ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
24-28 April 1995

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
1-4 May 1995

ISSUES FROM THE SUBSIDIARY ORGANS, SECTORAL BODIES AND GOVERNING BOARDS OF ECA-SPONSORED INSTITUTIONS
CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
1. This document contains resolutions, recommendations and decisions brought to the attention of the Commission, for consideration, adoption or information, which have been adopted by its subsidiary organs since its last session, and which are not otherwise the subject of separate items of the agenda of the present meeting.

1. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION

2. The following are resolutions and decisions adopted by subsidiary organs of the Commission and by one of its sponsored institutions, which are brought to the attention of the Conference of Ministers for consideration and adoption.

A. Third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-22 April 1995)

Establishment of a regional ECA office for East Africa

The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC,

Referring to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, notably, articles 1, (d) and 4.2 (a)(b),

Convinced of the need to strengthen the regional integration process to promote the balanced development of all subregions of the African continent,

Bearing in mind the goal to ensure that the activities of subregional economic communities are coordinated and harmonized efficiently in implementation of the Abuja Treaty,

Fully appreciating the assistance given by the Economic Commission for Africa, through the MULPOCs, to achieve these goals,

Having taken note of the decision of the United Nations Secretariat to establish a subregional office for East Africa,

Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to carry out consultations with concerned member States for the establishment of the subregional office.

B. Sixteenth meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-22 April 1995)

Endorsement of the African Platform for Action: African common position for the advancement of women

The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April 1995.

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Recalling resolution 792 (XXIX) on "An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment", adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its twentieth meeting,

Recalling the Tunis Declaration at the thirtieth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity held in June 1994 on Population and Development, which gave its support to the African Regional Conference on Women,

Further recalling the fifth African Regional Conference on Women which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 16 to 23 November 1994, and which adopted the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women,

Noting with satisfaction the Declaration in the African Platform for Action which, inter alia, reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to the realization of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the promotion and advancement of women through accelerated action for equality, development and peace,

Taking into account that operative paragraph 4 of the Declaration upholds the African Platform for Action as the outcome of a regional country-based review of the progress of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and broad consultations at national, subregional and regional levels, with inputs from grass-roots communities, and all sections of the African population,

1. Calls upon the ECA Conference of Ministers to endorse the adoption of the African Platform for Action as a renewed commitment by African Governments and as a blueprint to further accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

2. Further calls upon the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its next meeting, to endorse the adoption of the African Platform for Action by according it the necessary political support;

3. Urges the ECA Conference of Ministers to give full support to the implementation of the provisions of the African Platform for Action;

4. Requests the subregional economic communities to contribute to sensitizing the member countries in their subregion and to coordinate their efforts as well as that of their development partners for the implementation of the Platform.

Resource mobilization for the implementation of the African Platform for Action

The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC), at its sixteenth regular session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 22 April 1995,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985,

Further recalling resolutions 35/4 of 8 March 1991 and 36/8 of 20 March 1992 adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the preparations for the fourth World Conference on Women,

Taking into account the outcome of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women held in Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 23 November 1994, in which the Conference adopted the African Platform for Action: African Common Position for the Advancement of Women,
Further taking into account the resolution of the fifth African Regional Conference on Women on the "Implementation of the African Platform for Action" which stresses the need for all actors and partners in development, in particular, governments, intergovernmental bodies, development financing institutions, multilateral organizations, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and women's and youth organizations, to work together for the implementation of the African Platform for Action,

Noting with concern the low degree to which such global and regional frameworks as the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Abuja Declaration have been implemented,

Considering the importance of continuous monitoring of the implementation rate of the African Platform for Action by all development partners in the interest of accelerating the advancement of women and the achievement of sustainable development and transformation,

Aware that over the last several years, the continent has been experiencing a critical financial situation which has hindered the implementation of various development strategies and programmes especially those regarding the advancement of women,

Further aware of the serious financial difficulties facing African States, which may prevent African women from participating effectively in the fourth World Conference on Women,

1. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the African Centre for Women both in the drafting of the Platform for Action and in preparations for Africa's participation in the fourth World Conference on Women;

2. Urges member States to make adequate financial appropriations in their national budgets, giving priority to women in development programmes within the framework of debt conversion, for implementing the African Platform for Action;

3. Calls upon member States to strengthen their national institutions for the advancement of women and support the efforts of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the African Platform for Action;

4. Calls upon member States and the ECA secretariat to enhance the operational capacity of the African Centre for Women to enable it to attain the goals of the African Platform for Action;

5. Requests the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat to mobilize financial resources for the application of the African Platform for Action;

6. Urgently appeals to the regional financial institutions, business associations and other regional institutions to contribute technically and financially to the implementation of the African Platform for Action;

7. Further requests all of Africa's development partners to assist African countries financially and technically, for their effective participation in the fourth World Conference on Women.

8. Calls upon the international community and financial institutions to contribute financially to the implementation of the African Platform for Action in accordance with paragraph 126 (c).

II. ISSUES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

3. The following is a summary of other resolutions and recommendations adopted by the subsidiary organs and brought to the attention of the Conference for information.
Third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Gisenyi-based MULPOC
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-22 April 1995)

Strengthening the subregional integration process

4. The Committee, concerned with the poor economic performance of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) member States and convinced that sustainable growth can be achieved through economic integration, requests that the MULPOC, in collaboration with the CEPGL secretariat, should conduct the appropriate studies for strengthening the framework of such integration, and moreover recommends that member States should ratify the institutional instruments as well pursue their ongoing economic reforms.

Food and agricultural sector

5. The Committee, aware of the importance of the food and agricultural sector in the economies of the Kagera Basin Organization (KBO) member States, and the implications of harmonizing policies pertaining to the Abuja Treaty, concerned with the low level of intra-subregional trade, recommends that member States, in collaboration with the MULPOC, should promote policies and strategies aimed at strengthening food security, harmonizing laws and regulations, enhancing the role of women, implementing institutional mechanisms for harmonization, coordination and marketing in the agricultural sector as well as setting up joint committees and donor round tables.

Transport

6. The Committee, recalling and recognizing the vital role played by transport infrastructure in the development of countries, especially land-locked countries, requests the permanent CEPGL secretariat as well as the MULPOC secretariat to do all in their power to revamp their activities, particularly by organizing the thirteenth meeting of the permanent committee of national airlines and the third meeting of the permanent committee of national transport officials for Lakes Kivu and Tanganyika.