ECA/SRDC/SA/MR/2001/01

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REPORT OF MISSION

Staff Members:	**Robert M. Okello** **Director, ECA/SRDC-SA** **Irene B. Lomayani** **Social Affairs Officer (Gender)** **ECA/SRDC-SA**
Purpose:	**To participate at the SADC Council of Ministers Meeting**
Venue:	**Gallagher Estates, Midrand** **South Africa**
Dates:	**17 – 24 February, 2001**
Programme Category:	**IV – Technical Cooperation with Regional Economic Communities**

REPORT OF MISSION
MEETING OF SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA
19-24 FEBRUARY, 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) held its regular meeting in Midrand, South Africa, on 23 and24 February, 2001. The Council meeting was preceded, as usual, by the preparatory meetings of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials and the Finance Committee from 19-22 February, 2001.

2. The Council of Ministers usually meets twice in a year: in February and August, the latter meeting being preparatory to the Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government. The agenda for the meeting is annexed to this report.

3. Robert M. Okello, Director and Irene B. Lomayani, Social Affairs Officer (Gender) of SRDC-SA represented the Economic Commission for Africa at the meeting.

II. OUTCOME

4. The outcome of the meeting is contained in the document on Council Decisions of 24 February, 2001 (Annexed). Some of the decisions, which may be of concern or interest to ECA (relevant Division noted in brackets) are:

- **Restructuring of SADC Institutions (RCID)** - Following the transformation of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1992, the next step was to transform the institutions of SADCC in order to achieve the objectives of SADC. The Review Committee, which was established in February 2000, submitted its Report on the Review of the Operations of SADC Institutions. Council recommended the Report to Summit, which is scheduled to hold an Extra-Ordinary Session on 9 March, 2001 in Windhoek, Namibia.

- **Appointment of Executive Secretary (COES)** - No recommendation was made in this regard. However, the informal channels indicated that there were five candidates from the following countries: Angola, Lesotho, Mauritius (Acting Executive Secretary), Swaziland and

Tanzania. It is expected that the Summit might make the decision at its 9th March Session.

- **SADC/Japan Cooperation (DISD)** - A Task Force was established in June 2000 to formulate a strategy to improve overall information dissemination in the region. The programme to implement this strategy would then be submitted to the Government of Japan to funding under TICAD II arrangements. However, the Task Force was unable to develop the strategy, largely due to lack of technical capacity. Council instructed the Task Force to complete the exercise and report on progress at the next meeting of the Council in August 2001. [The Secretariat and the Chair of the Task Force later discussed with SRDC Director possibilities for technical assistance from ECA].

- **Gender and Development (ACW)** – The Council recommended to the Summit that member States should amend their constitutions to specifically provide for quotas for women in positions of decision making, if the set target of minimum 30% is to be met by 2005.

- **HIV/AIDS (ADF Secretariat)** – The Council approved a Project Document for support from the British Department for International Development (DIFD) to the SADC Regional STD/HIV/AIDS programme to be implemented in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. [ECA delegation distributed to Council copies of the ADF report - The African Consensus and Plan of Action: Leadership to Overcome HIV/AIDS].

- **Paris 21 Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes (DISD)** - A joint SADC/Paris 21 Conference was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 5-8 December, 2000. Cooperating Partners pledged to assist member States in the preparation of their information plans. A Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), to be managed by the World Bank would be set up by the Paris 21 Consortium.

- **SADC Consultative Conference 2002 (ESPD, RCID)** - The theme would be: SADC Institutional Reform for Poverty Reduction through Regional Integration.

- **SADC/EU Cooperation (ESPD)** - Council directed the Secretariat to pursue negotiations with the EU for a separate SADC RIP (Regional Indicative Programme) under the 9th EDF arrangement for implementing the Cotonou Agreement, and to prepare the requisite Regional Support Strategy (RSS) for discussion with EC.

III. CONTACTS MADE

(a) **UN Resident Coordinator, Pretoria** - The Director paid a courtesy call on the new UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Africa, Mr. John Ohiorhenuan. The discussions included:

- ECA/SRDC-SA role as a member of UNCT in South Africa - The Resident Coordinator expressed interest in working closely with ECA.
- Preparation of CCA/UNDAF for South Africa - The process is complete. Three areas have been identified for focus: Managing HIV/AIDS Pandemic; Integrated Sustainable Rural Development; Regional Integration. UNCT would welcome ECA inputs, especially with respect to issues of Regional Integration (e.g. what role of RSA in SADC and Africa region?).
- ADF 2000 National Workshop: UNCT had not yet received the communication and documents from Addis Ababa. The Director gave copies of relevant documents and emphasized the importance of the national workshops in preparation for the Abuja Summit. The Resident Coordinator promised to contact the national coordinator on HIV/AIDS to organize the workshop.

(b) **SADC Chairman of Committee of Officials** - The Director discussed with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Senior Officials of SADC possibilities of his participation in the upcoming meeting of ICE of SRDC-SA. The Chairman agreed that the ICE meeting would provide an excellent opportunity for better coordination of the activities of ECA in Southern Africa in support of SADC and promised to attend.

(c) **SADC Health Sector Coordinating Unit** - The Social Affairs Officer (Gender) held a consultative meeting with Dr. Balfour, SADC Health Sector Coordinator and Doctor Molokomme of the SADC Gender Department on consolidation of positions with regard to organizing an upcoming workshop on engendering the SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework. It was mutually agreed that:

- Engendering the SADC Strategic Framework is a facilitative measure to operationalize it and not an additional activity which would require approval by the relevant SADC body;
- SADC Health Sector Co-ordination Unit and the Gender Department have a pivotal role in the engendering of the Framework and implementation of the follow-up process;
- ECA-SRDC/SA and UNIFEM SARO are collaborating partners in the process, in particular with regard to technical support and resource mobilization.

(d) **Mining and Energy Policy Centre (MEPC)** - The Director paid a courtesy visit to MEPC in Johannesburg. MEPC is one of the collaborating

institutions of SRDC-SA. The Director of MEPC promised to participate in the upcoming ICE meeting of SRDC-SA, when further consultations will be held on future collaboration.

IV. DOCUMENTS

The following documents from the SADC meeting and UNDP Office in Pretoria are available at SRDC-SA for reference.

1. South Africa: Transformation for Human Development 2000; UNDP Human Development Report.

2. United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2002-2006, South Africa; UN Country Team, August 2000.

3. SADC Council Decisions.

4. Report of the SADC Council of Ministers on the Review of the Operations of SADC Institutions.

5. Project Submission to DFID: Southern Africa Support for Regional STD/HIV Programmes.

6. Southern African Development Community Declaration on Fireams, Ammunition and other Related Materials.

7. SADC Protocol on Legal Affairs.

8. Update on the Status of ember States Signatures, Ratification and accessions to the SADC Treaty and Protocols.

9. Report on the Activities of the Secretariat.

10. Joint Communique of the Ministerial Conference between SADC and EU, November 2000.

COUNCIL DECISIONS

MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

24 FEBRUARY 2001

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SADC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MIDRAND, SOUTH AFRICA

24 FEBRUARY 2001

COUNCIL DECISIONS

1. **RESTRUCTURING OF SADC INSTITUTIONS**

1.1 Council recalled that at its Extra-Ordinary Meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 28 November 2000, it considered and approved the Report on the Restructuring Exercise submitted by the Review Committee, subject to the incorporation of the amendments made at the same meeting.

1.2 Council noted that the amendments have been incorporated into the Final Report.

1.3 **Council recommended the Report to Summit pending finalisation of cost estimates of the new structure. In this regard, Council directed the Review Committee, assisted by the Secretariat, to prepare and circulate these estimates to Member States within a week. Council also agreed to meet in Windhoek on the eve of the Extra-Ordinary Summit scheduled for 9 March 2001 to consider these estimates.**

2. **REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Council reviewed the status of the implementation of its decisions made at the last meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 4-5 August, 2000.

2.1 **LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL**

2.1.1 **Recommendations on Livestock Census, Registration and Traceability**

2.1.2 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 1999 it approved that all SADC Countries should adopt an identification and trace-back system, to be made available to the region.

2.1.3 Council urged Member States to effect the necessary legislation in order to implement the trace-back system.

2.1.4 Council noted that Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe have effected the necessary legislation and are at various stages of implementing the trace-back

system. Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania are at an advanced stage of effecting the necessary changes in their legislation.

2.1.5 Council also noted that the remaining Member States did not attend the review meeting in April 2000 and have not responded to the Sector Coordinator's letter on the issue.

2.1.6 Council once more urged Member States to implement the trace back system.

2.2 TOURISM

2.2.1 Council noted that only Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have so far ratified the Tourism Protocol and deposited the instrument of ratification with the Secretariat.

2.2.2 Those Member States, which had not yet ratified the Protocol, have been informed of Council decision and requested to ratify the Protocol as early as possible. No response has been received from Member States.

2.2.3 In addition, at the Tourism Senior Officials meeting that took place on 9th November 2000 in Pretoria, Member States have once more been urged to speed up the process of ratification.

2.2.4 It was noted that South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zambia were at advanced state of the Protocol ratification process. Malawi has indicated that it will deposit the instruments of ratification by mid-March 2001. The DRC will initiate national consultations with stakeholders upon receipt of the French version of the Protocol.

2.2.3 Council once again urged those Member States that have not ratified the Tourism Protocol to do so urgently and deposit the instruments of ratification with the Secretariat.

2.3 REPORT ON SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

2.3.1 SADC/Japan Cooperation

2.3.2 Council noted that the issue of information exchange, including that on the TICAD II process, was discussed at the Sector Coordinators meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana, in June, 2000, where a Taskforce was established to formulate a strategy to improve overall information dissemination in the region.

2.3.3 Council had, at its last meeting, directed the Taskforce to expedite the formulation of the strategy so that the region could benefit from the US$ 15 billion pledged by the Government of Japan for the development of Information Technology in developing countries.

2.3.4 Council noted that work on the production of the Strategy is being delayed owing to difficulties in convening meetings of the Task Force.

2.3.5 Council urged the Task Force, assisted by the Secretariat, to expedite action on this important exercise and to report progress at its next meeting in August 2001.

2.4 **SADC /SCSA Zone VI Games**

2.4.1 Council noted that Lesotho has withdrawn from hosting the Games, which were scheduled to take place in January 2001, due to financial constraints. Malawi has offered to host the Games in 2003.

2.4.2 Council also noted that the Secretariat has sent invoices to all Member States, but so far no payments have been received.

2.4.3 Council reaffirmed its support for these games and urged Member States to remit the required contributions to enable the games to be held in 2003.

2.4.4 However, in view of the heavy financial burden this event will place on Member States, Council directed the SCU to explore cost effective ways of holding these games.

2.5 **Energy**

2.5.1 **SADC Energy Statistics Yearbook 1997 – 1998**

2.5.2 Council noted that only Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Swaziland and Tanzania had submitted the missing energy data of 1997. The DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Swaziland are the only countries that had submitted information for 1998. Energy data for 1999 was received from DRC, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique and Swaziland. Tanzania had difficulty in submitting data for 1998 and 1999 due to non-receipt of guidelines on the matter. Botswana was compiling 1998 and 1999 statistics.

2.5.3 Council urged the remaining Member States to submit missing data.

2.5.4 **Member States Contributions for Financial Year 2000 – 2001**

2.5.4.1 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Windhoek in August 2000, it urged Member States to remit their contributions amounting to USD 19,175.00 per Member State to the TAU, not later than 30 October 2000.

2.5.4.1 Council noted that the TAU had communicated the decision to all Member States together with invoices requesting them to remit their contributions. However, only Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Malawi and Mozambique had remitted their contributions.

2.5.5.2 In view of the fact that the Technical Unit of the SADC Energy Commission will commence operations on 1 April 2001, Council urged the remaining Member States to remit their contributions as a matter of urgency.

2.6 GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

2.6.1 **Monitoring Implementation of the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development**

2.6.1.1 Council noted that a Progress Report on the Implementation of the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development was presented to the Summit at its 2000 meeting in Windhoek. The Summit urged SADC Member States to adopt specific measures, including constitutional or legislated quotas, for ensuring that the minimum target of 30 percent of women in decision making is achieved by 2005.

2.6.1.2 In this regard, Council noted that during the year 2000, Tanzania amended its constitution to increase the quota in favour of women from 15 percent to 20 percent in national parliament and from 25 per cent to 33.3 percent at local government level. Following elections held in the same year, women constitute 21.2 percent of Members of Parliament and 33.3 percent of Local Government Councillors.

2.6.1.3 Council also noted with concern that while a few Member States have made significant progress in meeting the target, the majority appear unlikely to reach 30% minimum of women in decision making positions by 2005.

2.6.1.4 Council therefore recommended to the Summit that Member States should amend their constitutions to specifically provide for quotas for women in positions of decision making, if the set targets are to be met.

2.7 **Health Sector**

2.7.1 Council recalled that at its meeting in Windhoek in August 2000, it noted that the SADC Health Ministers have been negotiating with the British Department for International Development (DFID) since 1998 for a regional project on HIV/AIDS.

2.7.2 Council noted that negotiations have now been completed and the Project has been approved by Sectoral Ministers. The project will be implemented in four Member States, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland over a period of 5 years and will cost 7.8 million Pounds. The main areas of focus will be Syndromic STD management, condom social marketing, behaviour change and communication, Inter-country co-ordination of National AIDS Programmes (NAP) and institutional capacity building.

2.7.3 Council approved the Project Document DFID Southern Africa Support for Regional STD/HIV/AIDS Programmes.

2.8 **INDUSTRY AND TRADE**

2.8.1 **Rules of Origin**

2.8.1.1 Council noted that the amendment to Annex 1 of the SADC Protocol on Trade on Rules of Origin was adopted by Summit. Council noted that the TNF held a meeting in February to consider outstanding issues.

2.8.1.2 Council urged Trade Ministers to expedite the finalisation of all outstanding issues and submit a report at its next meeting in August 2001.

2.8.1.3 **Amendment of Protocol on Trade**

2.8.1.3.1 Council noted that the Amendment Protocol was adopted by Summit at its meeting on 7 August 2000. So far, only Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland and South Africa have deposited their Instruments of Implementation. Namibia and Tanzania have indicated that they will deposit the Instruments in February 2001, whilst Zimbabwe will do so in May 2001 respectively. In Angola and Seychelles the process of accession is underway.

2.8.1.3.2 Council urged the remaining Member States to deposit their Instruments as a matter of urgency.

2.9 **LEGAL AFFAIRS**

2.9.1 Council noted that the Draft Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport, particularly the section on Information, had been circulated to South Africa and Zimbabwe, the Member States that had raised concerns.

2.9.2 Council noted that South Africa submitted proposals for amendments.

2.9.2 Council urged other Member States that have proposals for amendments to submit these by 4th March 2001 in order that the Protocol considered by Council at its next meeting in August 2001.

2.10 **REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES**

2.10.1 **SADC Special Programmes**

2.10.1.1 **Small Arms and Light Weapons**

Council noted that a Draft SADC Declaration on Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials had been developed and circulated to Member States for consultations.

2.10.1.2 In view of the importance and urgency of the Draft SADC Declaration on Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, Council considered the Draft Declaration and recommended it for adoption by the Extra-Ordinary Summit to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, in March 2001.

3. **REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

3.1 **Status of Member State Contributions**

3.1.1 Council noted the outstanding Member State contributions of US$4,913,490. Of the total Member State contributions outstanding, 63% is owed by three members namely; Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles and Tanzania.

3.12 Council urged Member States to pay their financial contributions in full to SADC Institutions within three months from the beginning of the financial year. Accordingly, Member States should take necessary steps at the national level to ensure that payments are made within the stipulated time frame.

3.1.3 As far as arrears are concerned, Council also urged Member States to clear the outstanding amounts by 31st March 2001. Council directed institutions that once the arrears have been paid, the funds should be

transferred to the Reserve Fund and be used where possible to reduce Member States' contributions in the next financial year.

3.1.4 Council noted that Democratic Republic of Congo has submitted a request for a special dispensation with regard to their contribution to SADC, considering the internal situation. The request is to reschedule the payment of arreas so that the arrears are fully paid in eight (8) installments over a period of two years.

3.1.5 Council also noted that Seychelles has indicated that it is presently experiencing difficulties to honour its contribution to SADC. In this regard, the Seychelles delegation expressed its need for a special dispensation in paying its arrears. Seychelles presented its case for consideration.

3.1.6 Council considered the requests by DRC and Seychelles, and recommended that the matter be referred to the Summit for decision. In the meantime, Council urged the two Member States to strive to pay some of the arrears, as an indication of their commitment.

3.1.7 Council recalled that at its meeting in Windhoek, in August 2000 it directed the Finance and Investment Sector to investigate the possibility of using the Botswana currency (Pula) as a unit of account, as well as the institutional arrangements.

3.1.8 Council noted that this issue was being examined by the relevant Technical Committees under the Finance and Investment Sector and a report will be submitted to Council at its meeting in August 2001.

3.1.9 Council also noted that in order to accommodate smooth transfer of funds to SADC institutions situated in Member States other than Botswana, it is recommended that the possibility of using a SADC regional currency be explored.

3.1.10 Council therefore directed the Finance and Investment Sector to study the possibility of having a SADC regional currency and report to Council at its next meeting in August 2001.

3.1.7 **Sanctions**

3.1.7.1 Council noted that at its extra-ordinary meeting held in November 2000 in Gaborone, it recommended to Summit that a study be undertaken to establish an equitable formula for Member States contributions. On the basis of the decision of the extra ordinary Summit on this issue, a study

will be carried out and a report submitted to Council at its next meeting in August 2001.

3.1.7.2 Council recalled that at its meeting in August 1996, the Summit approved impositions of sanctions against Member States who are in arrears as follows:

(i) Suspension of the right to speak and receive documentation at SADC meetings when in arrears for two years.

(ii) Suspension of recruitment and renewal of contracts of personnel from defaulting Member States when in areas for three years.

(iii) Suspension of provision of funds for new projects in the defaulting Member States when in areas for four years.

(iv) Suspension of cooperation in the areas as defined by the Treaty when in arrears for five years.

3.1.7.3 Council recommended to Summit that the imposition of sanctions against Member States who are in arrears be amended as follows:

(i) Suspension of the right to speak and receive documentation at SADC meetings when in arrears for one year.

(ii) Suspension of recruitment and renewal of contracts of personnel from defaulting Member States when in arrears for two years.

(iii) Suspension of provision of funds for new projects in the defaulting Member States when in arrears for three years.

iv) Suspension of cooperation in the arrears as defined by the Treaty when in arrears for four years.

3.1.7.4 **Council also recommended to Summit that once a Member State is in arrears for the period stipulated above, the Secretariat should apply sanctions without further reference to Council. However, this should be subject to the Secretariat notifying the affected Member States prior to the meeting, and all Member States at the beginning of the meeting.**

3.2 **SACCAR Report**

3.2.1 **Finance and audit issues**

3.2.1.1 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Windhoek in August 2000, it directed the Sector Coordinating Unit to submit to USAID any recovered receipts and report to Council the unrecoverable amount. Council also directed the Sector Coordinating Unit with the assistance of the Secretariat to explore all possible avenues to recover US$11,097.40 relating to the impact assessment consultant, from the former management and report to Council at its next meeting.

3.2.1.2 Council noted that the Sector Coordinator consulted with the USAID on the issue and was advised that the project is closed for further claims.

3.2.1.3 Council further noted that regarding the salary increase paid to the Impact Assessment Consultant, SACCAR and the Secretariat have re-visited the SACCAR – USAID Contract and they are convinced that the contract allowed for the salary increase under the contingence for adjustment to compensation.

3.2.1.4 Council therefore approved the writing-off of the unrecoverable amount including US$11,097.40 for the Impact Assessment Consultant.

3.3 **Staff Loans**

3.3.1 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Windhoek in August 2000, it directed the Secretariat to review whether there is still need for the loan facility to staff and report on the matter to Council.

3.3.2 Council also noted the following rationale for the retention and improvement of the scheme:

(i) Not all SADC Institutions staff can easily access loan facilities at affordable rate of interest. This leaves the SADC Loan Scheme as the only source of assisting staff to procure items that need large cash out lay, whose amounts cannot normally be met from individual cash savings.

(ii) SADC conditions of service do not provide for transportation of staff to work. This necessitates staff to have own means of travel, hence the need for assistance to own vehicle. The provision of staff household furniture for regional staff was withdrawn and the Loan Facility covers for both these services.

(iii) In terms of real purchasing power, the current maximum allowance under the scheme of 25% of annual salary is too low to allow staff meaningful purchasing power.

(iv) Finally, there is need to attract and retain qualified and experienced staff and improving conditions of service through facilities such as the Loan Scheme will go a long way in ensuring that this goal is achieved.

3.3.3 In view of the need to have loan facilities, Council approved that this facility be retained.

3.3.1 **Appointment of Auditors (SPGRC)**

3.3.1.1 Council noted that a meeting between SIDA, Government of Botswana, SPGRC and the Secretariat was held on 9th November 2000 and it was agreed that SPGRC be audited by one auditor like other SADC institutions.

3.3.1.2 Council therefore reiterated its earlier decision of January 1998, in Maputo that SPGRC be audited by SADC Auditor Generals in accordance with the SADC Regulations.

3.3.2 **Staffing (SPGRC)**

3.3.2.1 Council noted that at the meeting between SIDA, Government of Botswana, SPGRC and the Secretariat held on 9th November 2000, it was agreed that there is need to strengthen SPGRC finance section. It was therefore agreed that a new position of Accounts Clerk be created pending finalisation of consultations between the NORDIC countries.

3.3.2.2 Council therefore approved the creation of an Accounts Clerk position at SPGRC for a total of US$9,500 per annum. This will increase the SPGRC budget from US693,680 to US$703,180.

3.4 **ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE 2001/2002**

Council considered the proposed estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of SADC institutions for the financial year 2001/2002 which have been extracted from the master budgets of the Institutions.

3.4.1 **Secretariat**

Council approved the expenditure budget of US 7,238,773.00 for the financial year 2001/2002.

3.4.2 **SATCC**

Council approved the Expenditure Budget of US3,736,164 for the year 2001/2002.

3.4.3 **SPGRC**

Council approved the Expenditure Budget of US$~~693,680~~ 703,180 for the financial year 2001/2002.

3.4.4 **REWU**

Council approved the expenditure budget of US$679,515 for REWU.

3.4.5 **RETOSA**

Council approved the Expenditure Budget of US$1,174,226 for RETOSA.

3.4.6 **ENERGY COMMISSION**

Council approved the Expenditure Budget of US$521,782 for the Energy Commission.

3.5 **TOTAL BUDGET FOR SADC INSTITUTIONS**

3.5.1 Council approved the total budget for the six SADC Institutions as follows:

	Member States Contributions	Grant	Others	Total
Secretariat	5,954,997	1,183,776	100,000	7,238,773
SATCC	1,848,000	1,760,494	127,670	3,736,164
SPGRC	277,472	416,208	-	~~693,680~~ 703,180
REWU	636,020	29,530	13,965	679,515
RETOSA	734,226	300,000	140,000	1,174,226
ENERGY	520,782	-	1,000	521,782
TOTAL	**9,971,497**	**3,690,008**	**382,635**	**14,044,140**

3.5.2 The contribution per Member State is US$712,250 for 2001/2002 an increase of 14% over the 2000/2001 Member State contribution which was US$622,054. The breakdown of Member States contribution per Institution is as follows:

INSTITUTION	TOTAL		PER MEMBER STATE	
	Member State Contributions 2000/2001	Member State Contributions 2000/2002	Contributions Per Member State 2000/2001	Contributions Per Member State 2000/2002
Secretariat	5,035,607	5,954,997	359,686	425,357
SATCC	1,806,004	1,848,000	129,000	132,000
SPGRC	244,847	277,472	17,489	19,819
REWU	524,625	636,020	37,474	45,430
RETOSA	829,220	734,226	59,230	52,445
ENERGY	268,450	520,762	19,175	37,199
TOTAL	**8,708,753**	**9,971,497**	**622,054**	**712,250**

3.5.3 **In view of the approval of the establishment of the three positions at the Secretariat and one at SPGRC, Council noted that the contribution per Member State has increased from USD712, 250 to USD 717, 150.**

3.5.4 **Outlook Paper for Budget**

3.5.4.1 Council directed the Secretariat and Institutions to submit to the Finance Sub-Committee an Outlook Paper setting guidelines for the SADC Budget. The paper should give a background of Member States economies as well as global revenue resources for a period of three years. This will provide a framework for the budget so that Budget Expenditure is based on set ceilings, showing the consequences of exceeding the budgeted amount. In this way, the organisation will be assisted to sustain its forecasted expenditure and streamline expenditure to focus on priority areas.

3.5.4.2 Council further directed the Secretariat and Institutions that the Outlook Paper be submitted every August so that issues are taken into account for the on-coming financial year.

3.6 **AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

3.6.1 **Secretariat**

3.6.1.1 Council considered the audited financial statements and management reports for the period ending 31 March 2000.

3.6.1.2 Council noted that the auditors observation that there has been tremendous increase in the volume of transactions such that the support services departments are unable to cope with the work load.

3.6.1.3 Council further noted that in the past few years, SADC Secretariat has attracted considerable amounts of funding from cooperating partners. The additional funding has resulted in an increased workload for administration and finance. However the increase in funding has not been matched with a corresponding increase in the support services needed in terms of administration and finance.

3.6.1.4 Council therefore approved 2 additional positions in these departments at Assistant Officer level, **at a cost of USD38,400**.

3.6.1.5 Council directed that in future, the Institutions should analyse and compare the actual expenditure with the budget.

3.6.1.6 Council noted the clean certificate from the External Auditors.

3.6.1.7 Council therefore approved the accounts.

3.6.2 **SATCC**

a) Council considered the Management Report of SATCC for the period ending 31 March 2000.

b) Council noted the clean Certificate from the External Auditors.

c) Council therefore approved the accounts

3.6.3 **SPGRC**

a) Council considered the Management Report of SPGRC for the period ending 31st December 1999.

b) Council noted the clean Certificate from the External Auditors.

c) Council therefore approved the accounts.

3.6.9 **REWU**

a) Council considered the audited financial statements and management reports for the period ending 31 March 2000.

b) Council noted the clean Certificate from the External Auditors.

c) Council therefore approved the accounts.

3.6.10 **RETOSA**

a) Council considered the audited financial statements and management reports of RETOSA for the period ending 31 March 2000.

b) Council noted the clean Certificate from the external auditors.

c) Council therefore approved the accounts.

3.7 **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

3.7.1 Council noted that in accordance with the SADC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations DRC, Mozambique and Namibia should have constituted the next audit team for SADC institutions. Despite the fact that this was DRC's turn to be included in the audit team, DRC expressed her wish to be included in the next term due to her internal situation.

3.7.2 Council therefore approved that DRC be included in the next panel of the audit team.

3.7.3 Council appointed the Auditor General offices of Mozambique, Namibia and Seychelles as auditors for SADC Institutions for the financial years 2000/2001 to 2002/2003, subject to annual renewal.

3.8 **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

3.8.1 Council noted that some institutions and their staff experience problems related to tax and/or duty exemptions as provided for in the SADC Treaty.

3.8.2 Council urged all Member States to finalise host government agreements with the SADC Institutions they are hosting and to fully

3.8 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

a) Council recalled that at its meeting in Mbabane Swaziland in February 2000, it amended the financial regulations to include the provision that Internal Audit submit reports on audits undertaken to the Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee.

b) Council noted the Internal Audit Report on the operations of SADC Institutions for the period March to September 2000.

c) Council directed the SADC Institutions to fully address the issues raised by Internal Audit in particular to ensure:

(i) Full compliance with and standard application of SADC Regulations and that where they have problems related to the application of regulations they should seek advise from the Executive Secretary before hand.;

(ii) The Accounting Software System be standardised in all SADC institutions and that the adopted system be comprehensive, fully integrated, multi currency and the accounts be maintained in US Dollar;

(iii) Appropriate Fixed Assets Registers are in place by the end of this financial year;

(iv) Sound records management systems are in place by the end of this financial year;

(v) Staff and assets are insured;

(vi) Long outstanding debts are cleared by the end of this financial year; and

(vii) Final accounts for the 2000/1 year and subsequent years are finalised within the set time period.

implement the provisions of such host government agreements in line with the SADC Treaty.

3.8.3 Council noted that the External Auditors have recommended that internal audit be strengthened in order to cope with the workload as it is currently staffed by one officer.

3.8.4 Council approved the creation of the position of Assistant Internal Auditor at a cost of US19,700 per annum in order to strengthen the Internal Audit. This will increase the Secretariat's budget from US$7,238,773 to US$7,258.473.

3.8.4.1 **Budget Proposal for Wildlife Sector**

a) Council noted the proposed budget from the Wildlife Sector for a workshop and a consultancy. The workshop will:

(i) develop a plan that will set out objectives, strategies, priority activities and timeframe budgetary requirements;

(ii) agree on monitoring mechanisms of the protocol and

(iii) identify and prioritise the constraints in the implementation of the protocol.

b) Council noted that the costs of the consultancy (US$68,900) will be funded by the Belgium Government. The workshop costs (US$119,500) is being submitted for funding by Member States.

c) Council approved the project in principle and that it be implemented in two phases. Phase I, which is a study by consultants, to be funded by Belgium and be implemented this financial year (2001-2002) and Phase 2- the workshop, to be funded by Member States and be implemented during the next financial year (2002 – 2003).

3.8.4.2 **Budget Proposal for Tourism Sector**

3.8.4.2.1 Council noted that the Tourism Sector submitted two projects, Regional Training Course on Tourism Statistics and a Study in Training of Trainers in the Travel and Tourism Sector for the SADC region. The total cost for the two projects is US$90,000.

3.8.4.2.2 Council noted that due to the high increase in the overall SADC Budget (14%) alternative funding should be sought.

3.8.4.2.3 Council directed the Secretariat to continue seeking funding from International Cooperating Partners.

3.8.5 **SPGRC BRIDGING FINANCES**

3.8.5.1 Council noted that SPGRC is experiencing cash flow problems due to late payment of contributions by Member States amounting to US$140, 000. Currently the institution has a bank over draft of US$30,000 at an interest rate of 15% per annum and that beyond February, 2001 the institution may not be able to finance its activities including personal emoluments. Council further noted that SPGRC urgently requires bridging finances amounting to US$210,000.

3.8.5.2 Council also noted that the institution anticipates cash inflow of US$300,000 in May 2001 of which US$227,000 is from Donors and US$ 73,000 from Member States.

3.8.5.3 Council noted that despite the requirement under 5.7.4.2, the Secretariat is only able to advance SPGRC US$50,000.

3.8.5.4 Council directed the Secretariat to advance SPGRC US$50,000 as bridging finance whilst awaiting payments of contributions from Member States.

3.8.5.5 Council further approved that SPGRC uses US$20,000 from its Reserve Fund.

3.8.5.6 Council directed SPGRC to repay the advances from its Reserve Fund and the Secretariat once the arrears have been paid.

4. **STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOLS**

4.1 Council noted the status of ratification of Protocols as follows:

a) The **Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of Angola, DRC and Seychelles.

b) The **Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses** **<u>has been ratified only by Botswana</u>**. The DRC has not yet signed the Protocol.

c) The **Protocol on Energy** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of DRC, Mozambique and Seychelles.

d) The **Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of DRC and Seychelles.

e) The **Protocol on Combating Illicit Drugs** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of Angola, DRC and Seychelles.

f) The **Protocol on Trade** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of Angola, DRC and Seychelles.

g) With regard to the **Amendment Protocol on Trade**, only Botswana, Lesotho, **Malawi,** Mauritius, South Africa and Swaziland have deposited their Instruments of Implementation with the Secretariat.

h) The **Protocol on Education and Training** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of Angola, DRC, Mozambique and Seychelles.

i) The **Protocol on Mining** has been ratified by all Member States with the exception of Angola, DRC, Seychelles and Swaziland.

j) The **Protocol on the Development of Tourism** has been ratified by Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

k) The **Protocol on Health** has been ratified by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa.

l) The **Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement** has been ratified by Botswana, Mauritius and Namibia only.

m) The **Protocol on Legal Affairs** has not yet been ratified by any Member State. Botswana and the DRC have not yet signed the Protocol.

n) The SADC Protocol on Tribunal and the Rules of Procedure has not yet been ratified by any Member State. Botswana and DRC are have not signed it.

o) The SADC Protocol on Immunities and Privileges has been ratified or acceded to by all Member States.

4.2 Council urged those Member States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to any of the above Protocols to do so as a matter of urgency.

4.3 Council also noted that the **Charter of the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA)** has been signed by all Member States with the exception of the DRC and Seychelles.

4.4 Council further noted that the **Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM)** has been signed by all Member States with the exception of Angola, the DRC, Seychelles and Swaziland.

4.5 Council urged all Member States that have not yet signed the above two legal instruments to do so as a matter of urgency.

4.6 Council directed the Secretariat to provide the French version of all Protocols and other legal documents to the DRC to facilitate signature, ratification or accession.

5. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

5.1 MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

5.1.1 SADC/Paris 21 Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes

5.1.1.1 Council noted that a Joint SADC/PARIS 21(Partnership In Statistics for the 21st Century) Consortium Conference on Poverty Reduction Strategies for SADC countries was held in Lusaka, Zambia on 5–8 December 2000. The Conference focused on the information gaps between the supply and demand of the statistical data and strategies for addressing the problem. In this regard, new technical tools for poverty analysis and monitoring as well as Action Plans for member States and SADC were discussed.

5.1.1.2 Council noted that Cooperating Partners pledged to assist Member States in the preparation of their information plans and the strengthening of the Secretariat under the new Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) set up by the PARIS21 Consortium and managed by the World Bank.

5.1.1.3 Council directed the Secretariat to follow up on the above pledge.

5.2 RELATIONS WITH CO-OPERATING PARTNERS

5.2.1 SADC-UNESCO Co-operation

5.2.1.1 Council noted that a SADC Delegation visited Paris, from 27 – 29 September, 2000. The purpose of the visit was to review SADC/UNESCO Cooperation particularly the SADC/UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 1996.

5.2.1.2 Council also noted that the two Organisations reviewed the MOU and made some amendments. The two sides also proposed that the revised MOU, be called "Agreement of Co-operation", which has been circulated to Member States for their comments and inputs.

5.2.1.3 Council further noted that during sessions various activities were agreed upon in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Education, Culture, Information and Communication, Natural and Social Sciences.

5.2.1.4 Council directed the Secretariat, in close consultation with the relevant Sector Co-ordinators and the Paris based Committee of SADC Ambassadors, to follow up on the agreed activities.

5.2.2 China/Africa Co-operation Forum

5.2.2.1 Council recalled that at its meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, it noted that the China/Africa Ministerial Conference will take place in Beijing from 10-12 October, 2000. Council also recalled that at the same meeting it established a Task Force composed of the SADC Troika, Zimbabwe and Mauritius to develop a Position Paper in close consultation with the SADC Ambassadors in Beijing which would be discussed by Senior Officials and Ministers prior to the Conference.

5.2.2.2 Council noted that the SADC Secretariat worked closely with the OAU Secretariat, the Task Force and SADC Ambassadors in Beijing in producing a SADC Position Paper which was incorporated into the Forum Documents.

5.2.2.3 The Forum was attended by 44 African countries at Ministerial level, while some countries were invited as observers and hence did not attend. The Forum reviewed cooperation between China and African countries in the social and economic spheres and expressed satisfaction with the results of this cooperation. It also explored new forms of cooperation, particularly cooperation between enterprises of the two sides.

5.2.2.4 The two sides agreed to establish mechanisms for joint follow-up actions for the implementation of the Programme. They also agreed to hold review meetings at three levels. Ministers will meet in 2003, while of senior officials will hold their meeting 2002 and Ambassadors resident in China will be meeting on a regular basis.

5.2.2.5 Council directed the Secretariat to undertake follow-up action in close collaboration with the OAU Secretariat and the SADC Ambassadors based in Beijing.

6. PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2002 CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE

6.1 Council recalled that at its Meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, in August 2000, it approved that :

a) the next SADC Consultative Conference should be held in 2002;

b) in future, Consultative Conferences should be organised as stand alone activities.

c) the Consultative Conference should be organised around a specific theme, but the preparation of a theme document should be discontinued;

d) the theme for the next Consultative Conference should be chosen not later than at the Council of Ministers' meeting of February 2001.

6.2 Accordingly, Council considered and approved the following:

a) That the 2002 Consultative Conference be held in October 2002 in a Member State chosen by Council.

b) That the theme of the 2002 Consultative Conference be **SADC Institutional Reform for Poverty Reduction Through Regional Integration.**

7. SADC/EU COOPERATION

7.1 The Regional Indicative Programme

7.1.1 Council recalled that at its meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2000, it urged Member States to adhere to the new deadlines for regional EDF funded projects agreed upon at the SADC EC Annual Review meeting in Swaziland in February 2000.

7.1.2 Council noted that the agreed deadlines are not being adhered to. The Secretariat has written all Member States and reminded them of the decision.

7.1.3 Council also noted that under the 8th EDF, 13 projects have now been approved. Of the approved projects, six have been in the pipeline for more than 4 years and new deadlines have once again passed. It is thus necessary to consider reallocation of funds to new projects. Council noted that a total 45 projects (6th EDF 8, 7th EDF 24, 8th EDF 13) remain open, 12 of which should be closed.

7.1.4 Council mandated the Secretariat, Sector Coordinators and the concerned Member States to review the project pipe line in the context of the new programming exercise and consider reallocation of funds.

7.1.5 Council once again urged Member States to close all completed projects so that unutilised funds can be reallocated. To this end, a progress report should be submitted to Council at its next meeting.

7.2 **The Cotonou Agreement**

7.2.1 Council noted that the Secretariat is pursuing negotiations for a SADC RIP under the 9th EDF as mandated in Windhoek, Namibia, in August 2000. In this regard the Secretariat was part of a SADC delegation that visited Brussels in September to discuss SADC/EC Cooperation under the Cotonou Agreement. In December 2000, the Secretariat also participated in a meeting of ACP countries that discussed the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement.

7.2.2 Council also noted that one of the outstanding issues is to reach agreement on the nature of the Programme. In this regard, three options have emerged as follows:

a) A separate RIP for SADC, taking into account the need to cooperate closer with other Regional Organisations in particular COMESA, and possibly joint projects as in the past. The advantage would be that SADC would maintain its particular development relationship with the EU. There is also a high degree of autonomy that comes with a separate RIP. The disadvantage is that it would be difficult to ensure the necessary level of cooperation amongst the regional organisations in Eastern and Southern Africa, in particular in Trade and Finance;

b) A mega programme for Eastern and Southern Africa with numerous RAOs. The advantage would be that Regional Organisations would be forced to work closely together and agree on common projects and programmes. The disadvantages would be substantial because of the inevitably complex structures and committees that would have to be created for planning, implementation and monitoring.

c) A large overall RIP with sub-programmes, with clearly identified areas of common interest where joint programming will take place. This compromise would ensure the necessary and closer cooperation first and foremost in Trade and Finance as in fact recent developments have already obliged the relevant organizations to do, without jeopardising the autonomy in other areas. The disadvantage is that there is no clarity as yet on the operational set up and implementation of such a programme.

7.2.3 Council further noted that the Secretariat is continuing discussions with the other relevant organisations in order to arrive at a workable solution. However, as mandated by its Council, COMESA has accepted the concept of a big RIP as presented under option b) but are very interested in persuing a workable solution as presented in option c). Council also noted that the Secretariat will develop the required Regional Support Strategy (RSS), which will be the basis of the RIP.

7.2.4 Council re-affirmed its earlier decision and directed the Secretariat to continue negotiations for a separate SADC RIP. For the deadline to be met, Council mandated the Secretariat in consultation with relevant sectors, and SADC Ambassadors in Brussels to prepare the RSS for discussion with the EC.

8. SADC SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

8.1 Disaster Management

8.1.1 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia August 2000, it approved the establishment of a SADC Disaster Management Centre on an incremental basis and that the coordination should be based at the Secretariat until the full-fledged Centre was operational.

8.1.2 Council also recalled that at the same meeting it approved the creation of a SADC Steering Committee on Disaster Management, comprising Directors of Disaster Management Agencies in Member States. Council also directed that the Committee should develop a Multi-Sectoral Disaster Strategy for the region with inputs from relevant SADC Sectors and other stakeholders.

8.1.3 Council noted that the Steering Committee held its first meeting and a technical planning seminar in December 2000 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The Steering Committee made recommendations relating to the creation of an Interim SADC Disaster Management Mechanism including its terms of reference, structure and operational modalities.

8.1.3 Council directed the Steering Committee and the Secretariat to continue consultations with relevant stakeholders on the structure and operational modalities of the Disaster Management Mechanism.

8.1.4 Council also directed the Secretariat to submit the proposed structure and operational modalities of the Disaster Management Mechanism as well as a Multi-Sectoral Disaster Strategy for its consideration at the next meeting to be held in August 2001.

8.2 **Landmine Victims Assistance**

8.2.1 Council recalled that at its meeting held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 1999, it created a SADC Mine Action Committee to develop and oversee mine action policies and programmes in the region.

8.2.2 Council noted that currently the Committee focuses its work on the implementation of the SADC EC funded demining project; and landmine victim's policies and programmes.

8.2.3 Council also noted that the Mine Action Committee has developed an Indicative Strategic Plan of Action for Landmine Victims' Assistance. The Plan is intended to provide indicative guidelines for use by Member States and other stakeholders.

8.2.4 Council approved the Strategic Indicative Plan of Action for the Assistance of Victims of Anti-Personnel Landmines.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 **World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance**

9.1.1 Council noted that in spite of the positive strides that have generally been made in terms of the development of human rights globally, incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance appear to be on the rise globally, including the incitement of racial and religious prejudice and the concomitant violence which often accompanies these manifestations.

9.1.2 It is against this background that in 1997 the United Nations General Assembly decided to hold the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). This Conference will be held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001.

9.1.3 Council noted that preparatory meetings and activities for this Conference have been going on at various levels. However, there has been poor attendance in these meetings by SADC Member States. It has now become urgent for SADC to become active in these meetings. It is also important that the region's experiences on issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerances should inform the deliberations at the WCAR. SADC's participation will also ensure that the sub-region's concerns are properly reflected in the final outcome documents of the conference. In this regard, SADC needs to develop a common position on key issues of the Conference.

9.1.4 To facilitate this process, Council approved the establishment of a Committee made up of the Troika plus South Africa (as convener), and assisted by the Secretariat as appropriate.

9.2 **CHOLERA IN SADC – 2000/2001 SEASON**

Council considered the Note (SADC/CM/1/2001/11.3), on cholera submitted by the Government of South Africa.

9.2.1 Council noted that the Southern African region has once again been hit by a major cholera epidemic, with loss of life. Country reports indicate that Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are affected. By 9 February 2001 a total of 52 549 cases and 352 deaths had been reported for the 2000/2001 season.

9.2.2 Council noted that, as a response to the cholera epidemic currently affecting the region, SADC Health Ministers held a telephone conference on 25 January 2001. The Health Ministers resolved to strengthen collaboration with other ministries responsible for the provision of safe water and sanitation, as, in the long term, this would solve the problem of water-borne diseases, including cholera. Ministers urged SADC governments to invest in social programmes that will lead to a better state of health of the citizens of the region, by improving access to these basic services.

9.2.3 Council noted that Member States have instituted various measures to try and curb the epidemic. All countries have increased their health education drives, focusing on risk reduction. The SADC HSCU has established an electronic link for SADC surveillance managers to share information on the status of cholera in their countries.

9.2.4 Council urged Member States to strengthen collaboration at a national level between sectors responsible for health and those responsible for provision of safe water and sanitation, and further encourage collaboration between the SADC Health and Water Sectors.

9.2.5 Council also urged SADC governments to invest in social programmes that will lead to a better state of health of the citizens of the region, by improving access to these basic services.

9.3 WTO MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

9.3.1 Council noted that member countries of the WTO agreed at the WTO Council Meeting last year to proceed with the negotiations on agriculture. At this meeting, it was also agreed that these negotiations would be conducted in the Committee on Agriculture, taking place in special sessions in Geneva.

9.3.2 Council also noted that the first Special Session on agriculture took place early last year. The Session agreed on a two-phased programme. The first phase, which was launched in April 2000, was for stock taking of the issues proposed for negotiations. This phase will close with a meeting in March 2001 and thereafter, the second phase will start, involving actual negotiations among member countries. These negotiations will center mainly on market access, domestic support, export subsidies, non-trade concerns, and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

9.3.3 Council further noted that a workshop on Follow-up to the Uruguay Round and Multilateral Trade Negotiations on Agriculture held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 8th to 12th January 2001, recommended that a regional meeting be organized to take stock of the issues and coordinate SADC positions before actual negotiations commence.

9.3.4 In view of the urgency of this matter, Council urged the Chairperson of the SADC Ministers of Trade, supported by the Chairperson of the SADC Ministers' of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) and the SADC Secretariat, to urgently call for a Ministers' meeting of all Member States to review issues for negotiations on Agriculture with a view to coordinating SADC positions where possible.

9.3.5 Council also urged Member States that have not yet submitted written proposals to WTO indicating issues for negotiations to do so before April 2001 in order to actively participate in the negotiations, and derive maximum benefits from the WTO Agreement on Agriculture.

9.4 FACILITATION OF ENTRY OF SADC OFFICIALS INTO SADC MEMBER STATES

9.4.1 SADC Laissez Passer

9.4.1.1 Council recalled that the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges was signed by all SADC Member States on 17th August 1992, in Windhoek, Namibia. The Protocol entered into force on September 30, 1993, following accession and/or ratification by all Member States.

9.4.1.2 Council also recalled that Article 8 of the Protocol provides for the issuance of a SADC Laissez Passer to the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary and such other officials as the Executive Secretary shall specify. The same article provides that holders of the SADC Laissez Passer shall have visa-free entry into the territory of all SADC Member States.

9.4.1.3 Council further recalled that the SADC Laissez Passer was first issued to officials of SADC institutions in 1997. In response to difficulties that were experienced by SADC Sector Coordinators, Council approved at its meeting held in Mauritius in September 1998, that the Laissez-Passer be issued to all Sector Coordinators. In order to facilitate their travel in the region, Council further extended the issuing of the Laissez-Passer to Deputy Sector Coordinators, at its meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, in August 2000.

9.4.1.4 Council noted that despite these decisions, some SADC Member States still require some officials in possession of the SADC Laissez Passer to obtain entry visas prior to entering their territories. This has delayed the timely and smooth conduct of SADC business.

9.4.1.5 Council therefore urged Member States to comply with Article 8 of the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges, as well as the above decisions, by allowing visa-free entry for officials in possession of the SADC Laissez Passer. Accordingly, Member States should undertake internal consultations and report to the next Council meeting on the legal, administrative and other steps they have taken to comply with Article 8 of the Protocol.

9.4.2 **Entry by other SADC Officials**

9.4.2.1 Council noted that it has been observed that officials from some SADC Member States have experienced difficulties entering the territory of other SADC Member States, who host meetings or other SADC events. Such officials are required to obtain visas prior to entering the territory of the hosting member state. This has caused inconvenience to such officers, especially where their country does not have an Embassy or High Commission in the hosting country or the hosting country does not have an Embassy or High Commission in their country.

9.4.2.2 Council further noted that it would be conducive to the smooth conduct of SADC meetings, and be in the interest of the community, for Member States to allow officials who are attending SADC meetings and other events, to have easier entry into their territory.

9.4.2.3 Council urged member States to take steps to ensure that officials attending SADC meetings and other SADC events are allowed visa-free entry into their territory. In the meantime, Council urged member States hosting SADC events to ensure that visas are issued to officials at the port of entry.

9.5 **Venue for the January/ February 2002 Council Meeting**

Council accepted the offer by Tanzania to host the January/February 2002 Council Meeting.