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Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts Preparatory
to the sixth session of the Conference of African
Ministers of Trade

Addis Ababa, 10-16 March 1980

Sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers
of Trade

Addis Ababa, 17-22 March 1980

NOTE ON THE UNDP-FINANCED PROJECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT
OF INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE AND MONETARY AND
FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION

(RAF/79/042/B/01/51)

The project for the development of intra-African trade was originally approved by UNDP for a period of three years and later extended to three and a half years ending in December 1978. During this period, work was performed in various fields of intra-African trade such as marketing and market research, trade policy and trade promotion, trade negotiations and trade facilitation arrangements. The project also provided training facilities in various trade, monetary and financial co-operation areas. These activities were conducted generally within the framework of existing subregional and regional economic groupings and in particular the MULPOCs, and were aimed at helping either to strengthen the existing economic, trade and financial institutions or to set up new ones.

In view of the substantial achievements of the project during this period (i.e. the first phase) and of the growing need for assistance shown by the nascent economic groupings, a tripartite review meeting of representatives of ECA, UNCTAD and UNDP, which took place at the end of the first phase, recommended, among other things, that:

(a) the project should be extended for a further period of three years, commencing in 1979;

(b) action should be concentrated at subregional and regional levels rather than at the country level with a view to enabling the project to play an even more important role in the creation and/or the strengthening of economic and trade institutions;

(c) the scope of activities of the project should be enlarged to cover the promotion of monetary and financial co-operation in support of the trade expansion programme.

The second phase of the project has, therefore, been submitted to UNDP for funding. However, the UNDP regulations require that, before a regional project is funded, the endorsement of participating Governments should be conveyed formally as was done for the first phase of this project.

To the extent that the project activities are of direct interest to them, African Trade Ministers are invited to consider the attached project document and to endorse it formally.

The endorsement is meant to confirm that African countries do in fact desire the continuation of the project for a second phase and to enable UNDP to provide the necessary financing. No financial commitment by member States is implied in the endorsement of this regional project.

It is worth noting that the project has already been endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the Eastern and Southern African MULPOC at its second meeting held in Nairobi in February 1979.

Draft resolution

Renewal of the UNDP-financed project for the development of
trade and monetary and financial co-operation

The African Conference of Ministers of Trade,

Noting with satisfaction the completion of the first phase of the intra-African trade development project and the substantial results it has achieved since its inception in 1975,

Recalling that the development of intra-African trade has been accorded priority as resolutions 222(X)B and 262(III) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa and that Commission's resolution 131(VII) called for the establishment of an African payments union and a pan-African clearing system,

Recalling further resolution 332(XIV) of the Conference of Ministers on the African Strategy for development within the Third United Nations Development Decade, which emphasized the need for increasing the intra-African trade share of total African trade from 4 to 8 per cent within the next decade,

Noting that this objective was supported by the Monrovia Declaration of Commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the Monrovia strategy for the economic development of Africa and related plan of action 1/

Recognizing the substantial contribution of the project to the efforts currently being directed towards the creation and/or the strengthening of economic, trade and payments institutions in Africa, especially through the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres,

Bearing in mind that the work in this field is expected to increase as more and more economic and trade institutions are likely to come into being in the coming years,

Noting further that trade and monetary co-operation is an effective instrument for the achievement of self-reliance and economic integration at the subregional and regional levels,

Convinced that there is a need to extend the project for a further period of three years,

1/ CN/Res. 722(KXXIII).

- 1) Endorses the project document for the second phase as prepared by the secretariat;
- 2) Expresses its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme for the financial resources provided during the first phase;
- 3) Requests the United Nations Development Programme to provide the necessary financing for the second phase at the level indicated in the project document prepared by the secretariat.