate in the implementation of the Programme.

75. Like other regional commissions, ECA will, in pursuit of this programme, monitor the activities conducted by member States and African subregional groupings.

### **Pan-African energy forum**

76. In their Dakar Declaration on Africa's Energy Priorities in the Twenty-first Century, participants affirmed:

(a) That the role of the State in electricity-sector development should be reviewed, strengthened and basically oriented towards:

(i) The organization of competition;

(ii) The institution of efficient regulatory systems; and

(iii) The use of a suitable institutional and regulatory framework.

(b) The need to pursue the institutional reforms aimed at rehabilitating and developing the sector;

(c) The need to strengthen regional and international cooperation;

(d) The need for further rationalization of the use of available funds; and

(e) The need to promote energy access for the largest number of people including those in the rural areas while considering environmental constraints and impact.

77. Some of the forum recommendations may be recalled here since they complement those formulated at the Accra Conference. They include:

(a) Strengthening regional integration and cooperation and international cooperation for the joint promotion of energy resources infrastructure, information sharing and the transfer of technology and know-how;

(b) Pursuing the reflection with a view to promoting and speeding up people's access to energy services in the rural areas under satisfactory technical and financial conditions;

(c) Institutional reforms that make it possible to speed up energy sector development and efficiency in Africa taking the specific features of each country into account;

(d) The realistic assessment of African energy needs and potential as well as the promotion of appropriate financing systems that will enable African countries to develop their resources while taking their specific economic, social and political situations into account;

(e) Maintaining and/or strengthening the indispensable role of the State in the control or regulation of public utilities so as to improve and optimize the contribution and interface of various development actors in the energy sector in Africa. On their part, the Governments should accept to pay the price of strengthening their regulatory role;

(f) The management of development sectors such as the energy sector calls for role-sharing between the State and private sector enterprises (which are essentially profit-motivated); and

(g) The long-term vision for energy security in Africa requires that it turn to the harnessing of renewable sources of energy.

### **Other events**

78. Three events of rather technical importance have occurred after the Accra Conference. These are three meetings organized by the World Bank: (a) the seminar on institutional reform in the electricity sector of sub-Saharan Africa (5-7 December 1995 in Johannesburg); (b) the training seminar on integrated risk management in the petroleum

and mining sectors of sub-Saharan Africa (17-19 June 1997 in Mauritius); and (c) the training seminar on natural gas marketing (23-26 June 1997 in Nairobi). They all demonstrate new donor priorities with regard to financing energy-sector development.

### **Major trends in the African energy sector**

79. It would be difficult to quantify the trends in the energy sector because a distinction has to be drawn between traditional commercial energies and non-traditional energies. That notwithstanding, it is possible to note such phenomena as (a) the strengthening of regional cooperation to promote the joint development of energy resources and facilities; (b) the pursuit of institutional reforms (especially in the electricity subsector); and (c) progress in the proposed development and utilization of natural gas resources in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Strengthening regional cooperation**

80. The number of energy cooperation protocols adopted by the various subregional economic groupings and the proposed interconnection of energy grids identified or being built demonstrate a positive dynamic in the strengthening of regional integration and cooperation to promote the joint development of Africa's energy resources and facilities.

81. The pursuit of projects for the interconnection of electricity grids in the SADC and UEMOA subregions together with the building of electricity networks to link the hydropower station to the grids in OMVS member countries attest to this dynamic.

### **Institutional reforms**

82. Institutional reforms have already been introduced in the electricity subsector of countries like Côte d'Ivoire which has entrusted the management of its public utility to CIE and the independent generation of electricity to CIPREL. The same is true of Mali which is delegating management authority, Ghana in the context of a delegated management contract for commercial operations and Guinea under a lease agreement.

83. Other countries plan to follow the steps of Côte d'Ivoire in liberalizing their legislation governing the electricity subsector with a view to allowing independent producers of electricity to enter the market. This is particularly true of Equatorial Guinea which has plans for private-sector establishment of thermal power stations at Malabo and Bata under build-operate-own (BOO) and build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) mechanisms. Burkina Faso has decided to authorise private producers to market the electricity generated at SONABEL.

### **Progress in natural gas exploitation and use**

84. The World Bank and ECA jointly organized a seminar on the stakes and options for the exploitation of African natural gas reserves in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 31 May to 3 June 1993. From 23 to 26 June 1997, the World Bank organized in Nairobi, Kenya a training seminar on natural gas marketing, highlighting the various uses of this fuel. This demonstrates the importance that the Bank attaches to this new source of energy.

85. The financing of natural gas development projects is not a traditional World Bank activity but the training seminar it recently organized in Mauritius on the integrated risk management of the petroleum and mining sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Bank's financing of the proposed development of the Songo-Songo gas field in the United Republic of Tanzania for more than \$US2,000 million with a risk cover component estimated at 50 per cent of the total loan amount is an encouraging sign.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

86. The implementation of the Conference recommendations was primarily targeted at member States since the energy sector is still considered one of the strategic sectors whose liberalization without State regulation would be unthinkable. For that reason, ECA has mostly monitored activities undertaken by member States, subregional institutions, IGOs, NGOs and other development partners.

87. This is what justified the theme for this second meeting of the Conference, namely the strengthening of cooperation among development partners with a view to the sustainable development and utilization of mineral resources and energy in Africa.

88. Participants will have the occasion of reporting to the Conference on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and enriching this paper prepared by the ECA secretariat.