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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eastern Africa Subregional Development Centre (EA/SRDC)

**Fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental
Committee of Experts**

26-28 May 1998
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

**WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES
FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999***

*Extracted from the ECA's Proposed Programme of Work and Priorities
for the Biennium 1998-1999 (E/ECA/CM.23/10)



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**SUBPROGRAMME: PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION**
**DIVISION : EASTERN AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (EA-SRDC)**

I. SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS

In accordance with the provisions of the Programme Budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the EA-SRDC will implement its activities.

In the framework of ECA's renewal programme, adopted by the Conference of Ministers in May 1996, Sub-Regional Development Centres (SRDCs) have a pivotal role in rendering more effective services to member States in the emerging challenges of the twenty-first century. Therefore, the Twenty Third Meeting of the Conference of Ministers decided on the creation of a new Eastern African SRDC for a better coverage of the sub-region in the context of the configuration and strategy defined by the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC).

The major objective of the Eastern African sub-regional programme is to identify major priority development areas together with the respective stakeholders in those areas and provide effective and relevant technical support with a view to promoting regional co-operation and integration.

Enhancement and strengthening of economic integration of the Eastern African subregion focused on a joint ECA/IGOs/RECs approach to the promotion of coordinated development of infrastructure in the critical areas of transport and communications problems facing the countries of the subregion; strengthening the capacities for the exploration and utilization of energy, mineral, water and other natural resources; creating the enabling environment for private sector development; participation of women in development; co-operation in agriculture and food security; economic policy reform; follow-up on implementation of UN fora on environment, human settlements and other co-operation for development priorities identified by the member States of sub-regional IGOs/RECs.

II. ROLE OF EA-SRDC IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The primary function of the EA-SRDC is to promote regional cooperation and integration by providing effective technical support to collective approaches to common development problems at the sub-regional level. In this connection, the Centre will collaborate fully with IGOs and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) which are established to spearhead economic co-operation and integration. The Centre will also facilitate networking and information sharing among the development stakeholders in the Eastern Africa sub-region; provide a link between sub-regional stakeholders and the ECA; and facilitate the dissemination of ECA policy recommendations and technical publications on regional cooperation and integration issues.

III. ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE EA-SRDC DURING THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

During the biennium 1998-1999, the following activities will be undertaken :

a) **SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL/EXPERT BODIES**

- i) **Substantive servicing of meetings**: EA-SRDC is expected organize Meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (one in 1998 and one in 1999).
- ii) **Parliamentary documentation**: Contribution to RCID parliamentary documentation on "Assessment of the viability of financial arrangements of African regional economic communities and key specialized intergovernmental organizations: Proposals for financial strengthening of RECs".
- iii) **Ad-hoc Expert Group Meetings**: The document will be prepared in 1998 and presented to the meeting in 1999 on the theme: Physical integration in East Africa: Agenda for development of infrastructures for consideration by the Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting comprising the senior national policy makers, economists, social development experts, representatives of civil society and the private sector, bilateral and multilateral agencies.
- iv) **Substantive servicing of UNTACDA-II Meeting**: EA-SRDC contribution to RCID activity on preparation of documentation on UNTACDA-II Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of UNTACDA-II programmes in the Eastern Africa sub-region: The UNTACDA-II Plan of Action, Follow-up actions of the decisions of the 11th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications (1999).

Expected impact: The relevant recommendations and strategies formulated in the different EA-SRDC outputs presented in the ICE meeting and Ad-hoc Expert meeting will serve as inputs for the policy-makers of the Eastern African sub-region in their efforts to harmonize the sub-regional and regional integration. Specifically the expected impact of each activity will be as follows :

- Intergovernmental experts of the sub-region will be sensitized and motivated regarding the vital development issues of the sub-region and would support the formulation of pragmatic sectoral policies based on their respective areas of interest.
- Enhancement of RCID-EA/SRDC collaboration in the strengthening of the implementation of the African Economic Community (AEC).
- Decision-makers and development partners would be much better informed on the physical infra-structural problems in the sub-region. More conducive environment for partnership would be established for the integration of physical infrastructure in East Africa.
- UNTACDA-II partners and stakeholders will be better informed on the status of the programme achievements.

b) **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES**

i) **Recurrent Publications:**

A Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in the Eastern Africa SRDC's sub-region (one in 1998 and one in 1999).

ii) **Eastern Africa Development Bulletin** (one in 1998 and one in 1999).

iii) **Non-Recurrent Publication:**

Elaboration of economic appraisal of selected sub-standard section of transport infrastructure in the Eastern Africa sub-region.

Expected impact: The monitoring of the socio-economic conditions would provide to the member States a regular and prospective view of the regional convergence indicators for an acceleration of the integration process. The Development Bulletin would provide and share information on current and emerging issues which are of interest to stakeholders especially sub-regional economic actors: member States, IGOs, RECs, NGOs, other development partners. There will be analyses of the major sub-regional issues related to world trade, economic and monetary concerns and or wide dissemination of the thematic studies carried out by ECA or other agencies in the UN system.

c) **INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND INTER-AGENCY CO-ORDINATION AND LIAISON**

Collaboration and co-operation with other United Nations agencies, especially UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF etc., would entail participation in relevant inter-agency meetings and working groups/committees on sub-regional programmes to enhance regional co-operation and integration. The activities and outputs in this field will be determined in consultation with COMESA, IGAD, EAC, IOC, KBO, TTA, CEPGL, ESAMRDC, ESAMI and ILRI (1998 and 1999).

Co-operation with regional institutions like the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and sub-regional IGOs/RECs on issues related to physical infrastructures, production infrastructures, agriculture, mineral resources, management, trade and investment promotion and rural development would strengthen and speed up the process of regional integration (1998 and 1999).

The following specific activities are programmed:

(i) **CO-OPERATION WITH EAST AFRICAN CO-OPERATION (EAC)**

Preparation of a working document and participation in the EAC transport sector meeting and follow up action on the following :

- Study on the Assessment of Lake Victoria ports (requested by EAC), 1998;
- Economic Study on Lake Victoria as an economic zone, 1998.

(ii) CO-OPERATION WITH IGAD

Preparation of working documents and participation in IGAD transport sector committee meeting; IGAD strategies on transport, trade and industrial sectors.

(iii) CO-OPERATION WITH UNOPS/CEPGL/KBO/TTA

Documents to be prepared: EA-SRDC contribution in the formulation of the Great Lakes Rehabilitation and Development Programme including the gender issues (1998-1999).

(iv) CO-OPERATION WITH UNDP/FAO/UNEP/ILRI/ESAMI

Eradication of water hyacinth in Eastern Africa sub-region: Organization of an Eastern Africa sub-regional conference on water hyacinth issues (1998-1999). Activity: preparation of working documents, organization and participation in the conference.

(V) CO-OPERATION WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION

Development of partnership in the industry sector, mostly in the small-scale industry.

Expected impact:

- (a) Enhancement of IGAD-IOC-EA/SRDC partnership; improvement of IGAD/IOC Secretariat and its member States' capacity building in transport, trade and industrial sectors;
- (b) Improvement and strengthening of EA-SRDC/UNOPS Great lakes Member States and RECs/IGOs partnership in the area;
- (c) EA-SRDC sub-region's decision-makers will be sensitized on the critical challenges of the hyacinth weed and the importance of collective action to eradicate it.

The organization of meetings, exchange and sharing of information and experience on the sub-regional economic co-operation and integration as well as the issues related to gender with United Nations agencies and other partners in the sub-region will ensure a common understanding and contribute to the harmonization and coordination of assistance rendered to member States, RECs, IGOs in the Eastern African sub-region.

(d) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

- (i) **Advisory services** will be provided to the countries, COMESA, IGAD, EAC, IOC, TTA, CEPGL, KBO AND NGOs of the sub-region, on their requests, in order to produce the priority outputs in the field of policy development and management of specific sub-regional integration programmes and projects including gender issues;

- (ii) **(Group training (seminars/workshops and symposia):** Facilitateing intra-East African and external trade and factor mobility public-private partnership.
- (iii) **Seminars, workshops and group training:**
- Seminar on Facilitating intra-East African External Trade and Factor Mobility: Public-Private Partnership (1999);
 - Workshop on Financial Management of Higher Institutions of Learning (1999);
 - Workshop on Capacity-Building for Administrative Decentralization; Public management Training of Local Councils (1998);
 - Workshop on Urban Development Planning and Administration (1998);
 - Workshop on Trade and Investment Promotion 1998-1999.

Expected impact: The seminar on facilitating Intra-East Africa and External Trade and Factor Mobility (public-private partnership) will enable the promotion of trade in the sub-region. It will deliberate on conventions signed in the Eastern African sub-region such as trade and customs co-operation agreements, monetary arrangements, agreements on the free movement of persons and goods and a preferential tariff agreements.

The seminar will be devoted to the familiarization of the participants with the type of interlocutors required (public-private partnership) for collaboration in order to promote the intra-East Africa and External Trade, the promotion of the capacity building for administration decentralization and strengthening of trade and investment promotion. As for the urban development planning and administration, the participants will analyze the areas related to rural-urban imbalances, urbanization problems, promotion of physical and social infra-structural development and management, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES

Gender issues include the promotion of policies, strategies and practices to enhance women's economic empowerment. It is expected that 1998-1999 will be a period of facilitating and accelerating the gender equity and the economic and social empowerment of women in Eastern Africa sub-region. The preparation and organization of seminar and workshop will be carried out in collaboration with the African Centre for Women and other partners in the field. However, there is no specific provision in the EA-SRDC 1998-1999 Programme Budget for gender-specific seminars, workshops, symposia or studies. Therefore, collaboration with the African Women Centre is expected to hammer out 1998-1999 gender mainstreaming activities to be implemented by EA-SRDC. Since gender issues are cross-cutting, they have been internalized in all the thematic areas.

EA-SRDC organized a Consultative Symposium on Strengthening Capacity for Gender Initiatives and Sub-Regional Co-operation in Eastern Africa in Arusha (Tanzania) in November 1997 in collaboration with the Government of Tanzania with the funding from GTZ, a German Foundation. UNIFEM Regional Office in Nairobi also sponsored some participants. This symposium drew up a joint action plan with a timeframe to deal with the following three sub-regional gender priority areas :

- (a) Formation of a Gender Advisory Committee (GAC)**
- (b) Initiating Modalities for Information Development and Dissemination for networking for women concerns**
- (c) Mainstreaming Gender into the programmes of sub-regional economic groupings i.e. IGOs**

The above recommendations are slated for implementation by EA-SRDC during the current biennium 1998-1999.