

50354

Distr.: LIMITED

ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/P.V/2  
April 1985

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Meeting of the Committee of Experts  
of the North African MULPOC  
Tangier, Morocco  
8-10 April 1985

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Committee of Experts of the North African MULPOC met in Tangier, Morocco, from 8 to 10 April 1985.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the MULPOC: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.
3. The following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Information Centre in Morocco.
4. Observers attended from the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations: Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), Centre of Industrial Studies for the Maghreb (CEIM).

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The meeting elected the head of the Egyptian delegation as its Chairman, the head of the Moroccan delegation Vice-Chairman, and decided that the ECA secretariat should be responsible for preparing its report.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The following agenda was adopted:
  1. Opening of the meeting
  2. Election of officers
  3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
  4. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme 1984-1985
  5. Social and Economic Conditions in North Africa  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V./16)
  6. Desertification and Economic Crisis  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/17)
  7. Review of the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the Field of Trade:
    - (a) Trade Promotion in North Africa: Report of the Workshop of Directors of Export Promotion Centres  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/2);
    - (b) Project document on the Promotion of Afro-Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/3).

8. Review of the Implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the Field of Science and Technology  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/4)
9. The Implementation in North Africa of the Regional Food Plan for Africa:
  - (a) Report on the Study on Subregional Co-operation between Egypt and the Sudan in the Livestock and Cereals  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/5);
  - (b) Co-operation in Agricultural Research and Crop Protection  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/7).
10. Review of the Report: Further Clarifications on the PADIS Programme and the Proposed Establishment of the North African Documentation and Information System (NADIS)  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/14)
11. Industrial Development Decade for Africa:
  - (a) Progress Report on the Implementation of the Work Programme of the ECA in the Field of Industry in the North African MULPOC  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/18(a));
  - (b) Promotion of Subregional Co-operation within the framework of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/18)
12. Medium-Term Development of Forest Industries in North Africa: Report of the Forest Industries Advisory Group (FIAG)  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/8)
13. Migration from the Maghreb Countries to West European Countries: Report on the Study on Migration from the Maghreb to West European Countries  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/9)
14. Transport and Communication Decade:  
Report on Comments and Suggestion by African Countries on the Conclusions of the ECA Study on the Establishment of Efficient Shipping Links between North Africa and Africa South of Sahara  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/10/Add.1)
15. The Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development:
  - (a) Report of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development in North Africa  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/12);
  - (b) Priorities and Work Programme for the Period 1986-1987  
(ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/13).
16. Water Resources Development in Africa and Environmental Problems related to their Development
17. Report on the Establishment of the North African Graduate Institute of Management

18. The Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the Work Programme of the MULPOC
19. Adoption of the Work Programme 1985 and 1986-1987
20. Preparation of the ECA Forthcoming Meetings:
  - (a) Sixth Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;
  - (b) Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Least Developed Countries;
  - (c) Eleventh Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers;
  - (d) Fourth Biennial Pledging Conference.
21. Any other business
22. Adoption of the Report
23. Date and venue of the next Meeting
24. Draft Agenda of the Meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries
25. Closing of the Meeting.

7. In his opening statement the representative of Morocco, Mr. Aghezzaf, welcomed the participants in the name of the Ministry of Co-operation. He outlined the history of the North African MULPOC and the tasks that had been assigned to it, including the exploration of possibilities for co-operation among the member States in all economic and social spheres, the involvement of women in development, the introduction of trade promotion machinery and the launching of agricultural projects aimed at the attainment of self-sufficiency. He announced that his Government was ready to collaborate with the Economic Commission for Africa and other bodies in alleviating the grave crisis Africa was at present passing through. He also spoke of the financial assistance which His Majesty the King of Morocco was giving to the countries of the Sahel.

8. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. A. Bazin, Chief of the Economic Co-operation Office at ECA, expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II and the Government of Morocco for their hospitality in hosting the current series of MULPOC meetings, and wished all participants success in their work.

9. Since the previous meeting of the MULPOC, the crisis in Africa had been growing worse. The international community had fortunately become aware of the crisis and was beginning to take action in response; the crisis still threatened the members of the North African MULPOC, however, and food shortages in particular were likely to become markedly worse unless sweeping measures were taken: The documents before the Committee would, he hoped, provide enough material for a thorough discussion of the subject. On the basis of the research involving a number of countries the ECA secretariat had drafted the profile for a medium-term project in the agricultural sector: one State had already accepted the profile and earmarked part of its contribution to the Special Fund for Africa Development for the purpose; another had agreed in principle to put up the necessary funds. Similar commitments were now needed by other States so as to allow UNDP to provide the requisite support.

10. He went on to single out various aspects of the agenda which required specific action by the meeting or by member States or which, in his view, merited special attention during discussion of the items concerned. He concluded by assuring all participants that the ECA secretariat and the North African MULPOC were ready to furnish their member States with all the assistance they were entitled to expect.

Progress report on the implementation of the work programme 1984-1985  
(Agenda item 4)

11. The officer-in-charge of the MULPOC reminded the meeting of recommendations passed by the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1984, and outlined the action taken by ECA and the MULPOC secretariat in response to each of the nine resolutions adopted with particular reference to the organizational and other constraints that had in some cases made the satisfactory implementation of a resolution impossible.

12. The Meeting took note of the report, which it requested the secretariat to circulate for information purposes.

Social and economic conditions in North Africa  
(Agenda item 5)

13. A representative of the secretariat recalled that the document presented (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/16) had been prepared in response to a decision of the Council of Plenipotentiaries. It showed that most of the countries in the subregion had sustained only modest growth as a result of both domestic factors and an unfavourable international economic situation. Performance in the agricultural sector had been poor owing to adverse weather conditions which had prevailed for some years. Although there had been a slight improvement in the terms of trade of most countries apart from the oil-exporting States, the volume of exports has remained static; increasing indebtedness combined with declining world demand for what the subregion produced had necessitated cuts in imports which had slowed development. The high value of the dollar had only exacerbated the problems. The document was intended to give new direction to the MULPOC's work programme in the light of the changing economic and social situation in the subregion.

14. In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that the report contained useful information but should in future cover additional areas such as investment, foreign trade, social matters - in short, all the priority areas identified in the Lagos Plan of Action - and put forward proposals for action at the country level. It was said that countries should receive more support from the international community in their efforts, and from UNDP in particular. Emphasis was also laid. However, on the need for countries to rely primarily on their own efforts and resources in implementing the Lagos Plan of Action at the national level.

15. It was pointed out that UNDP could support only those development projects to which States themselves were committed. Representatives were told that the best way to ensure that the report on social and economic conditions produced in 1986 was more satisfactory would be for member States to submit information on the areas of most interest of them and on other areas to the MULPOC secretariat.

Desertification and economic crisis  
(Agenda item 5)

16. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/16 which, he said, reviewed the situation in the subregion with particular reference to the food crisis which, as food shortages grew steadily worse, was bringing the spectre of famine to some countries of the subregion. It showed North Africa to be one of three subregions suffering the consequences of drought and desert encroachment: the loss of most animal products and livestock production which was depriving breeders and manufacturers alike of their livelihood; diminished growth; a reversal of the process of rural development; and mass migration to urban centres.

17. Drought in 1984 had caused a marked decline in grain production in Morocco and the Sudan; the document described what had been done to cope with the shortfall, and what emergency steps had been taken. Forecasts of the food situation in the countries of North Africa were for higher food production in 1985 than in previous years, in Tunisia especially. The subregion was, **nonetheless**, far from self-sufficient and would have to increase its food imports considerably. The document contained recommendations on combating the drought and the advance of the desert (for example, introducing machinery to buttress national infrastructure, creating a trained work-force and developing the necessary scientific and technical skills). Most of its proposals would require funds to be raised for combating desertification. In the same vein, natural resources would have to be used more rationally, investment in training and new institutions would have to grow significantly and planning efforts would have to be redoubled if livestock production was to be raised.

18. The ensuing discussion revealed that most of the countries in the subregion had embarked on long-term programmes to combat desertification and had taken steps to boost agricultural development. The representatives of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia described their governments' programmes in this regard. All three stressed how important it was for the States of the subregion to pool their experiences and co-operate to block the advance of the desert in their countries. Participants called on ECA to support efforts throughout the region to combat desertification.

Review of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the field of trade  
(Agenda item 7)

(a) Trade promotion in North Africa: Report of the workshop of Directors of export promotion centres.

19. The meeting was informed that a workshop of directors of export promotion centres took place in Tangier (Morocco), from 25 to 27 March 1985, in response to a resolution of the Council of plenipotentiaries calling upon the MULPOC to bring together representatives of export promotion institutions in the subregion to examine ways and means of strengthening co-operation among them. It was attended by three member States and reviewed the experiences of individual export

promotion centres, the difficulties they faced and possible measure for co-operation on information, studies, market surveys, technical assistance between trade promotion centres, joint undertakings, etc... The workshop had emphasized the important role of trade promotion centres in the subregion and called for increased co-operation among them. It was stressed that such centres should be set up in countries which they did not yet exist. The report contained a number of recommendations for consideration by the Committee of Experts.

20. The Committee endorsed the workshop's recommendations apart from the one relating to the use of NADIS to process information in this field: it was felt that since the system had not yet been set up it would be premature to assign tasks of any kind to it.

(b) Project document on the promotion of Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation.

21. A representative of ECA gave details of the consultations that had taken place between the MULPOC, various trade promotion bodies and the economic department of the League of Arab States to avoid any duplication of efforts. It seemed that a system of methods evolved by the International Trade Centre might be of benefit in the formulation of the project on Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation. The meeting was also informed that, following the meeting of the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions, it had been decided that ECA and ECWA would co-operate on the formulation of Afro-Arab projects.

22. The Committee took note of the document and expressed support for the project. It decided that the document should be circulated to member States for their comments; since the project was regional in scope, participants considered it advisable to assign the co-ordination of activities to ECA.

Review of the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the field of science and technology (Agenda item 8)

23. A representative of the secretariat introduced a document on the implementation of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/4). The document was a progress report made in 1984 to the ECA Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) on the efforts of the secretariat to help member States develop the capabilities they required for the implementation of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action. The report, submitted for information only, outlined activities under seven programme areas.

24. ECA continued to monitor progress in the implementation of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action by member States, international organizations and the secretariat for the period April 1980 to December 1984. Guidelines for the intended survey had been circulated to arrive at the relevant government offices by September 1984 so as to allow four to six months for data collection and completion of the questionnaire.

25. The results of the review would be presented to IGCES at its annual meeting in November 1985. Governments that had not already done so were urged to respond as soon as possible so that each country would feature in what was intended to be a comprehensive review.
26. In the discussions which followed, in which all delegations participated, there was general agreement on the need for concrete action by member States to ensure the appropriate development and application of science and technology in the subregion, and for co-operation among the States of the subregion in the implementation of the review by the secretariat.
27. The representative of Tunisia spoke of his country's achievements in solar energy, emphasizing its use for power generation in rural areas using the expertise and facilities available in the subregion. He gave a brief description of a project which might be carried out under MULPOC auspices with assistance from international organizations, UNDP in particular, and invited other countries to increase their co-operation in this field.
28. The representative of Algeria gave an account of his country's co-operation with Tunisia and the scientific and technological assistance it was providing to some African countries.
29. The meeting concluded by recommending that:
- (a) all member States should reply as soon as possible to the ECA questionnaire on activities undertaken since the adoption of the Lagos Plan of Action to implement science and technology chapter, so that the review of the implementation of this Chapter by the secretariat could be a comprehensive one;
  - (b) the MULPOC secretariat should report to the next meeting of its Committee of experts on the results of the review so that countries could determine any necessary follow-up action;
  - (c) the Tunisian proposal for a project on new and renewable sources of energy should be forwarded by Tunisia to the MULPOC, which would transmit it to the other member States for comment on the understanding that the topic would be discussed by the MULPOC's legislative bodies in 1986.

The Implementation in North Africa of the Regional Food Plan for Africa  
(Agenda item 9)

- (a) Report on Study on Subregional co-operation between Egypt and the Sudan in the Livestock and Cereals (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/5);
- (b) Co-operation in Agricultural Research and Crop Protection (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/7)

30. A representative of the secretariat introduced the two documents prepared for discussion under agenda item 9 and the draft project document on a medium-term programme for agriculture in the North Africa subregion, referring to the legislative authority for these studies and pointing out that both the studies and the project document had been requested by the Council of

Plenipotentiaries in 1984. The draft project document for the extension of the MULPOC's activities in the agriculture sector had been based on the report on co-operation and trade between Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Tunisia. It had afforded an opportunity to mobilize additional resources for the implementation of agricultural studies, and had won the co-operation and assistance of FAO. The project had provided the starting point for the MULPOC's activities in agriculture by providing a forum for discussing the subregion's agricultural problems.

31. During the discussions that <sup>had</sup> ensued, the representative of Morocco asked for ECA to arrange for the experts that had undertaken the studies to visit the countries of the subregion again, if possible, for discussions with the government offices concerned. One representative asked how long countries would have to make comments on the proposed project document and another asked about the implementation of the study on co-operation and trade between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

32. The meeting was informed that as the present project on agriculture would terminate at the end of April 1985, comments on the proposed extension could be communicated to the MULPOC office until the end of May. The Officer in charge of the MULPOC reported that the mission to Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria had had to be postponed to September/October 1985.

33. The Committee called for the MULPOC, with the assistance of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, to complete the study on co-operation and trade in food and agriculture production between Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia during 1985 and requested ECA to expand its assistance through the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division to the agriculture programme of the North African MULPOC. The activities mentioned in the extension of the UNDP project of assistance were recommended for implementation as scheduled; the Committee also called on ECA to submit the medium-term programme for agriculture to UNDP for financing, after amending it in accordance with the suggestions made by the countries of the subregion, and urged the UNDP Bureau for Arab States to approve the project and provide financial resources for its implementation. Finally, the Committee reiterated its recommendation that preference should be given to the expertise available at the subregional level in the implementation of the project and the activities of the North African MULPOC in the agriculture sector.

Review of the report: Further clarifications on the PADIS Programme and the Proposed Establishment of a North African Documentation and Information System (NADIS) (Agenda item 10)

34. Document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/14/Rev. 1 was drawn up in response to a request made by the Council of plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC in resolution 10 of 1 April 1984. A representative of the secretariat outlined the various sections of the report and went on to say that the Regional Technical Committee on PADIS, established by resolution 498(XIX) of the ECA Conference of Ministers at its tenth meeting, had met for the first time from 26 to 28 March 1985 in Addis Ababa. The report of that meeting had been circulated to the

Committee of Experts. He drew attention to operative paragraph 4 of resolution 498(XIX), which called on the Executive Secretary to establish a subregional technical committee for each MULPOC to monitor the project in the subregion concerned.

35. In the ensuing debate one representative expressed his satisfaction that all the recommendations of the earlier meetings were being put into effect, and thanked the Executive Secretary for making arrangements such as the Technical Committees to provide overall guidance for PADIS, advise him on the formulation and execution of the programme and oversee the workings of the project at every level. His country would give the project its full support provided that its aims and objectives could be generally better defined. On the establishment of subregional centres, NADIS in particular, he suggested that at its next meeting the Regional Technical Committee should draw up a paper covering all aspects of the matter, including the role and legal standing of the centres: the decision whether to create NADIS could be taken in the light of that report. Another representative expressed similar views but said it was too early to establish a North African subregional Centre. Any decision on the matter should be based on an objective assessment of the technical, human and financial resources available at the proposed site of the centre. A third speaker said it was not sensible to delay the creation of NADIS any further especially as the other subregions had already begun to set up their centres. Whatever the final decision, PADIS must in any event provide the wherewithal to help North African countries set up national centres or strengthen the centres already in existence.

36. The Committee reached consensus on the need to convene a meeting of governmental experts from all member States within three months to discuss the establishment of NADIS and ways of using PADIS for the benefit of the subregion. The experts would also be expected to elect a chairman of the subregional technical committee to represent them on the Regional Committee.

Industrial Development Decade for Africa  
(Agenda item 11)

- (a) Progress report on the implementation of the work programme of the ECA in the field of industry in the North African MULPOC;
- (b) Promotion of subregional co-operation within the framework of Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

37. A representative of the secretariat introduced the two documents under this item, both of them submitted in response to resolution 4 passed by the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1984, and outlined the recommendations of the subregional meeting on the Initial Integrated Industrial Promotion Programme held in Tunisia in March 1984. He called for information on the status of efforts to establish a subregional co-ordinating committee for the Industrial Development Decade, to set up sectoral committees on iron and steel, engineering and the chemicals industry, and to promote the projects identified in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/18. In connection with option 3 in that paper, he suggested a meeting of subregional agents of production (chambers of commerce and

industry, consultancy firms, manufacturers' associations, small industries, etc...) to specify the incentives and other forms of support and services they required, from governments and elsewhere, to carry IDDA projects out in the context of the present African crisis.

38. The representative of UNIDO gave details of the programme for the Decade and described his organization's activities relating to that programme. He urged African governments to begin work on the programme for the Industrial Development Decade. He emphasized that UNIDO was willing to consider any programme of technical assistance to African countries and intergovernmental organizations.

39. During the following discussion the secretariat was asked for information on the terms of reference of the various committees proposed. A representative of the secretariat suggested that the MULPOC should convene an expert meeting to discuss the options available and report to the Council of Plenipotentiaries. The UNIDO representative said that his organization would be ready to host a meeting to consider possible ways of setting up the North African Committee and ensuring the implementation of industrial projects in the subregion. The Committee welcomed this suggestion and decided to recommend it to the Council of Plenipotentiaries for adoption.

Medium-term Development of Forest Industries in North Africa: Report of the Forest Industries Advisory Group (FIAG) (Agenda item 12)

40. A representative of the secretariat, introducing document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/8 which had been prepared in response to a resolution adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1984, said that the project identification study referred to in that document was still being hampered by a lack of funds. FIAG had in 1984 continued to seek external funding for the study in addition to approaching the Regional Studies Branch of the UNIDO Division of Industrial Studies and the FAO Industrial Centre, but without success. He asked the Committee for guidance on how to ensure that the study was completed. The Committee concluded that this matter being concerned with finance, ought to be dealt with at the policy-making level; it therefore referred the question of the action to be taken to the Council of Plenipotentiaries.

Migration from the Maghreb countries to West European countries: Report on the Study on Migration from the Maghreb to West European Countries (Agenda item 13)

41. A representative of the secretariat recalled the terms of the resolution on this subject adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1984 and described the action taken by the secretariat to put it into effect. A questionnaire had been prepared and sent to member States. The replies, however, had been late in coming and the Director of the MULPOC had thus been unable to call a meeting of the intergovernmental working party to discuss the findings.

42. Efforts to interest donors in financing the project had also continued. In particular, the Arab Group at the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984 had suggested to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities that it reconsider its position and take note of the importance member States attached to the project.

43. The secretariat representative also reported that contacts had been made with other institutions interested in the project, such as UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, the League of Arab States and the Economic Commission for Europe. Co-ordination would have to be stepped up in order to avoid any duplication of efforts.

44. In the ensuing discussion several representatives stressed the difficulty of securing funds for the project and the manner in which the project should be carried out. Consensus emerged on the possibility of analyzing member States' replies to the questionnaire; summarizing them on the basis of all available information, including research by such other bodies as the International Labour Office, the League of Arab States, the Arab Labour Organization and any available material on West Africa; and at the same time seeking funding for more specific projects concerned with emigration matters such as the questions of second-generation emigrants, reintegration and legal provisions in the country of origin and the host countries. The secretariat was asked to submit its report to the next meeting of the MULPOC.

Transport and Communications Decade: Report on Comments and Suggestions by African Countries on the Conclusions of the ECA Study on the Establishment of Efficient Shipping Links between North Africa and Africa South of the Sahara  
(Agenda item 14)

45. A representative of the secretariat stated that the report contained in document ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/10 and Add.1 stemmed from resolution 7 adopted by the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1984. The secretariat had invited all ECA member States to comment and suggest ways of following up on the study.

46. Only eight countries, three of them from the North African subregion, had replied. Some had suggested the introduction of machinery to promote the project among African States. One country had said that the bulk component needed to be taken into account.

47. The secretariat proposed the creation of an ad hoc Committee in North Africa to promote the project, draw up a programme of activities and mobilize the necessary resources.

48. In the following discussion some participants emphasized the need to hold a co-ordination meeting to enhance co-operation in shipping among North African countries and between them and sub-Saharan Africa.

49. The Committee recommended that the statistics in the report on maritime links should be updated, and tramping should be added.

The Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development  
(Agenda item 15)

50. The Chairman of the Subregional Committee for the Integration of Women in Development introduced the report of that Committee's third meeting, held on 6 and 7 April 1985 (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/12). She briefed participants on the discussions that had taken place and read out the recommendations adopted.

51. The Women's Co-ordinator introduced document (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/13) the priorities and work programme for 1985-1986, highlighting the objectives in view, priority activities and the results expected during the period.

52. The discussion on this item revolved around a number of details of the activities and priorities in the programme that needed clarification. Exchanges took place on the funding of development projects scheduled for 1985 and 1986. The participants unanimously acknowledged the importance of funding and endorsed the priorities and programme of work for 1985-1986. They emphasized the need to step up the approaches ECA was already making to UNDP for funding. Discussions also took place on items 6 and 7 of the recommendations submitted; it was decided that as the topics concerned (extending the length of the sub-regional Committee's sessions and ensuring that translation and interpretation services were provided for the meetings of the Committee and its bureau) were purely administrative, no recommendation on them need be made to the Council of Plenipotentiaries.

Water Resources Development in Africa and Environmental Problems Related to their Development (Agenda item 16)

53. Introducing this item, a representative of the secretariat said that no action had yet been taken under the Council of Plenipotentiaries' resolution 6 of 1984, partly for lack of funds and partly because of uncertainty as to the kind of institutional framework that should be adopted. It was the secretariat's intention to await the outcome of the forthcoming Regional Water Conference before deciding what approach to adopt. The Committee concluded that, in view of the importance of water resources to the North African subregion, the matter should be kept under review.

The North African Graduate Institute of Management (ISGAN)  
(Agenda item 17)

54. The Committee was informed that the North African Graduate Institute of Management (ISGAN) had been formally created by a previous resolution of the Council of Plenipotentiaries and its statutes had already been approved; it only remained for member countries to sign the statutes for the Institute to come into being. So far, however, only three countries had done so. In view of the difficulties in getting certain countries to sign the statutes, the Council of Plenipotentiaries, at its meeting in 1984, had requested the MULPOC to study the possibility of revising the Institute's aims and objectives in order to avoid duplication with existing management institutions in member countries.

55. One delegation said that the study should be completed so as to ensure that the institution was finally set up as decided by the Council of Plenipotentiaries. Other delegations argued that since member countries were facing serious financial difficulties, care should be exercised in setting up new institutions. ECA had already embarked on a study of existing institutions in Africa with a view to rationalizing them; it would therefore be advisable to await the outcome of that study.

56. The Committee decided to recommend consultations with member States on whether such an Institute was needed and, if so, whether its terms of reference should remain as originally conceived or be revised.

The Mobilization of Resources for the Implementation of the Work Programme of the MULPOC (Agenda item 18)

57. A representative of the secretariat dwelt on the importance of this question, referring to various ECA resolutions and to efforts by ECA to attract funding. He pointed out that some countries had earmarked part of their contributions to the Special Fund for African Development for MULPOC projects.

58. One representative said that efforts to persuade UNDP to support the MULPOC's activities should be kept up. He also said that tangible support by States was important.

59. Another representative stressed the need to rationalize the MULPOC's activities and avoid the proliferation of meetings and studies on subjects already covered by other institutions.

60. The Officer-in-charge of the MULPOC was recommended to consult member States on the possibility of making use of national experts and technicians for specific projects.

Adoption of the work programme 1985 and 1986-1987 (Agenda item 19)

61. In his introduction to this item the representative of the secretariat said that for the sake of consistency between the work programmes of the MULPOC and of ECA, the MULPOC work programmes for 1985 and 1986-1987 included activities to be carried out in the subregion by ECA at the request of member States.

62. The Committee took note of the two documents, requesting the secretariat to bring them into line with the decisions and recommendations adopted at the current session and to circulate the revised versions to member States.

Preparations for the forthcoming ECA meetings  
(Agenda item 20)

- (a) ~~Sixth~~ meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole
- (b) Fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the African Least Developed Countries
- (c) Eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers
- (d) Fourth Biennial Pledging Conference.

63. The Chief of the ECA Economic Co-operation Office emphasized the importance of the forthcoming series of meetings, which would take the social and economic crisis in Africa as their principal theme and pave the way for the next Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU, which would be devoted to economic matters. The Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries would also be held in Addis Ababa; he urged the one least developed country among the members of the MULPOC to participate. He also urged all countries of the North African MULPOC to attend the Technical Preparatory Committee, the ECA Conference of Ministers and the Pledging Conference.

64. On the subject of the Pledging Conference he pointed out that States were entitled to earmark their contributions for the MULPOC or for specific projects and programmes.

65. One representative asked for the meetings schedule to be drafted with due regard for the need to allow enough time for delegations to be able to attend all such meetings.

Any other business  
(Agenda item 21)

66. No other matters were raised.

Adoption of the Report  
(Agenda item 22)

67. At its final meeting, held on 10 April 1985 at 6 p.m. the Committee of Experts adopted its report as presented in this document. It also examined the ten draft resolutions annexed hereto and recommends them to the Council of Plenipotentiaries for adoption.

Date and venue of the next meeting  
(Agenda item 23)

68. It was decided that the principle of holding the MULPOC meetings at its headquarters should be respected and that only the date and venue of the next Experts' Committee had to be subject to consultations between the ECA and member States.

Draft agenda of the meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries  
(Agenda item 24)

69. The Committee proposed an agenda for the meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries.

Closure of the meeting  
(Agenda item 25)

70. After an exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

-----

Draft

Resolution No. 1

Trade Promotion in North Africa

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Having considered the report and recommendations of the workshop of directors of North African export promotion centres,

Aware of the potential role of export promotion centres in the promotion of subregional trade,

1. Calls on the MULPOC secretariat, in collaboration with other regional organizations concerned with the promotion of trade, to:

- (a) do its utmost to enhance co-operation among the national trade promotion centres in North Africa and develop a programme for strengthening existing centres and encouraging their establishment where none exists; such assistance and co-operation should extend to cover information, training, promotional activities, research and harmonization of trade policy;
- (b) make comparative studies, in close collaboration with the national centres, on the foreign trade of all the countries in the subregion to identify, in conjunction with research on supply and demand, items suitable for trading, obstacles to such trade and means of overcoming them;
- (c) to exploit every available opportunity to solve the problems of funding and as soon as possible, with the economic agents of the subregion, organize a round-table on trade promotion and development in the countries concerned;
- (d) to make plans for a feasibility study on the establishment of a multinational trading company in the sub-region;
- (e) to promote the policy of exchanging staff for limited periods among trade promotion centres to conduct joint market surveys;
- (f) to examine the possibility of establishing the institutional framework to promote a preferential trade area for the countries of the subregion;
- (g) to facilitate the creation of an intergovernmental group of experts to recommend ways of harmonizing trade policies in the subregion and gradually reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers so as to create a preferential trade area;

2. Appeals to the bodies that define policy for the MULPOC to encourage the mobilization of the financial and human resources needed to carry out the recommendations of the workshop of directors of North African export promotion centres;

3. Calls on the MULPOC to make plans for regular workshops of directors of the North African export promotion centres.

Draft

Resolution No. 2

Afro-Arab Trade and Financial Co-operation

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Noting the project profile on Afro-Arab trade and financial co-operation,

Acknowledging the readiness of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) to engage in consultations on the formulation of projects relating to trade development,

Requests the MULPOC, ECA and ECWA to engage in consultations with international bodies with a view to securing the necessary co-operation and financial support for jointly approved projects relating to trade and financial co-operation between African and Arab countries.

Draft

Resolution No. 3

Implementation in North Africa of the  
Science and Technology Chapter  
of the Lagos Plan of Action

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Recalling the provisions of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Having considered the report of the secretariat (Doc. ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/4) on the implementation of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for the period from November 1983 to November 1984,

Aware of the considerable scope for developing and applying science and technology in the subregion and of the need to provide the secretariat with adequate information for a review of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action for the period April 1980 to December 1984,

1. Takes note of the report on the activities of the secretariat (ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/4);

2. Appeals to all States of the subregion to cooperate in implementing the review by responding promptly to the questionnaire already circulated by the secretariat;

3. Requests the North African MULPOC to report to the 1986 meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries on the findings of relevance to the countries of the subregion, with a view to the formulation of recommendations on follow-up action.

Draft

Resolution No. 4

Implementation of a medium-term programme for agriculture in the North African MULPOC subregion

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Viewing with deep concern with the food and nutritional situation in North Africa, which has not improved in recent years in spite of the efforts of the governments of the subregion,

Aware of the concern expressed by the Eleventh Summit Conference of Arab Heads of State on Joint Arab Economic Action, held in Amman in November 1980, on the food situation and the high priority that must be accorded to food security schemes,

Bearing in mind the recommendations and conclusions of the African Regional Food Plan for Africa and of the Lagos Plan of Action,

Recalling ECA Conference of Ministers Resolutions 351(XIV); 413(XVI); 462(XVIII); 463(XVIII) and 479(XVIII),

Recognizing that there is a great potential for improving and expanding agricultural production and productivity through joint ventures at the subregional level, especially by coordinating and strengthening co-operation in agricultural research and training,

1. Approves the 1985 Programme of Work for the North African MULPOC in the agriculture sector;

2. Calls on the MULPOC, with the assistance of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division, to complete the study on co-operation and trade in food and agriculture production between Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Morocco and Tunisia during 1985;

3. Requests ECA to expand its assistance through the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division to the agriculture programme of the North African MULPOC;

4. Calls on ECA to submit the medium-term programme for agriculture (1985-1987) to UNDP for financing, after amending it in accordance with the suggestions made by the countries of the subregion;

5. Urges the UNDP Bureau for Arab States to approve the project and provide financial resources for its implementation;

6. Reiterates its recommendation that preference should be given to expertise available at the subregional level in the implementation of the project and the activities of the North African MULPOC in the agriculture sector.

Draft

Resolution No. 5

PADIS Programme and the Establishment of NADIS

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Recalling resolution 10 adopted at its fourth meeting,

Recalling also resolution 498(XI) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its tenth meeting,

1. Takes note of documents ECA/MULPOC/Tangier/E.V/14/Rev.1 and ECA/PADIS/RTC/I/11;

2. Decides to set up the subregional technical committee for PADIS called for in paragraph 4 of the Conference of Ministers' resolution 498(XIX);

3. Further decides that the Committee will comprise one high-level governmental expert in telecommunications, library sciences or computer sciences from each member State;

4. Requests the Director of the North African MULPOC to call a meeting of the Subregional Technical Committee within three months;

5. Decides that the purpose of that meeting shall be:

- (a) to explore in greater detail the question whether to establish NADIS;
- (b) to consider, pending the possible establishment of NADIS, possible ways of using PADIS to benefit the subregion, including the creation or strengthening of national centres;
- (c) to elect a chairman to represent the Committee on the Regional Technical Committee.

Draft

Resolution No. 6

Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Recalling its Resolution No. 4 adopted in April 1984 on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Noting with satisfaction the progress report of ECA on the status of implementation of the Decade programme in the subregion, and the efforts made by the secretariats of ECA and UNIDO to provide information on the promotion of subregional co-operation within the context of that programme,

Aware of the importance of the subregional co-ordinating committee and sectoral committees on iron and steel, engineering and chemicals, and of the contribution that such committees can make to the implementation of the Decade programme,

Aware of the important role that indigenous agents of production, distribution, skills development, investment promotion and finance in the public and private sectors can play in the implementation of the Decade programme,

1. Decides to convene during 1985 a sub-regional expert meeting to examine in depth the question of establishing a subregional co-ordinating committee for the implementation of the IDDA programme and sectoral committees in iron and steel, engineering and chemicals and to make recommendations thereon to the Council of Plenipotentiaries in 1986;

2. Requests the ECA, UNIDO and MULPOC secretariats to provide all requisite information for the smooth conduct of the meeting and calls on the MULPOC to provide the necessary services for the meeting;

3. Welcomes the UNIDO proposal to hold, in conjunction with ECA, a meeting of experts to arrange for the creation of the subregional co-ordinating committee as part of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

Draft

Resolution No. 7

Maghreb Emigrants in Western Europe

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Having considered the ECA document on the study on Maghreb emigrants in Western Europe,

Reaffirming the importance of the question for the subregion, in particular the need for the emigrants' countries to make arrangements for their voluntary return and professional and social reabsorption,

1. Requests the ECA secretariat to summarize the replies to the questionnaire drawn up at the request of the Council at its previous session, together with the information available from other governmental and intergovernmental bodies that have studied the question;

2. Further requests the ECA secretariat to mobilize the financial resources needed to launch specific projects dealing with the problems of migration;

3. Calls on the ECA secretariat to submit its report to the next meeting of the Council, in 1986.

Draft

Resolution No. 8

Establishment of Efficient Shipping Links between North Africa and Africa South of the Sahara

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Convinced of the importance of shipping to the smooth development of African maritime trade and, more particularly, of coastal shipping in the orderly development of intra-African commerce,

Aware that African shipping is dominated by foreign tonnage on both coastal runs and long hauls,

Also aware that this foreign stranglehold penalises both African economies and African fleets, whose financial returns are generally low for this reason in particular,

Noting the ECA study on the establishment of efficient shipping links between North Africa and Africa south of the Sahara, and the comments by African countries on that study's findings;

1. Requests ECA to update the statistics in the study and devote some attention to analysing the tramp vessel market;
2. Decides to hold, in 1985, a meeting on shipping attended by the North African operators concerned: fleet owners, shipping agents, specialists in international trade, forwarding agents, consignees etc... for the purpose of:
  - (a) considering the status of shipping in the North African subregion, and proposals for subregional co-operation among the operators concerned;
  - (b) considering the status of shipping in Africa and proposals for co-operation between North African operators and operators from other subregions of Africa;
  - (c) considering the advisability of setting up a North African subregional institutional structure to co-ordinate shipping activities, and possible means of doing so.
3. Calls on the Director of the MULPOC to contact member countries with a view to discovering if any one of them would be willing to host such a meeting.

Draft

Resolution No. 9

Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Having considered the report of the Third meeting of the subregional Committee for the integration of women in development, held in Tangier, Morocco, on 6 and 7 April 1985,

Having also considered the report on priorities for the integration of women in economic and social development in North Africa and the work programme for 1985-1986,

1. Takes note of the two reports and endorses the priorities and work programme for 1985-1986;
2. Urges the Executive secretary of ECA to intensify his approaches to UNDP for the necessary funds to carry out the priority projects and the work programme;

3. Appeals to donor agencies to continue to give technical and financial support for these projects;
4. Recommends ECA and donor agencies to make preferential use in these projects of the skills and facilities available in the subregion;
5. Requests aid from ECA and the MULPOC to facilitate visits and exchanges of experience among their member countries to reconcile differences in viewpoint and allow an increasing number of women to benefit from the projects designed for them;
6. Calls on member States to redouble their efforts to provide information regularly for the **biannual** newsletter on women in North Africa, using research workers and experts on women and women's affairs to enrich this publication;
7. Decides that the officers of the subregional Committee for the Integration of women in development should attend the meetings of the MULPOC's policy-making bodies;
8. Recommends that the five-year programme of implementation for the Arusha Forward-Looking Strategies give consideration to the question of Arab women who are refugees or the victims of armed conflicts.

Draft

Resolution No. 10

Mobilization of Human and Financial Resources

The Council of Plenipotentiaries of the North African MULPOC,

Recognizing that the MULPOC work programmes for 1985 and 1986-1987 require resources to supplement those provided under the regular budget of ECA and the amounts made available by UNDP for the agricultural development and women's programmes,

1. Calls on the member States of the North African MULPOC, in recognition of their cardinal responsibility for the success of economic development through multinational co-operation in the subregion, to contribute in cash and kind towards specific projects in the MULPOC's work programme;
2. Appeals to UNDP to continue and increase its aid to the MULPOC;
3. Calls on all United Nations specialized agencies to supplement the MULPOC's resources by providing experts and conducting studies on specific projects within their spheres of competence at their own expense.

-----