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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Technical Committee of Experts
Seventh meeting

Rabat, 12-16 March 1979

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF OFFICIALS OF THE ECA MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES (GISENYI-BASED MULPOC)

A. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The second meeting of the Committee of Experts of the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) for the member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL) was held at Bujumbura, Burundi, on 17 and 18 January 1979.

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Rugaravu Apollinaire, Director-General at the Ministry of Planning and Head of the Delegation of Rwanda, in his capacity as Chairman of the first meeting of the MULPOC Committee of Experts. Opening statements were made by the Head of the Delegation of Burundi (the host country) Mr. J. Niyungeko, Director-General for Africa, Asia and Latin America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation; and Mr. Bax D. Nomvete, the Chief of the ECA Office of Economic Co-operation.

Attendance

3. All the member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries, i.e., Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, were represented. The Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, the department responsible for electrification in the Great Lakes area and the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in the Development Process also sent delegations. The following international organizations were represented by observers: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Election of officers

4. Mr. Jonathan Niyungeko, Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Burundi and head of the Delegation of Burundi was unanimously elected Chairman of the second meeting of the Committee of Experts. The three delegations agreed that there was no need to elect a Vice-Chairman, and the duties of rapporteur were assigned to the ECA secretariat.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The annotated draft agenda (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/1), submitted to the meeting for its approval by Mr. Niyungeko (Burundi), the Chairman, was unanimously adopted as presented by ECA. It read as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Election of officers

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/1)

4. Progress report on implementation of approved work programme 1977/1978, and on related activities (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/2)

5. Draft Work Programme 1979-1981 and financial and manpower requirements (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/3)

6. Co-operation arrangements between ECA/MULPOC and the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/4)

7. Arrangements for the fifth ECA Conference and fourteenth session of the Commission which will be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 20-28 March 1979 (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/5)

8. Arrangements for the second ECA Pledging Conference, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 29-31 March 1979 (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/6)

9. Other matters

10. Consideration of the agenda for the second meeting of the Council of Ministers

11. Adoption of the report and recommendations of the second meeting of the Council of Ministers

C. PROCEEDINGS

Opening statements

6. In his opening statement, Mr. J. Niyungeko, Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation and head of the delegation of Burundi, welcomed all the participants to the meeting and thanked the other Governments for having responded so promptly to the invitation issued by the Governments of Burundi. He stressed the importance the Governments attached to the MULPOC, which had been created to strengthen their efforts to promote economic co-operation. He said it would be helpful for the Meeting of Experts to include discussions on issues which now determined or would eventually affect the collective well-being of the rural population. In connexion with the arrangements for co-operation between the Community of the Great Lakes Countries and the MULPOC, he pointed out that the MULPOC was expected to co-ordinate its activities very closely with those of CEPGL. He also stressed the importance of the role played by the ECA/MULPOC in the implementation of projects furthering the economic and social development of the Community.

7. Before concluding his address, he said that the discussions were again bound to illustrate the interdependence of the three countries and hence to identify favoured fields for co-operation in the next few years. The decisions taken in that regard should determine what steps should be taken towards dynamic economic integration. In closing, he wished the participants every success in their work.

8. Mr. Bax Nomvete, head of the ECA Office of Economic Co-operation, took the floor on behalf of the Executive Secretary first of all to thank the Government and people of Burundi for the warm, brotherly welcome they had extended to all the participants in the meeting. He then outlined the various items on the agenda, providing additional details as to the programme of work and priorities proposed for the period 1979-1981. At the the meeting, the Committee was being asked to evaluate the following topics:

(i) Integrated development of the Ruzizi Valley;

(iii) Study of the Lubutu-Biruwé section of the Bukavu-Walikale-Kisangani road;

(iv) Establishment of a centre for the development and use of scientific equipment;

(v) Study of the impact on the environment of the development of tourism in the Great Lakes area;

(vi) Integration of women in economic development.

9. He pointed out that the six projects listed above had been formulated on the basis of decisions taken at the inaugural meeting of the MULPOC and in consultation with CEPGL and each of the Governments concerned. The last two projects listed were an integral part of the ECA programme of work.

10. He reminded the participants that in their consideration of the draft programme before them, the three States were sovereign and that the decisions they took would be the ones implemented.

11. On the question of financial contributions to the MULPOC, he specified that the only pledges emanated from the following sources:

(i) The UNDP Bureau for Africa, which had agreed to consider the possibility of raising the UNDP contribution from $US 200,000 to $US 250,000 per year for the period 1979-1981;

(ii) The regular ECA United Nations budget for technical assistance, from which $US 40,000 a year was being allocated;

(iii) The Government of the United States of America (USAID), which had allocated $US 117,000 for the studies required for the Ruzizi Valley Project.

12. He informed the meeting that the Executive Secretary of ECA attached great importance to the arrangements for the second ECA Pledging Conference to be held at Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, and the firth ECA Conference of Ministers. At these two meetings policy decisions would be taken on ECA's over-all work programme and on the mobilization of additional resources for its implementation.

Consideration of the interim report on implementation of approved work programme 1977-1978 and on related activities (agenda item 4) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/2).

13. The Team Leader of the Gisenyi MULPOC, introduced his progress report covering the period October 1977 to October 1978. In his statement, he first touched on the measures for the physical installation of the MULPOC, including those taken to arrange and furnish the offices with the assistance of the Government of Rwanda, the host country. He then informed the participants that during the period under review the main thrust of the work of the MULPOC had been the consultations with the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and with representatives of its member countries with a view to determining the structure of co-operation between the MULPOC and CEPGL for the implementation of the projects adopted at the Inaugural Conference of the Gisenyi MULPOC held in October 1977. He informed the participants that the MULPOC had been effectively represented at all the meetings of officials and Ministers

of CEPGL, the most recent meeting of the Council of Ministers and the CEPGL Summit Conference held in September 1978. He also provided information concerning the advisory missions carried out in the member countries for the purposes of monitoring views and observations to be used in formulating the programme of work and priorities for the period 1979-1981. In addition he told the participants that the MULPOC Team had been represented at the following gathering in addition to the meetings organized by CEPGL:

(a) Round Table on Foreign Assistance to Burundi, Bujumbura, February 1978;

(b) Ceremony marking the investiture of the secretariat of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, held at Kinshasa, Zaire, in June 1978;

(c) A national symposium organized by the Government of Rwanda with assistance from the MULPOC on strategies and policies for industrialization as required by the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. The symposium constituted a phase in the preparations for the African Regional Symposium to be held in 1978 on the same topic.

14. He presented a brief summary of the results of the inaugural meeting of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in the Development Process, held on 11 and 12 January 1979.

15. In conclusion, he thanked the Government of Rwanda, UNDP and CEPGL for the assistance they had provided the MULPOC team during the period under review.

Draft work programme 1979-1981 and financial and manpower requirements (agenda item 5) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/3)

16. The MULPOC Team Leader presented the draft programme of work and priorities to the participants for their consideration. They proceeded to examine the projects included in the draft, as follows:

The Ruzizi Valley Development Programme (project 1)

17. In considering this project, the participants noted that since 1977 when the project had been adopted by the Heads of State of the CEPGL countries at their Summit Conference and since the inaugural meeting of the MULPOC, much had been done by each of the member States to develop the Ruzizi Valley. In addition to those projects which had been completed, many projects and sectoral studies were still being carried out.

18. The participants were of the view that the project in question should reframed under the 5-year programming exercise currently being worked out by CEPGL with a view to the comprehensive and harmonious integration of the activities of the MULPOC and those of CEPGL and in order to avoid duplication. Thus, co-operation among the countries members of the MULPOC would be strengthened within a more dynamic scheme in a way which would enhance the economic and social development of the member States.

19. The participants also asked the ECA secretariat not to present the programme of work and priorities in general terms. From now on they wanted the studies to be more detailed and to take account of projects which had been completed or were still being implemented so that the approaches taken by projects could be more accurately defined.

20. The participants selected the following priority sectors within the Ruzizi Valley Development Programme.

(a) In the light of food requirements, top priority to be given to agricultural production and the development of agricultural resources on the basis of existing or on-going projects; the possibility of carrying out the project on electrification in the Great Lakes Countries in co-operation with EGL;

(b) The development of means of transport to facilitate the movement of persons and goods;

(c) Promotion of trade among the countries in the Community on the basis of the output of the Ruzizi Valley in particular.

21. Finally, after a constructive discussion, the following action was recommended:

(a) The preparation of an inventory by the ECA/MULPOC of all existing and on-going projects and of projects yet to be identified to make it possible to select projects which would promote integration in a way that was beneficial to all the States members of the MULPOC;

(b) Study of the possibilities of promoting trade in products from the Ruzizi Valley among the countries in the Community and of obstacles to such trade;

(c) Study of transport facilities in the Ruzizi Valley with a view to promoting the movement of persons and goods.

Establishment of a multinational cargo airline for the transport of goods (project 2)

22. The participants gave thorough consideration to this project, and in the light of the following considerations, decided to reformulate the title and objective of the project:

(a) Inventory of the freight capacity of the national airlines of the various countries;

(b) Study of the possibilities of strengthening co-operation among the three countries where air freight was concerned;

(c) Reformulation of the objectives of the project by eliminating Phase III of the plan of implementation, which would be examined later in the light of the recommendations emanating from the studies requested in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

23. To that end, the representative of the ECA secretariat suggested that the project title should be changed to read: "Promotion of co-operation and of the co-ordination of the operations of existing cargo airlines". That title was adopted.

24. As for the restatement of the objectives of Phases I and II under the plan of implementation in the light of the amendments sproposed by the participants, the ECA secretariat would reformulate the project on the basis of the discussions recorded above.

Study of the Lubutu-Biruwé portion of the Bukavu-Walikale-Kisangani Highway (project 3)

25. The participants considered this project in the light of the action undertaken by CEPGL and recommended its inclusion in the work programme of the MULPOC.

Creation of a centre for the development and use of scientific equipment (project 4)

26. The participants examined this project with great interest and asked the secretariat to explain why it was being extended to cover both the Yaounde and the Gisenyi MULPOCs. After hearing the detailed information provided by the secretariat in that connexion, the participants recommended the adoption of the project provided that:

(a) It was approved by the Yaounde MULPOC at the second meeting of its Council of Ministers;

(b) UNESCO participated in the studies required for the project and in its implementation;

(c) The States in the two MULPOCs worked together to complete the project.

Study on the impact of tourism in the Great Lakes region on the environment (project 5)

27. In the course of the discussion on this project, it was observed that the question of environment covered more than tourism alone and that environmental problems related to all sectors of development. Mention was made of a study covered by CEPGL on the development of tourism, which had already been submitted to the member States. At the end of the discussion, it was suggested that the secretariat of CEPGL might subsequently determine what contribution the MULPOC would make studies on the development of tourism as recommended by the member States.

Integration of Women in Economic Development in Africa (project 6)

28. In introducing this project, the ECA representative drew attention to the recommendations on the decentralization of the activities of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ECA/ATRCW) adopted at the Regional Conference on Women and Development held at Nouakchott from 27 September to 30 October 1977.

29. She also described the work done at the inaugural meeting of the Subregional Committee on the Integration of Women in the Development Process held at Gisenyi, Rwanda, on 11 and 12 January 1979.

30. The representative of the Subregional Cmmmittee introduced a 4-point priority programme for the integration of women in the development process in the countries members of the MULPOC, as follows:

(a) Creation of national and subregional machinery;

(b) Training in the techniques of project formulation;

(c) Training and follow-up in connexion with co-operatives and with the management of small-scale and cottage industries;

(d) Optimal exploitation and use of energy resources, especially peat, to meet household requirements with a view to relieving women of the burden of gathering firewood.

31. She also reminded the participants that at the meeting of the Subregional Committee, UNDP had been asked to provide the MULPOC with the funds related to assign an expert to the programme on the integration of women in the development process.

32. In conclusion of their discussion of this project, the participants made the following recommendations:

(a) As often as possible the ECA/MULPOC should include a women's component in its projects;

(b) Countries members of the ECA/MULPOC which were still without national machinery in this field should establish such machinery, and women should take part in the formulation of national development plans;

(c) Training should be provided in the techniques of project formulation.

33. The participants also considered the request relating to the representation of the Subregional Committee for Women in the decision-making bodies of the ECA/MULPOC and recommended that the Committee should be represented in the Committee of Officials.

Project on fishing and possibilities of transport on Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika (project 7)

34. The participants asked that two additional projects should be included in the programme of work and priorities - one on fishing and possibilities of transport on Lake Kivu and the other on fishing and possibilities of transport on Lake Tanganyika.

35. After the inclusion of those projects was proposed, the representative of the ECA secretariat informed the participants that the projects concerned had already been included in the programme of work of ECA. It was pointed out that the Lake Tanganyika project concerned countries not members of CEPGL as well as the CEPGL countries.

36. In the light of the explanations furnished by the secretariat, the participants asked the MULPOC to work with the Lusaka MULPOC in keeping track of those projects.

Co-operation arrangements between ECA/MULPOC and the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (agenda item 6) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/4)

37. The Committee examined the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Community of the Great Lakes Countries, which was adopted with the following amendments:

(a) The first preambular paragraph was amended as follows:

"The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (hereinafter referred to as "ECA"), represented by its Executive Secretary, and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (hereinafter referred to as "the Community"), represented by its Executive Secretary."

(b) The following clause was added to paragraph 2 of Article III after the words "such joint action":

"and shall inform the member States in advance of any decisions it may decide to take".

Arrangements for the fifth ECA Conference and fourteenth session of the Commission which will be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 20-28 March 1979 (agenda item 7) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/6)

38. After document ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/6 had been introduced by the representative of the ECA secretariat, it was considered by the Committee, which took note of the following arrangements:

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

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

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

Arrangements for the second ECA Pledging Conference, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 29 and 30 March 1979 (agenda ;item 8) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/6)

39. The participants took note of the appeal launched by the Executive Secretary of ECA with regard to the second Pledging Conference of Plenipotentiaries of African Governments for the purpose of mobilizing all resources needed to implement the programme of work and priorities approved by the Ministers for the medium-term period 1977-1981-1986.

40. Furthermore, the Committee noted with appreciation the announcement made by the delegation of Zaire to the effect that arrangements had already been made for the payment of that country's arrears.

Other matters (agenda item 9)

41. No questions were raised under this item.

Consideration of the draft agenda for the second meeting of the Council of Ministers (agenda item 10) (ECA/MULPOC/Gisenyi/II/8)

42. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda as submitted by the ECA secretariat (see annex I to this report).

ANNEX I

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Opening statements

Opening statements will be made by a Minister of the Republic of Burundi and the Executive Secretary of ECA.

2. Election of officers

The meeting will elect a Chairman and a Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The meeting will adopt its agenda and decide on procedures for conducting the business of the meeting.

4. Submission of 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

Consideration of the report and recommendations of the Committee of Officals will focus on the following items:

(a) Draft work programme 1979-1981;

(b) Co-operation arrangements between ECA/MULPOC and the secretariat of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes;

(c) Arrangements for the fifth ECA Conference of Ministers which will be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 20-23 March 1979;

(d) Arrangements for the second ECA Pledging Conference which will be held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, on 29 and 30 March 1970.

6. Any other business

Under this item the Council will consider other matters which Honourable Ministers may wish to raise.

7. Adoption of the report

The Council will consider and adopt their report.

8. Date and venue of the next meeting

The Council will be called upon to propose a date and venue for the next meeting.

9. Closing of the meeting

ANNEX II

Recommendation of the mobilization of resources for the multinational programming and operational centre for the Great Lakes Countries

The Committee of Officials,

Commending the revised programme of work for 1979-1981

Noting that the Africa Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme has earmarked $US 200,000 per annum for each of the four Multinational Programming and Operational Centres south of the Sahara for the period 1978-1981 and that the Assistant Administrator of the Development Programme and Director of the Africa Bureau has agreed to study the possibility of increasing this allocation as from January 1979 as follows:

Great Lakes Centre (Gisenyi)	$US 250.000
Central African Centre (Yaounde)	$US 350.000
West African Centre (Niamey)	$US 350 000
Eastern and Southern African Centre (Lusaka)	$US 500 000

Recognizing that the implementation of the work programme will require resources over and above those likely to be provided out of the limited regular budget of the Economic Commission for Africa,

1. Requests all United Nations specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations bodies to reinforce the resources of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre by using their own funds to provide for the services of experts and for any studies needed to implement projects in their respective fields of competence;

2. Exhorts the Team Leader of the Multinational Programme and Operational Centre for the Countries in the Great Lakes Community to enter into consultations with the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representatives in those countries to determine whether, with the consent of the Governments and executing agencies concerned, those experts assigned to a country or region, whole services are financed by the United Nations Development Programme, could be seconded to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre on a short-term basis to implement specific projects managed by the Centre and of direct interest to those countries in which those experts are working;

3. Invites member countries of the subregion to make contributions in cash or kind as well as through technical assistance arrangements;

4. Urges the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to provide resources in support of the Great Lakes Community MULPOC;

5. Invites donor Governments and organizations to provide assistance in cash or kind and to co-operate in ensuring that the Great Lakes Community Countries