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(ECA/SRDC-SA)**

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**5-8 October, 1998  
Lusaka, Zambia**

**COOPERATION BETWEEN SADC AND ECA/SRDC-SA**

Prepared by Secretariat of the Southern Africa Development  
Community (SADC)

**PRESENTATION BY MR W GOEIEMANN, SENIOR ECONOMIST, SADC  
SECRETARIAT, AT THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTER  
GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF ECA/SRDC-SA**

**5-8 OCTOBER, 1998**

**LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**Cooperation between SADC and ECA/SRDC-SA**

Mr Chairman;

Mr R M Okello, Acting Director of ECA-SRDC-SA;

Members of the ICE;

Representatives of Regional and International Organizations.

1. Allow me to thank the ECA-SRDC for Southern Africa, for inviting the SADC Secretariat to participate at the Fifth Meeting of the Intergovernmental committee of Experts and to present a paper on "Cooperation between SADC and the ECA-SRDC-SA".
2. I would also like to express the generous assistance rendered to SADC by the ECA and in particular, the SRDC in Lusaka and the office for Regional Economic Cooperation in Addis Ababa. We are indeed grateful for the development of our web-side, with the assistance of the ECA. The address for the web-side is [W.W.W.sadc.int](http://W.W.W.sadc.int).
3. From the onset, let me categorically state that SADC, as one of the sub-regional groupings is willing and eager to cooperate with the ECA fully in the framework of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African Economic Community (AEC). It will be recalled that the ECA is one of the institutions that have been charged with the responsibility to implement the provisions of the Abuja Treaty and SADC is one of the sub-regional groupings and building blocks for the African Economic Community. In this respect, the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Kaire

Mbuende was mandated by the SADC Council of Ministers to sign the protocol on "Relations between the AEC and the Regional Economic Communities". SADC will do everything to promote and implement the letter and spirit of the Protocol.

4. In the same vein SADC also signed a MOU with the ADB to further cement relations with the continental bodies. In this respect SADC will like to conclude an agreement with the ECA that will govern the relations between the two organizations in the spirit of the Abuja Treaty and the Protocol governing relations between the AEC and RECs. A draft MOU is still a subject of discussion between the two organizations to facilitate working arrangements between the two Secretariats in promoting economic and social development in the Member States.
5. In order to deepen this cooperation further, in 1996, SADC allowed the active and full participation of the ECA, OAU and the ADB in the meeting of the policy organs of the Organization as observers.
6. SADC has identified priority areas for the region, including the development of a free Trade Area, Infrastructure, finance and investment, energy, promotion of tourism, mining, health, capacity building and human resource development; etc. Nonetheless, SADC is conscious of the fact that a number of other sub-regional organisations and continental bodies are undertaking projects, programmes and activities in the sub-region, notably the SRDC-SA and the ECA. Therefore, in order to maximise the use of scarce resources in the region, we need to avoid the duplication of effort and complement each other. In addition, we have a very decentralized system where Member States coordinate particular sectors. There are sector coordinating units in all Member States who coordinated and execute projects and programmes in specific sectoral Areas. Hence, any cooperation needs to be carried out with the already established structures in SADC. These

would avoid duplication of effort between SADC and the ECA. SADC would want the ECA to concentrate on facilitating integration of the Member States of the sub-region. Particularly, attention should be focused on providing extra-budgetary resources to the sub-region; assistance with respect to policy formulation and implementation, training, particularly in cross sectoral areas; provision of technical - assistance for capacity building; and funding of attachment to other sub-regional organisations, in order to share and exchange information.

7. We would like to aforementioned issues to be reflected or addressed in the proposed MOU between SADC and the ECA. The SADC Secretariat and the ECA-SRDC-SA, would remain the focal points for implementing the proposed agreement.
8. In view of the above, we proposed the following areas among others for possible cooperation between the two organizations.

#### **8.1 Development and Ratification of Protocols**

SADC is in the process of developing protocols in specific sectoral areas. So far the organisation has completed for signature protocols in the following areas: Mining; Tourism; Transport; Communications and Meteorology; Illicit Drugs; Energy; Trade; Water; and Education and Training. Protocols are still to be concluded in the areas of Health, Food, agriculture and Natural Resources, Environment Employment and Labour etc. Only four Protocols have been ratified thus far and others are in the process of being ratified. At the SADC Summit in September 1998, the SADC Council of Ministers deplored the slow and low rate of the ratification of the protocols. In addition, Council also noted that legal guidance was lacking with respect to annexes to the protocols, and that the Secretariat should convene legal experts to examine some of these issues.

The SADC Secretariat and SRDC-SA need to consult in order to find ways and means to speed up the ratification process. In this regard, SADC will welcome further dialogue on this issue.

## 8.2 **Annual Report**

The SADC Secretariat prepares an Annual report on major political, economic and social developments in the region. It is our understanding that SRDC-SA also prepares a biennial Report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa as part of its work programme. Similarly ECA-ESPD will prepare the economic survey of Africa which will draw inputs from sub-regional organizations. Close coordination with SADC will be needed in ensuring consistency of information on Member States. Our Statistics unit could collaborate to ensure consistency of data, etc,. In addition, SADC could fully participate in the economic survey of Africa, particularly for Southern Africa.

## 8.3 **Other areas of Cooperation**

These could include the following:

a) Preparations for the 1999 Consultative Conference, scheduled for February, 1999 on "SADC in the next Millenium: the challenges and opportunities of information Technology" : The SADC Secretariat will consult with the ECA soon on the preparations are finalised. In fact we would like the ECA to comment on the attached terms of reference.

b) **SADC Gender Programme:**

SADC is aware that the ECA charged with the responsibility of

monitoring and supporting the global and Africa regional Platform for Action. The SADC Gender Initiative has always sought to work in collaboration with the ECA in moving the agenda of women's empowerment in the region. Recently SADC Gender Unit invited the ECA Gender Focal Point from the Southern African Sub-Regional Centre to the Strategic Planning Workshop of Stakeholders, which took place in Pretoria, South Africa from 27-28 July 1998. The representative of the ECA Gender Focal Point from Southern African Sub-regional Centre was able to share the experiences of the ECA with regard to the institutional framework for gender, which was useful.

The SADC Gender Unit and Advisory Committee will be holding a follow-up workshop in Windhoek, Namibia from 22-27 November 1998, to finalize the draft plan of action and the institutional framework for gender in SADC.

Perhaps the ECA could prepare a guidance note on this issue for presentation to the workshop, in which concrete proposals for monitoring and evaluation are made.

c) **Population and housing Census 2000 Round:**

SADC would certainly need support from the ECA in implementing the housing and population census with a view to standardise and harmonise regional statistics. The Secretariat will be approaching the ECA to discuss possible cooperation and assistance in these areas.

d) **National Accounts Statistics in SADC**

As you are aware the implementation of the 1992 UN System of National

Accounts is ongoing worldwide. SADC cannot claim to have completed the exercise. The purpose SADC National Accounts Manual is intended to assist Member States with their national training programmes. The ECA experts can be used to assist Member States in their endeavour to impart the knowledge of national accounts to producers and users of the statistics. The other issue that remains unresolved is the standardisation and harmonisation concepts, definitions and classification. ECA expertise will be welcome.

e) **Informal Sector**

The informal sector forms a bigger share of our activities. The incorporation of the informal sector will be piloted by Botswana in October 1998. The results of the pilot will be used to draw a regional programme for the incorporation of informal sector into the official statistics. ECA expertise is unquestionable.

f) **Y2K**

The SADC Council of Ministers approved that SATCC, assisted as appropriate by the Secretariat and the Sector of Finance and Investment should develop a regional strategy to speed up national preparedness for the Y2K. The three organisations are planning to meet to develop a programme of action to address the issue.

ECA has experts on this issue who can be used as resources persons and as experts to travel round the region to assist Member States individually and /or collectively.

g) **Mining Investment Forum**

The SADC Mining Sector is planning to organise an investment Forum in December, 1998 but was unable to do so, partly due to technical and Financial problems. Negotiations were initiated with EU for support. The Forum has been postponed to October/November 1999.

We propose that the ECA/SRDC – SA Take up negotiations for [possible assistance and collaboration directly with the Mining Sector based in Lusaka, Zambia.

9. In conclusion Mr. Chairman, allow me to state that since the transformation of the MULPOCs, our cooperation and collaboration with the SRDC-SA had been very fruitful. SADC would like to deepen this collaboration. In addition Mr. Chairman, I would like to sincerely thank the ECA for its invaluable assistance rendered to SADC thus far. As indicated earlier SADC is one of the building blocks to the attainment of the ideals of the AEC. To achieve this, we need to make sure that our meagre resources are used in a very rational way.

I thank you.