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Ministers

Rabat, 20-28 March 1979

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE
MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES
(GISENYI MULPOC)



Bujumbura, 19 January 1979

A. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) for member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL) took place on 19 January 1979 in Bujumbura (Burundi).

Opening of the meeting

2. The Chairman of the first meeting of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Mr. Mulindangabo Ambroise, Minister of Planning and head of the Rwandan delegation, opened the second meeting of the Council of Ministers. The leader of the delegation of Burundi (the host country), His Excellency Mr. Donatien Bihute, Minister of Planning, and Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, made opening statements.

Attendance

3. All the member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes, namely, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, were represented as was the Economic Community of the Great Lakes. The following intergovernmental organizations also attended as observers: EGL, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and ITU.

Election of officers (agenda item 2)

4. At this second meeting of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Mr. Donatien Bihute, Minister of Planning and leader of the Burundi delegation, was unanimously elected Chairman. It was unanimously agreed that no vice-chairman should be elected and the task of rapporteur was entrusted to the ECA secretariat.

B. AGENDA

5. The annotated provisional agenda (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/8) submitted to the meeting by the Chairman was unanimously adopted. The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening statements
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Presentation of the report and recommendations by the chairman of the second meeting of the Committee of Officials
5. Consideration of the report and recommendations of the Committee of Officials
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the report
8. Date and place of the next meeting
9. Closure of the meeting

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening statements

6. In his opening statement His Excellency, Mr. Donatien Bihute, Minister of Planning and leader of the Burundi delegation, welcomed all the participants on behalf of his Government and on his own behalf.
7. He emphasized the need for close collaboration between the Gisenyi MULPOC and CEPGL. He also pointed out that the three States had entrusted to CEPGL the all-important and inspiring task of leading them to co-operate closely and ultimately achieving economic union and integration which had been started during the colonial times but which had been shattered when the three States acceded to independence.
8. He said that the MULPOC should therefore participate actively in the task of working out precise definitions of the criteria for determining projects of common interest so that the programme of work and projects selected should be consistent with the interests of the entire community.
9. He pointed out that the industrial field should be given the emphasis that it deserved in the activities of CEPGL and of the Gisenyi MULPOC so that this key sector would no longer be backward.
10. Lastly, he wished the Council of Ministers every success in its efforts to strengthen the basis for community co-operation.
11. The next speaker, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, thanked the Government and people of Burundi for their warm and fraternal welcome to participants. He recalled that the inaugural meeting of the MULPOC held in October 1977 in Gisenyi had been a milestone in the economic development of the countries of the Great Lakes.
12. He took the opportunity to introduce the MULPOC Team Leader, Professor Baza, and his colleagues who were attending the Council meeting for the first time. He also expressed satisfaction at seeing that the Gisenyi MULPOC had already achieved positive results although it had been in existence only a short time.
13. He expressed the hope that at that second meeting of the Council of Ministers it would be possible to review the progress made since the inaugural meeting and to draw up a realistic plan of action for 1979-1981.
14. He pointed out that the differences between and specific features of the five MULPOCs had been obvious from the beginning. Although the Gisenyi MULPOC covered only three countries its work was not the easiest by any means because those three countries were among the least developed countries in the third world.
15. He said that in Africa independence had not produced the hoped-for results because development had proved a more complex task than had been anticipated. In the African context it had been found that economic development could take place only within the framework of close multinational economic co-operation. Accordingly, the Gisenyi MULPOC and CEPGL were invaluable tools for promoting co-operation between and action in the three Great Lakes countries.

16. He then recalled that ECA and OAU had declared the year 1979 - the year in which ECA would celebrate its twenty-first anniversary - a year of reflexion. Accordingly, efforts should be made to look back to see what had been achieved in the economic and social fields. In that connexion he mentioned the numerous institutions that had been established - including ADB, IDEP and ATRCW - in order to promote economic and social development in the African countries.

17. He recalled that ECA's ultimate goal was to promote dynamic economic co-operation. He assured the Council that ECA with the financial assistance of UNDP would spare no effort to achieve the objectives assigned to the Gisenyi MULPOC. Finally, he appealed to member States to support the MULPOC's efforts.

Proceedings

Presentation and adoption of the report and recommendations of the second meeting of the Committee of Officials (items 4 and 5 of the agenda) - ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/9

18. The Chairman of the second meeting of the Committee of Officials of the Gisenyi MULPOC presented the report and recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

19. The Council decided to add two priority projects to the list of projects selected by the Committee of Officials, namely:

- (1) The study, with a view to achieving the economic integration of the CEPGL countries, of mechanisms for harmonizing:
 - industrial policies
 - customs policies
 - payments methods;
- (2) The study of the development of the transport infrastructure and fishing in the Great Lakes countries including on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika.

20. The Council asked the Gisenyi MULPOC to draft, together with the CEPGL secretariat the terms of reference of the above-mentioned projects which were considered of the utmost priority. It recommended that the MULPOC should make every effort to make up a team of experts as soon as possible to prepare a study and recommendations in these areas and to submit them to the policy-making organs of CEPGL.

21. The Council of Ministers then adopted the programme of work and priorities for the period 1979-1981 which included the following projects listed in order of priority:

- (Project 1) Study with a view to achieving the economic integration of mechanisms for harmonizing industrial and customs policies and payments methods in the CEPGL countries.

- (Project 2) Study of the development of the transport infrastructure in the Great Lakes countries including on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika.
- (Project 3) Promotion of co-operation and co-ordination of air freight activities of national airlines.
- (Project 4) Study on the Lubutu-Biruwé section of the Bukavu-Walikale-Kisangani road.
- (Project 5) Integrated development of the Ruzizi Valley.
- (Project 6) Establishment of a centre for the development and use of scientific teaching materials.
- (Project 7) Study of the impact of the development of tourism on the environment in the Great Lakes subregion.
- (Project 8) Integration of women in development.

Co-operation agreement between ECA and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (agenda item 5(b) - document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/4

22. The Council of Ministers considered the draft co-operation agreement between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Community of the Great Lakes.

23. It adopted the agreement as amended by the Committee of Officials.

Preparations for the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and fourteenth session of the Commission to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 20 to 28 March 1979 (agenda item 5(c) - document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/5

24. The document was introduced by the ECA secretariat and the Council considered it and took note of the following arrangements:

(a) The programme of work and priorities of the Gisenyi MULPOC would be integrated in the over-all programme of work of ECA and submitted to the Conference of Ministers in Rabat;

(b) The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Gisenyi MULPOC would submit the programme of work and priorities;

(c) The Chairman of the meeting of the Committee of Officials would help the Technical Committee of Experts in its consideration of the programme of work of his MULPOC.

Arrangements for the second ECA Pledging Conference (agenda item 5(d) - document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/6

25. The Council of Ministers took note of the appeal by the Executive Secretary of ECA concerning the second Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries with a view to mobilizing all the resources needed to implement the programme of work and priorities to be approved by the Commission for the medium-term period 1977-1981-1986.

26. Furthermore, the Council noted with satisfaction the statement by the

Other matters (agenda item 6)

27. The Executive Secretary of ECA provided information concerning the establishment of multinational centres for mineral resource development. The Council noted the interest of such centres and took note of the proposal by the Executive Secretary to have a meeting of experts and plenipotentiaries to consider the report and measures to take to establish a multinational mineral resource development centre covering the Gisenyi and Yaoundé MULPOCs.

Adoption of the report - (agenda item 7) - document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/9

28. The draft report of the Council of Ministers was discussed and was adopted as amended by the Council. It was agreed that the resolution and vote of thanks to the Government and people of Burundi should be included as annexes to the report. Concerning the report of the Committee of Officials, the Council decided to consider it, once it had been adopted, an integral part of this report, bearing in mind the amendments made to it by the Council.

29. Two amendments were made to the draft resolution on the mobilization of resources for the Gisenyi MULPOC submitted to the Council, dealing with the strengthening of the MULPOC's human resources and the provision of effective means of communication (radio and telephone initially and telex later) between the MULPOC and ECA headquarters on the one hand, and between member States on the other. The resolution was adopted as amended. The text of the resolution may be found in annex I.

Date and place of the next meeting (agenda item 8)

30. The Council accepted with great satisfaction the invitation from citizen Mulumba, Commissaire d'Etat au Plan, in Zaire to hold the meetings of the MULPOC scheduled for January 1980 in his country.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)

31. In order to express its deep gratitude to the people and Government of Burundi, the Council asked the Executive Secretary of ECA to transmit to the Government of Burundi the vote of thanks the text of which is reproduced in annex II.

32. After thanking all the participants for the serious work they had accomplished in a short space of time thanks to their constant desire to find solutions to African development problems in general and to development problems of their MULPOC in particular, the Executive Secretary made a long impromptu statement on development prospects and problems in Africa and in the subregion of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes. He recalled once again that ECA's main goal was and would continue to be the promotion of economic co-operation at the regional and subregional levels with a view to achieving economic integration. In conclusion, he again appealed to member States to aid and support the efforts of ECA and the MULPOC, its operational arm, to implement a good part if not all the priority projects on which the economic integration of CEPGL member countries was to be based during the period 1979-1981.

33. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Mr. Donatien Bihute, Minister of Planning and leader of the Burundi delegation, thanked all participants for their active participation in the debates which had

enabled the Council to select a number of projects that would contribute to the integration of the subregion. On behalf of the Council, he asked the Executive Secretary to convey his congratulations to ECA and the MULPOC for the serious thorough work and which had enabled the meeting to achieve very positive results.

34. Finally, the Chairman declared closed the second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre for member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes.

ANNEX I

RESOLUTION ON THE PROJECT DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE MULPOC
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES

The second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the MULPOC serving members of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes,

Taking note of the report of the Committee of Officials held at Bujumbura (Burundi) from 17 to 19 January 1979,

Considering that strengthening subregional integration is essential to the development of specific programmes in inter alia industry, trade, energy, transport, education, training, and urban and rural development, with a view to raising the population's standard of living,

Noting that in its resolution 2054 (LXII) of 5 May 1977, the Economic and Social Council expressed concern at the lack of necessary financial and personnel resources which had prevented the developing countries from setting up and maintaining on their own an effective vehicle to provide training at all levels,

Recalling operative paragraph 2 of resolution 311(XIII) of the Commission on the establishment of Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs),

Recognizing the need to mobilize resources for the promotion of economic integration in Africa,

Noting also that the United Nations Development Programme requires countries to endorse all regional projects submitted to it for funding,

1. Urgently requests member States to integrate the MULPOC programme of work in their national development plans;

2. Approves the UNDP project document concerning the Great Lakes Community MULPOC for the period 1979-1981 so that implementation of the priority projects selected, including the one concerning the integration of women in development, may proceed;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for its financial contribution to the implementation of the programme of work of the Great Lakes Community MULPOC in particular for having agreed to raise its annual contribution from \$200,000 to \$250,000 for the period 1979-1981;

4. Expresses its conviction that ECA will continue and will intensify its efforts to establish, at the national and regional level, an effective machinery to improve subregional economic integration in the region;

5. Undertakes to make the most of the services provided under the MULPOC programme;

6. Authorizes the Executive Secretary to sign, on behalf of member Governments, the project document presented to the United Nations Development Programme;

7. Urgently requests the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for

8. Recommends that the Team Leader of the Great Lakes Community MULPOC should begin consultations with UNDP Resident Representatives at the MULPOC level, so that the experts assigned to national and subregional projects by technical assistance agencies may, with the consent of the Governments concerned, be assigned temporarily to implement certain MULPOC projects with limited means;

9. Invites member countries of the MULPOC at the second ECA Pledging Conference to be held in Rabat (Morocco) on 29 and 30 March 1979, to respond to the appeal by the Executive Secretary of ECA for the mobilization of the additional resources needed to implement the MULPOC's programme of work and priorities;

10. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to strengthen the team of experts of the Gisenyi MULPOC in order that the Centre's programme of activities may be carried out;

11. Recommends that, in view of the difficulties the Centre is experiencing in communicating with member States on the one hand and with ECA headquarters on the other, the Executive Secretary of ECA should provide the Gisenyi MULPOC with fast and efficient telecommunications.

ANNEX II

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BURUNDI

The Council of Ministers which held its second meeting in Bujumbura (Burundi) on 19 January 1979,

Deeply grateful to the Government of the Republic of Burundi for its very generous hospitality in providing facilities and services for the second meeting of the Committee of Officials and the second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre serving member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes,

Conscious of the fact that the facilities and services provided by the host Government of the Republic of Burundi for these two meetings enabled the policy-making bodies of the MULPOC to consider the programme of work for the period 1979-1981 and to work out the arrangements for the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and the second ECA Pledging Conference to be held in Rabat (Morocco) in March 1979,

1. Addresses its thanks to His Excellency Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President of the Republic of Burundi, and to the Government and people of Burundi for their warm hospitality and the various facilities and services which they generously made available to the meetings and the participants;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to transmit this resolution to the Government of the Republic of Burundi.