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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP  
ACTIONS ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

## INTRODUCTION

1. Within the context of the Fourth International Development Strategy (1991-2000), the African countries have continued to pursue the implementation of regional development strategies adopted in the 1980s; namely, the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), the Final Act of Lagos (FAL), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) and its successor, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP), and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. This paper provides a report on the follow-up actions undertaken in 1990-1991 in the implementation of these regional development strategies.

### I. THE REVITALIZATION OF THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION (LPA) AND THE FINAL ACTION OF LAGOS (FAL)

2. During 1991-1992, the executive heads of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank have met twice, in July 1991 and in December 1991, to deliberate in part on the coordination of their efforts in helping African countries accelerate the implementation of the LPA and the FAL at the country and subregional levels.

3. In the context of the implementation of the FAL, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU, meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991, signed a Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) whose master programme for economic integration is based initially on the strengthening and coordination of the efforts of the subregional economic integration schemes, namely the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

4. Within the context of revitalization of long-term planning, the Maastricht Conference of African and International Donor Governments in July 1990 unanimously approved a resolution strongly urging African countries to prepare National Long-term Perspective Studies (NLTPS). Although the responsibilities for initiating these national perspective studies rest with each African country, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the African Development Bank (ADB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Bank, was requested to coordinate the necessary external support and to define an action programme that will assist the NLTPS process.

5. The UNDP Project to support African Governments in the preparation of NLTPSs has already been approved. A number of African Governments have indicated interest in initiating NLTPS processes. An initial team of experts was established this year in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire to respond to requests for support. Effective liaison between national and regional/sectoral planning efforts is being put in place. Exchange of ideas and experience will permit effective coordination between NLTPS exercises and regional or subregional integration efforts.

## II. FOLLOW-UP ON UN-PAAERD: THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990S

### A. Action taken at the regional and international level

6. The ECA Conference of Ministers in its last meeting of May 1991 has proposed, in its memorandum to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of UN-PAAERD (1986-1990), as a follow-up to UN-PAAERD, an international agenda for cooperation with Africa in the 1990s. The New Agenda proposed that, on the one hand, the African countries should renew their commitment to full responsibility for their development; and, on the other hand, the international community should accept the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa and to commit itself to giving full and tangible support to the African development efforts.

7. The Ad hoc Committee, in its meeting from 3 to 14 September 1991, recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the resolution on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990), which includes the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s as proposed by the ECA Conference of Ministers. After a three-month-long process of negotiations, the resolution on the final review of UN-PAAERD and its follow-up New Agenda was adopted by the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1991. The international community praised the efforts and sacrifices that African countries have made and are currently making as they press on with painful economic and political reforms and recognized that these efforts were being hampered by external impediments originating from outside Africa such as commodity price fluctuations, debt burden, etc., to which they committed themselves to reducing, if not entirely eliminating.

8. On the domestic front, the priority objectives of the New Agenda include the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy, reduce their vulnerability to external shocks and increase their dynamism, internalize the process of development and enhance self-reliance. The New Agenda accords special attention to human development and increased productive employment, and promotes rapid progress towards the achievement of human-oriented goals by the year 2000 in the areas of life expectancy, integration of women in development, child and maternal mortality, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, basic education and shelter. Peace initiatives by African countries should be encouraged and pursued in order to bring an end to war, destabilization and internal conflicts so as to facilitate the creation of optimal conditions for development.

9. Finally, the goals and targets of the New Agenda include: (a) an average real growth rate of 6 per cent a year of gross domestic product (GDP) throughout the 1990s as a desirable objective; (b) to achieve this rate of growth, \$US 30 billion in net official development assistance (ODA) is required in 1992 (as opposed to \$US 21 billion in 1989), after which it would need to grow at a rate of 4 per cent a year; (c) additional resources will be needed for African efforts to diversify Africa's economies away from their heavy dependence on the export of primary commodities and the Secretary-General of United Nations is requested to present to the General Assembly in 1993 a study on the need for, and the feasibility of, a "diversification fund" for that purpose; (d) the international community in support of Africa's economic reform efforts would undertake to seek to find durable solutions to the African debt crisis; and, (e) the creditors should commit themselves to further cancellation or reduction of ODA debt, additional relief for official bilateral debt, and encouragement of the write-off or swapping of commercial debt.

10. The United Nations system was entrusted with the role of ensuring an efficient follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the international agenda, through a continuous assessment of Africa's performance in the areas outlined in the Agenda. The United Nations General Assembly has agreed on a timetable for its monitoring of the New Agenda; 1993: General Assembly will consider a report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Agenda; 1995: the Economic and Social Council will consider implementation of the Agenda; 1996: General Assembly will conduct a mid-term review of implementation of the Agenda; 1998: the Economic and Social Council will consider implementation of the Agenda; and, 2000: the General Assembly will conduct the final review and assessment of implementation of the Agenda.

#### B. Actions taken at the subregional level

11. In accordance with a resolution adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Commission and sixteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers held in Tripoli, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, May 1990, the ECA Secretariat has organized subregional seminars on the evaluation of the implementation of UN-PAAERD, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and the Implementation of AAF-SAP at the Yaounde MULPOC from 4 to 8 February 1991 and at the Lusaka MULPOC from 11 to 15 March 1991. The seminar for the Niamey MULPOC was planned for March 1991.

12. The seminar in Yaounde was attended by the member States of the Yaounde-based MULPOC (i.e., Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe), and the Gisenyi-based MULPOC (Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire), as well as international institutions such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Institute de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), the Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique centrale (BCEAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). As to the implementation of the UN-PAAERD, the seminar underscored the efforts undertaken by member States of the subregion to reform their planning apparatus so as to incorporate some of the long-term structural measures of UN-PAAERD to reorder their priorities accordingly, to secure sound and more efficient management of national economies and to secure a link between politics and economics.

13. The seminar in Lusaka was attended by the member States of the Lusaka-based MULPOC (i.e., Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) as well as by international institutions such as FAO, OAU, PTA and UNDP.

#### C. ECA secretariat's activities on the follow-up on UN-PAAERD

14. The ECA secretariat undertook several activities on the follow-up on the implementation of UN-PAAERD during 1990-1991 which can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Organization and chairing of five meetings of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on the follow-up of UN-PAAERD;
- (b) Organization of an intergovernmental group of experts meeting on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD (April 1991);
- (c) Servicing of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development and adoption of a memorandum on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of UN-PAAERD in

April 1991, which it addressed to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Final Review of UN-PAAERD;

(d) Chairing of the group which prepared the draft report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the final review of the implementation of UN-PAAERD. The draft report was subsequently approved with amendments, by the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force and the United Nations Steering Committee on UN-PAAERD;

(e) Administering of a survey to its member States on the implementation of UN-PAAERD, January-April 1991;

(f) Cooperation with the OAU in the servicing of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee, which prepared Africa's Common Position on the Final Review of the Implementation of UN-PAAERD, August 1991;

(g) Preparation of a number of studies within the framework of the implementation of UN-PAAERD; e.g. the contribution of the United Nations system to the implementation of UN-PAAERD, 1990;

(h) Backstopping of the African group during the final review of the implementation of UN-PAAERD by the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly (September 1991) and by the General Assembly (December 1991);

(i) Playing the role of lead agency in the preparation of the United Nations system-wide Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1990-1991) and Programme 45 on Africa, 1990; and,

(j) Servicing the meeting of the OAU's drafting committee of the whole, which considered the report of the Secretary-General's Expert Group on Africa's Commodities, August 1990.

15. In the context of the follow-up on the implementation of UN-PAAERD, an "African Day on External Debt" was organized at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 October 1991 jointly by the Reverend Dr. Leon Sullivan, President of the first Afro-American Summit and ECA. This commemoration was a follow-up of the first African/African-American Summit held in Abidjan in April 1991 which assembled more than 2,000 delegates and observers at the high levels and African economic operators in order to boost the African-American contribution to African economic recovery and development. The New York commemoration also gathered leaders and representatives of governments, financial institutions, industrial entrepreneurs, as well as community and religious leaders. The objective of the meeting was to refocus world attention on the dire economic and social consequences of Africa's crippling debt burden, and to galvanize action on the urgent and additional measures to be taken at domestic and international levels to revive investment, promote enterprise and stimulate recovery on the African continent.

### III. THE FOLLOW-UP ON AAF-SAP

#### A. AAF-SAP publications

16. A document elaboration on three of the AAF-SAP policy proposals was published under the title Selected Policy Instruments. These policy instruments were developed at the request of African Finance Ministers. Ten thousand English copies of the AAF-SAP "Selected Policy Instruments" and six thousand French copies were

printed and distributed to African Governments, African libraries, United Nations agencies and international institutions.

17. The popular version of AAF-SAP was also printed in Arabic, English and French in July 1991 and distributed to African countries, to the last TEPCOW meeting, and to various meetings dealing with structural adjustment, namely the Pan-African News Conference held in Lagos in 1991, the ACP/EEC Assembly Conference, etc.

#### B. Various meetings on SAPs

18. Under the Lome IV Convention, the Joint ACP/EEC Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Kampala, Uganda in February 1991, decided that the fifteenth annual meeting of ACP and EEC economic and social interest groups should discuss the topic "structural adjustment: Its economic, social and regional dimensions and the role of the economic and social interest groups". The aim of the meeting, held in Brussels, from 2 to 4 December 1991, was to give the opportunity to the social interest groups of donor and recipient countries outside governments to analyze some of the effects of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) and to discuss how the economic and social interest groups could play a more active role in their design and implementation. The meeting was attended by more than 200 participants coming from the EEC countries and the developing ACP countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, representing the different groups of workers, employers, farmers as well as the representatives of international and academic institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ILO, ECA, OAU and the University of Boston-Brussels.

19. ECA also participated in the first advisory meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), which is composed of government officials at the ministerial level as well as the heads or senior officials of multilateral agencies including the United Nations, in Paris on 9 and 10 September 1991, at which it was agreed that the GCA will give priority to issues of governance and democratic transition, regional economic integration and cooperation; inter-related issues of population growth, agricultural development and environment; monitoring resource flows to Africa. The working group will design a process that enables interested countries and relevant international institutions to: (a) share experience in the design, management and evaluation of economic reform programmes (SAPs); (b) provide African expertise to other countries contemplating reform programmes; and, (c) develop and enlist African indigenous capacity in areas of economic management and reforms.

20. ECA continued to participate in the meeting on the social dimensions of structural adjustment. The fifth meeting on Social Dimensions of Structural Adjustment (SDA) in sub-Saharan Africa was held in Tokyo, Japan on 25 October 1991 to discuss the SDA activity report and proposed work plan for fiscal year 1992; country report/implementation issues; and, perspectives for the new five-year programme, 1992-1996. It was reported that 28 of the 33 participating sub-Saharan African countries and Egypt have planned SDA activities, while 18 of them have implemented them. These activities concentrated more intensively to macro-economic and sectoral management to make it more sensitive to the implications of policy and budgetary shifts for poor vulnerable groups.

### IV. THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE POPULAR PARTICIPATION

#### A. At the level of governments

21. During 1990-1991, Africa has taken a strong step towards radical political reforms that ensure that each African country adheres to a minimum set of democratic practices. African government leaders, meeting at the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (SSDCA) in Kampala, Uganda from

19 to 22 May 1991, agreed that the efforts at economic recovery under way for a number of years in several African countries have to be coupled with some fundamental political reforms. The meeting was attended by some 700 participants including five African Heads of State and three others who relinquished power either voluntarily or through a democratic process.

**B. At the level of the people and their organizations**

22. Popular participation in the socio-economic development necessitates the restructuring of planning and developmental organs in African countries, and that the people should partake in policy, programme and project formulation and implementation thus necessitating restricting state agencies assigned responsibility for these activities. Some positive steps are being taken in involving people in policy, programme and project formulation and implementation by some African countries. In a number of countries such as in Eastern and Southern Africa, programmes have been launched which involve the leadership at the district and sub-district levels in the planning process, and where the "district focus" approach has been emphasized with the aim of involving rural people in a limited area of planning. Grass-roots revolutions are also taking place in villages across Africa, in which millions of peasant farmers are organizing themselves into village self-help groups undertaking various development projects such as digging wells, building granaries, organizing communal fields.

**C. At the level of non-governmental organizations and voluntary development organizations**

23. The NGO Committee, which represents over 100 NGOs and networks all over the world, launched its own "grass-roots agenda" at a press conference near the end of the UN-PAAERD review session. The agenda aims at boosting the influence of Africa's people in policy-making on commodities and governance. The NGO Committee plans to hold an Africa-wide production and trade exposition later in 1992, and to organize an African forum on democracy and popular participation later in 1993.

24. A coalition of Canadian NGOs is seeking 100 million Canadian dollars (\$US 87 million) for Africa from the Canadian Government in support of over 300 projects in an innovative scheme to strengthen African NGOs, promote partnership and raise awareness on Africa. The new coalition's funds are to be disbursed carefully, applying agreed rigorous criteria or conditionalities. To qualify for financial support, projects are required to promote African development primarily by supporting and strengthening African NGOs, and by increasing public understanding in Canada of and support for long-term sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa.

25. NGO and grass-roots organizations are emerging as formidable agents for bringing together villagers in development activities. The approach that has been adopted has focused on the establishment, at grass-roots level, of peoples' organizations which are concerned with facilitation of access to material and financial resources needed for peoples' activities in production, distribution, and services sectors. Thus, hundreds of farmers, women, youth and similar grass-roots voluntary organizations have been established to promote the developmental aspirations of the people. National umbrella organizations have been established such as the Nigerian Association of Voluntary Development Organizations (NVDO), the Ghana Association of Private Organizations (GAPO), the Senegal non-governmental Appui au développement (CONGAD), the Kenya Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (KENGO), the Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO). An all-Africa movement, the Forum for African Voluntary Development Organizations (FAVDOI) has as one of its major themes the promotion of involvement of the people of the continent in the development process.

#### D. At the level of the mass media and communication

26. Senior African journalists and newspaper publishers met in Windhoek, Namibia from 29 April to 3 May 1991 in a seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information and UNESCO and adopted a "Windhoek Declaration" which demands an end to government control of the independent press. The overall goal of the seminar was to emphasize the need for a political climate in which an independent press could flourish, and to come up with a concrete catalogue of projects designed to strengthen the independent press on which collaborative action could be immediately taken.

#### E. At the level of organized labour

27. ECA, in cooperation with the Organization of African Trade Unions Unity (OATUU) organized a seminar on AAF-SAP, popular participation in development and security, stability, cooperation and development in Africa from 21 to 23 March 1991. The seminar adopted resolutions urging the organized labour unions in African countries to incorporate in their programmes workers participation in the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes outlined in AAF-SAP, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation and the Kampala Document.

#### F. At the level of women and youth organizations

28. ECA organized an Ad hoc expert meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 22 to 25 October 1991 to consider modalities for establishing a regional association of women entrepreneurs. Thirteen experts drawn from the business and industrial as well as women in development sectors attended the meeting in their individual capacity. There were also observers from Ethiopia, Kenya and the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the health of women and children.

#### G. Monitoring popular participation

29. The activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat in 1990-1991 in the implementation of the African Charter on Popular Participation in Development and Transformation include:

(a) Initiation of a project entitled "Promoting popular participation in development in Africa with special emphasis on environment and sustainable development". The project is supported by the Federal Republic of Germany and has a duration of two years. The main objective of the project is to promote environmental management for sustainable development through popular participation;

(b) Continued popularization of the African Charter through wide dissemination of the document in the three languages of the Commission;

(c) Continued support for activities related to the implementation of the Charter. One such activity was the national conference on popular participation in the United Republic of Tanzania, which took place in 1991. Its objective was to come up with strategies and recommendations on how the African Charter could be implemented in the United Republic of Tanzania context;

(d) Intensified cooperation with African and non-African NGOs within the framework of the Charter; and,

(e) Preparation of a project for funding by UNDP on "Strengthening the management capacities of the indigenous NGOs umbrella groups and the networking of NGOs to better ensure their consistencies at the national and community levels".