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MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND  
OPERATIONAL CENTRE (MULPOC) FOR  
WEST AFRICA

NIAMEY-BASED MULPOC ASSISTANCE  
TO WEST AFRICAN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WASRDC/98/041

**A - INTRODUCTION**

1. Since the Banjul meeting in 1982, Niamey-MULPOC has provided assistance to Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in their cooperation effort to harmonize their work programme and better serve their member States.
2. In fact, the fifth meeting of MULPOC Council of Ministers held in Banjul (The Gambia) in its resolution 10 decided that MULPOC assists IGOs in several fields. That assistance was to include technical support, the organization of seminars and workshops and the publication of bulletins.
3. That requirement was met for several years. However, given financial difficulties, its contents was modified with the reduction of MULPOC activities but the principle is still in force.
4. In line with that requirement, confirmed by the adoption in 1995 in Cotonou of MULPOC work programme for the biennial period 1996/1997, a certain number of assignments concerning IGOs activities were given to MULPOC - Niamey in order to assist these organizations to face the economic difficulties that the subregion is undergoing.
5. It is generally admitted today that the fragility of member States' economies affected by the economic crisis and the consequences of structural adjustment measures, drought, desertification and erosion hinder the good functioning of IGOs to the point that countries, financial partners and even donors have some doubt on the usefulness of certain IGOs.
6. The Countries in particular are seeking ways and means to reduce their contribution in the budget of IGOs. To that effect, they are trying to disengage themselves from these institutions that they have created or to reduce their number through a rationalization process presently under way in the subregion under the aegis of the States and ECOWAS/IDEP.
7. Consequently, an important meeting STATES/IGOs was held in Ghana from 19 to 22 September 1994. It confirmed, after some amendments, the conclusions and recommendations of an ECOWAS specific study on the issue of rationalization.
8. The ACCRA meeting made proposals on restructuration and linking mechanisms between IGOs so that in the long term ECOWAS remains the unique integration organization for the creation of the African Economic Community.

9. That meeting elaborated a scheme for the implementation of the rationalization action that will go from October 1994 to December 2005. To that effect, it pointed out the required major actions and the principal actors involved.

10. The pursuit of that exercise is expected to be achieved in 1997.

11. It is in that prospect which is a priority that lies the assistance of MULPOC to IGOs in order to improve their efficiency.

12. For the year 1996, that assistance concerned the following items :

#### **B - IMPROVING INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN IGOs**

13. To achieve this, MULPOC continued to publish the following documents :

- a directory of IGOs in West Africa (ECA/MIE/NIA/II (a)/97/12;
- a liaison bulletin of West African IGOs (ECA/MIE/NIA/III (a)/97/14).

#### **C - IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCES OF IGOs**

14. MULPOC/ECA contributed within the framework of its assistance to Niger Basin Authority in Niger in the realization of the following studies :

- a study on the formulation of management systems, price setting, and the sharing of projects costs on water resources (ECA/MIE/NIA/5a (iv) 21a et 21b) ;
- a study on the intervention legal framework of the Niger Basin Authority (ECA/MIE/NIA/5 a (iv) 22) ;
- a note on the valorization of NBA products (ECA/MIE/NIA/5 a (iv) 23).

15. These documents, for which top level consultants have been engaged to prepare, are still very relevant and have been of great use.

## **D - CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

16. Over the past years, a major part of MULPOC cooperation with IGOs was to provide them with assistance.

17. The new strategic orientation of MULPOC/ECA is to strengthen that approach. The effort will be geared towards collaboration. That is the reason why the work programme presented to the decision-making organs of MULPOC for the biennial period of 1998/1999 will be later completed by the contribution of IGOs. This means the concerns of IGOs will constitute a part of MULPOC work programme. That approach is the better way to collectively serve the countries by sharing the experience of IGOs. In order to meet that objective, the communication channels between IGOs are to be reactivated to enable MULPOC fulfill its assignments towards IGOs in the interest of the subregion.