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**Report of the High Level Expert Group Meeting
on Agriculture and Environment**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

30 November - 2 December 1998

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION

1. The High level Expert Group Meeting on Agriculture and Environment was held in the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 30 November to 2 December 1998. The meeting was formally opened by Ms P. Makinwa Adebusoye, Director of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Mr. K.Y. Amoako, the Executive Secretary of ECA and Ms. Lalla Ben Barka, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission also took part in the opening ceremony.

2. The meeting was attended by experts in the fields of population, agriculture and environment. These experts were invited in their personal capacity. The list of participants is provided in the Annex.

B. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting opened at 16.10 hrs on 30 November 1998. In her opening statement, Ms Makinwa-Adebusoye welcomed the Experts on behalf of the Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the ECA, and thanked them for honouring the Commission's invitation. She hoped that in addition to a fruitful meeting, they would have a pleasant stay in Addis Ababa.

4. She then reviewed the food security situation in Africa, which she underscored was dismal in many countries. Food insecurity is expected to accelerate substantially in sub-Saharan Africa where available evidence suggests that environmental degradation such as soil erosion, desertification and deforestation is seriously

depend for increasing their agricultural productivity. As a result, about 44 percent of Africa's population live below the poverty line earning an income of about \$39 per month.

5. She identified two basic pressures that account generally for the continued deterioration in the quality of life of the average African - the population growth rate which far exceeds that of per capita food production in most African countries and the rapid deterioration of the environment caused by soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and environmentally damaging agricultural practices which has led to declining land productivity, increased food insecurity, rapid population growth and environmental degradation in the continent. These trends constitute a very important challenge for public policy in Africa today. Indeed, no cluster of issues has eluded effective public policy intervention more than that inter-linking food security, population and environmental degradation.

6. She drew attention to the emerging consensus highlighted at all international conferences which have been held since the early 1990s, for attaining food security and ensuring sustained economic growth and sustainable economic development, which lays emphasis on the need to tackle the inter-linked issues of population, environment and food security, known as the *nexus*, in a holistic and integrated manner so as to alleviate poverty.

7. She identified the need for a framework to better understand and manage the nexus issues hence the reason why ECA, through a set of reforms and the creation of the Food Security and sustainable Development Division (FSSDD), has repositioned itself to meet this challenge. The mandate of the Division is precisely to take the lead in grappling with the delicate balance between population growth, agriculture and the environment so as to promote food security and sustainable development in the region.

8. She then drew the attention of the meeting to some important first steps which FSSDD has taken, including the development of a Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) computer simulation model with which the Division intends to demonstrate the synergistic effect of the population-agriculture-environment interrelationship on food security. The model, she said, would be demonstrated for the consideration of the meeting. An "Issues Paper", a guide to the Division's current (1998-1999) work programme, as well as a forward looking plan for the biennium 2000-2001 was also available for the consideration of the meeting. In addition, the Division intends to continue its consultation with expert groups to further sharpen the focus of its work so as to enable it, along with the other Divisions of the ECA, to serve Africa better. To plan and successfully carry out its work, a number of critical questions and issues would need to be addressed including:

1. How can policy makers be persuasively reached on these interrelated issues?
2. How can public administrators best manage the vital interactions between population, agriculture and environment?
3. How can the Division best organize and manage its work in the inter-linked areas of population, agriculture and the environment?
4. What approaches can the Division suggest to public administrators to assist them in their efforts to increase agricultural production while protecting the environment?

She called on the meeting to help find answers to these and other related questions and issues.

9. This group comprising world renowned experts in the fields of population, agriculture and environment and senior policy makers who understand how decision-making is influenced, was put together to assist the division and the Commission to think through and around these questions as well as discuss broad strategic approaches, and help the Division to plan specific tasks. The meeting is expected to

discuss how the integration of the nexus issues in development planning can be made politically attractive, and how ECA and its partners can be more helpful in government work on these issues.

10. In conclusion, she said that the Division looked forward to the final recommendations of the meeting which would constitute practical advice on how the Division's programme should best be organized so as to have a marked, positive impact on food security and sustainable development in Africa.

Organizational Matters

11. After introducing themselves, the participants elected the following officers:

Chairperson: Professor George Benneh

Rapporteurs: Professor Ruth Oniango assisted by Dr. Dunstan Spencer
and Professor Abiodun Falusi.

12. Following the election of officers, the meeting adopted the agenda shown below (Agenda item 2(b))

Agenda

Session 1:

(a) Opening of the Meeting

(b) Organisational Matters:

- (i) Election of Chairman and Rapporteur
- (ii) Adoption of the agenda and programme of work
- (c) Programme of work
 - (i) Session 2: Population-Agriculture-Environment Inter-linkages: The critical links between population, agriculture and the environment: Presentation of the Population, environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) Model.
 - (ii) Session 3: Group Discussions – Formation of working groups and determination of their terms of reference
 - (iii) Session 4: Group discussions
 - (iv) Session 5: Consideration and approval of the report of the meeting
 - (v) Session 6: Closing session.

Session 2: Population-agriculture-environment inter-linkages

13. Ms. Makinwa-Adebusoye, the chief of FSSDD presented the Division's population Environment Development Agriculture (PEDA Model) for demonstrating and projecting PEDA interactions in the member countries of ECA. The model is deliberately user-friendly and focuses on the vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy, high fertility, land degradation and food security. The model quantitatively operationalizes this vicious cycle framework and examines possible ways of breaking out of it as well

as the implications of alternative actions on the food security status of different sub-groups of the population.

14. Following the presentation of the model, the meeting congratulated the Chief of the division for her vision in initiating the work on the model and the great progress that has been made to bring the model to its present level of development.

15. The following is a summary of the key points that emerged from the ensuing discussions.

- (i) The policy environment should be more explicitly incorporated into the model.
- (ii) the environment component of the model should come out more prominently.
- (iii) The relationships between different levels of education and their linkages to food security should be more clearly spelt out.
- (iv) The impact of biotechnology should be considered.
- (v) AIDS is becoming a major development factor in the region and the relevance of the model would be enhanced if its impact and implications were accommodated in the model.
- (vi) The strength of the model lies in its potential for sensitivity analysis.
- (vii) Data availability and reliability are of considerable importance for the usefulness of the model.

16. In her response the Chief of the Division informed the meeting that the components of the environment and policy had to some extent been accommodated in the model in its present form. For example, environment considerations come into the model via its water component. A number of economic variables also enter the model through the production and distribution functions. Also the effect of education on fertility and the linkages to food security are also built into the model.

17. She informed the meeting that the main message the present stage of the model is trying to get out to the various key stakeholders is to start working together on the key nexus issues. The comments and other recommendations from the meeting will be brought to the attention of the consultants for possible incorporation into future versions of the model.

Session 3: Formation of working Groups and Determination of their Terms of Reference

18. The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the opening statement of the Chief of FSSDD which contained specific expectations about the outcome of the meeting. The Chief of the Division had called on the participants to focus on a few key aspects in the inter-linked areas under discussion so as to be able to carve out a niche for the division while avoiding unnecessary duplication. She had also called on the participants to identify the key issues involved and advise on how best the Division could go about tackling them.

19. In the ensuing discussions, the Division was called upon to focus on two areas:

- (i) Advocacy
- (ii) Policy Analysis Support

20. It was agreed that while overlap and duplication should be avoided, some overlap may be beneficial, particularly, if the Division is able to carve out a niche for itself, build the needed capacity to maintain the niche and in the process earn credibility and recognition. In any case, if the Division focuses its work on the nexus interrelations, the possibility of unnecessary duplication and overlap will be greatly minimized.

21. With regards to its advocacy role, it was suggested that the Division should build partnerships with all the key stakeholders including decision-makers, policy analysts, NGOs, the private sector, the media, and civil society. The importance of focusing on all the ministries of relevance to the inter-linked areas was emphasized including the Ministry of Finance which controls the financial resources and often dictates the adoption or otherwise of key policy objectives.

22. For the Division to play an effective advocacy role, it must have something significant to advocate. It can use partnerships to develop a formidable set of advocacy items to be put on offer. One way to be relevant would be to take the initiative and lead in examining emerging issues in the inter-linked areas and prepare the region to address and tackle them from an African perspective. For this advocacy role to be effective, it must be credible, respectable and reliable. Furthermore, a number of critical questions would need to be addressed.

- (i) What is the empirical content and substance of the advocacy?
- (ii) What is the validation process?
- (iii) What is the empirical content of the advocacy message?
- (iv) What is the intended consequence of the advocacy role?
- (v) Advocacy by who and for whom?

23. It was suggested that there may be a need to search for an alternative terminology for advocacy since Government and political officials are often sensitive to the political connotation implied in the term. A number of other suggestions were also made concerning the advocacy role of FSSDD/ECA including:

- (i) ECA's advocacy message, should, whenever possible, incorporate local knowledge systems.
- (ii) The message has to be backed by solid research that is either carried out at ECA itself or in partner organizations and institutions so that credibility is assured.

- (iii) The advocacy process has to be evolutionary and has to start in-house at ECA.
- (iv) PEDDA is a good starting tool for the division's advocacy work.
- (v) Advocacy has to be provided in partnership with funding agencies but it must also carry a political clout for it to be effective.

24. With respect to policy analysis support, the focus should be on translating generic policies into African and country specific policies. ECA should be speaking for the region on the key policy issues. There is need to undertake critical analysis of the key inter-linkages. Given its limited human and financial resources, the Division may need to collaborate with researchers from other disciplines and institutions. The division should also collect and collate information and data on the nexus inter-linkages and provide policy briefs which are African in their perspective.

25. To effectively play its policy analysis role FSSDD has to:

- (i) Build capacity.
- (ii) Build Partnerships and networks.
- (iii) Develop appropriate tools for making policy choices.
- (iv) Incorporate the nutritional aspects of food security which is often ignored.

26. Following the brainstorming session, the meeting then broke into two Work Groups, one on advocacy and the other on Policy analysis. The reports of the work of the two groups were later presented and discussed in a plenary session.

Session 4: Reports from the Group Discussions

Advocacy Group:

27. The Group on Advocacy elected Mr. J. A. Ridl from the Republic of South Africa as chairman. The Terms of Reference adopted by the Group were as follows:

- (a) To further define and fine-tune the objective of advocacy as it relates to the work of FSSDD;
- (b) To identify the various stakeholders and target groups of advocacy;
- (c) To define the instruments of advocacy and mechanisms for implementing them;
- (d) To define indices for monitoring and evaluating the impact of advocacy; and
- (e) To develop criteria for selection of start-up activities.

28. The objective of advocacy in the context of FSSDD's strategic goals is to change behaviour/attitude of policy-makers in ECA member States and to move away from the traditional sectoral approach to an integrated approach when dealing with population, environment, agriculture and development issues.

29. The possible stakeholders of advocacy were identified and grouped into four categories. Grouping the stakeholders into categories was necessary because of the need to design different strategies and to convey different messages to different target groups according to their respective roles. The four defined categories of stakeholders were:

- (a) Other units of ECA notably the substantive Divisions;
- (b) UN Organizations whose mandate cover certain aspects of the nexus (FAO, UNEP, UNFPA, World Bank);
- (c) Regional and sub-regional organizations (OAU, ADB etc.)

- (d) National level stakeholders including government ministries, the civil society, NGOs, the private sector and research institutions.

30. The group brainstormed on the extent to which the FSSDD should advocate in member States in order to realize the importance of this initiative. The group took into account the comparative advantage of the Division, the need for building partnership with regional and national stakeholders in defining the degree of FSSDD advocacy role. A consensus was reached for FSSDD not to stop at the sub-regional level but to go further to the national level through the SRDCs to promote policy dialogue among the relevant ministries, the civil society, NGOs, and the private sector. In this connection, it was stated that the experience on the exclusive use of "training-the-trainers" approach to reach the lower levels did not yield satisfactory results. Inadequate financial and skilled manpower issues as well as lack of commitment were cited as some of the causes for the unsatisfactory outcomes of the "train the trainers" approach.

31. Acknowledging the importance of maintaining the momentum of ownership, it was agreed that all stakeholders should be empowered through different mechanisms. The need to secure political support for effective advocacy was also needed.

32. On the question of what to advocate, the Group fully endorsed the Division's proposed work programme for the 2000-2001. In particular, the need for FSSDD to extensively advocate the PEDDA model was emphasized.

33. The Group then discussed implementation mechanisms and identified indices to monitor and evaluate the impact of advocacy and networking. A summary of the discussion on these items is given in the following table.

34. The Group emphasized the need for the Division's work to acquire political clout by presenting it to the Conferences of the relevant ministries including: the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central African States and that of Eastern and Southern African States.

Table 1: Target group, instruments, actions steps, expected impacts and indicators of success for advocacy activities

TARGET GROUPS	INSTRUMENTS	ACTION STEPS	EXPECTED IMPACTS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
In-house (ECA Divisions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inter-Divisional Meetings ▪ Staff Retreats ▪ Program Fairs ▪ Regular Internal Seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop terms of reference to sensitise all ECA Divisions on the Nexus issues; ▪ Strengthen interlinkages among all Divisions for knowledge sharing through the establishment of an intra-ECA Seminar Committee ▪ Recruit communications officers to promote market for FSSDD's product ▪ Develop better incentives for active inter-divisional co-operation ▪ Establish website for knowledge sharing on nexus issues ▪ Develop a monitorable feedback mechanism between FSSDD and the Executive Secretary's on the outcomes of the meetings/training workshops/retreats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased internal ownership ▪ Improved information flow ▪ Better integration of Nexus issues in work programs of all Divisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level and regularity of participation; ▪ Extent of incorporation of Nexus Issues in work programs; ▪ Annual Reports; ▪ No. of interdivisional meetings
OTHER UN Institutions (FAO, UNEP, UNFPA etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interagency Consultative Meetings ▪ Regular information briefs (e.g. PEDA model briefs) ▪ Interagency task force on Nexus Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop formal contact with related UN organizations ▪ Establish interagency task force (UNEP, FAO, UNFPA) ▪ Define terms of reference of the task force ▪ Organize regular interagency meetings ▪ Allocate resources for advocacy activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved co-ordination and co-operation on nexus issues ▪ Change in attitude from traditional sector approach to system approach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degree of collaboration by different agencies ▪ Number of regular meetings of the task force ▪ Amount of resources allocated by different agencies Number of regular interagency meetings

TARGET GROUPS	INSTRUMENTS	ACTION STEPS	EXPECTED IMPACTS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<p>REGIONAL Institution (ECOWAS, SADC, COMESA, IGAD, OAU, ADB etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional training workshop Existing annual meetings ▪ Websites ▪ PEDAs brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convening of one introductory meeting ▪ Developing joint agenda for regular meetings ▪ Design a website as a medium for disseminating FSSDD's activities ▪ Develop a more proactive programme of promoting FSSDD activities amongst UN agencies ▪ Establish an interagency task force on the nexus issues ▪ Encourage an active exchange of experts programme between regional and national regional/sub-regional/national institutions and ECA as a means of creating awareness and building capacity ▪ Develop a training programme targeted at regional and national staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased co-operation among FSSDD and regional and sub-regional institutions ▪ Enhanced ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of workshops/meetings convened ▪ Number and degree of participation ▪ Annual Report of regional institutions
<p>INSTITUTIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (Line Ministries, NGOs, Civil Societies, Professional Groups, the Research Institutes and universities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National sensitisation workshop ▪ Local Media ▪ National Offices of all UN Agencies ▪ SRDCs ▪ Briefs and/or newsletters (e.g. PEJA brief) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop network at national level ▪ Select start-up countries for PEDAs and other FSSDD activities using specified criteria* ▪ Assist member States in the generation and/or collection of required data for the analysis of nexus issues ▪ Involve SRDCs in the selection of the criteria for country case studies and in the implementation of FSSDD's programme of work ▪ Carry out all the Division's regional advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased food security ▪ Reduced natural resources degradation ▪ Greater awareness of the nexus issues among national stakeholders ▪ Increased local ownership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent to which stakeholders use nexus approach in their work programmes ▪ The extent of collaboration among stakeholders at the national level and creation of multidisciplinary teams ▪ Active participation of SRDCs regional and national ▪ Extent to which member

TARGET GROUPS	INSTRUMENTS	ACTION STEPS	EXPECTED IMPACTS	MEASURES OF SUCCESS
		<p>services through SRDCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the PEDDA model by member States and asses the impact. ▪ Maintain interrelationships with NGOs at the national level ▪ Join with UNDP in conducting thematic activities ▪ Carry out training and awareness creation within the context of capacity building 		<p>States show political willingness to co-operate in the implementation of the Division's activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

Policy Analysis Group

35. The Chairman of this working Group was Mr. Francis Idachaba. The goal of the group was to come up with a report on how FSSDD/ECA should go about defining a niche for itself in areas where it has a comparative advantage in the member countries. The report addresses the following:

1. What needs to be done?
2. What process should be followed?
3. What partnerships should be formed at the country, regional, and international levels?
4. What monitoring mechanisms should be put in place?
5. What are the training needs?
6. Preparation of a time-bound work plan for the policy analysis work of the Division.

What should FSSDD do either by itself or in collaboration with its partners?

36. FSSDD should provide policy analysis support in the inter-linked areas of agriculture, population, and the environment with a view to attaining food security and sustainable development. The PEDDA model should serve as the starting point for this policy analysis support. The evolutionary process of fine-tuning and validating the model should continue, culminating in specific case studies. In addition, the following would also need to be addressed:

1. The comments and reactions that emerged during the discussions following the presentation of the PEDDA model including:

- (a) Explicitly incorporating an environmental component into the model;
 - (b) Recognizing the impact of the policy environment and its effects;
 - (c) Addressing the AIDS issue
 - (d) Exploring further the interlinkages between education, fertility and food security.
2. The structure and complexity of applications of the model will vary from country to country.
3. Need for empirical work to validate some of the assumptions of the model.
4. Need to more explicitly bring in environmental and sustainability consideration into the model.
5. Need to examine policies that are of direct relevance to the key inter-linkages.
6. Need to address trade liberalization including the impact of input and output prices on the environment.
7. Need to develop data-base and build empirical knowledge on the linkage issues.
8. Need to address emerging issues including biotechnology, biodiversity, and global warming.

What process should be followed?

37. A number of steps should be followed to establish a process for carrying out the work of FSSDD. These include:

1. Internalization within FSSDD of the analytical framework for addressing the nexus issues relating to population, agriculture and the environment.
2. ECA commission-wide internalization of the framework for addressing the nexus issues.
3. Establishment of a process of peer review involving experts outside ECA, for example, the African Economic Consortium and others.
4. The preparation of policy briefs for the general readership.
5. The dispatch of a formal letter from the Executive Secretary to Heads of States of African Governments introducing the Division and calling attention to its work in the nexus area. This should be followed by presentations to ECA's Conference of Ministers of Finance and Planning as well as meetings involving other related ministers.
6. Proceed with presentations at the sub-regional level. Some form of training-the-trainer activities could also take place here.
7. Establish policy dialogue at the national level involving all key stakeholders including farmer's organizations, sectoral ministries, NARS, IARCs, the media, etc.
8. Policy dialogue at the national level should bring together researchers in agriculture, demography, and the environment with key policy-makers in

relevant sectors (agriculture, finance, national planning, population, education, health, and environment) for the purpose of:

- (a) Translating research results into policy decisions for implementation;
- (b) Assessing the impact of policies in education, agriculture, health, and population on desired family size, food security and sustainable development;
- (c) Sensitizing key actors and stakeholders to the linkage issues; and
- (d) Ensuring ownership of policy interventions through consultations so as to ensure joint ownership.

38. There will be need to follow a number of stages in this process. This will include:

- (a) Design and formulation of policies;
- (b) Validation of policies;
- (c) Implementation and monitoring; and
- (d) Evaluation and lessons of experience.

39. The challenge is to design and formulate policies, programmes and projects aimed at attaining food security rapidly by taking account of the nexus issues, and multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary activities. To meet this challenge, there will be need to make formal submissions of the work programme of FSSDD to sister institutions. The involvement of OAU will also provide a useful political umbrella to the work of the Division.

40. The output of FSSDD's work on policy support should be based on a revised issues paper, taking the present draft as a point of departure. The paper will however need to be strengthened by:

- (a) Providing country-specific examples and making it less general and more regional in its coverage;
- (b) Linking the PEDDA model to the issues paper, i.e. the issues paper must logically lead to the logic of the PEDDA model;
- (c) Bringing in more emerging issues into the paper including market orientation, biotechnology and biodiversity and the impact of trade liberalization on the environment and food security and suggesting mechanisms for addressing the emerging issues

Partnerships and Networking

41. Partnerships will be needed at the following levels:

- (a) Individual
- (b) Institutional (universities, emerging centres conducting policy analysis, various ministries of relevance to the nexus issues)
- (c) subregional (UN University for Resource Management in Legon, Ghana, Institute for Natural Resources Management, IITA, ISNAR, IFPRI, ICRAF, WARDA, ENCAPAPA etc.)
- (d) NGO (Friends of the Earth, Action Aid)
- (e) Regional organizations (OAU, ADB, IGAD, CILSS, etc.)

42. Networking will also be needed. The FSSDD must, however, first decide on what it wants out of the network and what it has to offer the network. ECA's goal should be to serve as the focal point on the nexus issues and the originator of new ideas and initiatives on these issues. The Division's proposal for the establishment of an African Visual Centre for Information on Food Security Activities should be reviewed by the meeting and suggestions made for improvement.

Monitoring Mechanisms

43. The following should be undertaken to establish effective monitoring mechanisms for the activities of the Division:

- (a) Development of gender disaggregated indicators on food security, population and the environment, for example, an index on food security that is adjusted for the nexus issues;
- (b) Development of a monitoring format involving both financial and physical targets;
- (c) Organization of training programmes on monitoring and capacity building;
- (d) Preparation of quarterly reports on the progress of the work of the Division on the nexus issues;
- (e) Preparation and distribution of Annual Reports on the work of FSSDD

Training Needs

44. Training should be provided in the following areas:

- (a) ECA/FSSDD staff should be trained to better understand the workings of the PEDDA model as well as the issues contained in the Division's revised issues paper;
- (b) Ambassadors in Addis Ababa should be sensitized and informed about the nexus issues through some appropriate forum;
- (c) Training should be provided in data collection and analysis;
- (d) Training on environmental impact assessment (EIA) relating to the nexus issues should be provided;
- (e) The ability to negotiate relating to the nexus issues should be developed possibly in collaboration with partners with the requisite capacities;

- (f) Building an inventory, reviewing and harmonizing existing laws at the national level on the nexus issues as a prelude to drafting new laws on the nexus issues.

45. The Group reviewed the proposed work programme of the Division for the 2000-2001 Biennium and concluded that it was implementable although its successful implementation would depend on the availability of financial resources and the requisite skills mix. The group, however, suggested that the title of the non-recurrent output titled "The state of agricultural Intensification in Africa" should be changed to read "The state of Food Security and Agricultural Development in Africa". Although FAO already has a publication on the state of food and agriculture (SOFA), it did not focus on Africa. It was, therefore, appropriate for the Division's work in the area to focus on Africa.

46. The Group suggested that the work of the Division at the national and sub-regional levels should be carried out in collaboration with the SRDCs. In this regard, there would be need to promote interdependency and congruency in the work programmes of the two units.

Session 5: Consideration and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

47. The Chairman led the meeting through a page-by-page review of the Draft Report of the meeting including the reports of the two Working Groups on Advocacy and Policy Analysis. Editorial and substantive changes were made to the report in an atmosphere of lively discussions and intellectual exchanges. The revised report was then adopted by the meeting.

Session 6: Closing

48. In his closing remarks the Executive Secretary informed the meeting of the restructuring that has taken place in the Commission. The Number of Divisions had

been reduced from 12 to 6. The need to build synergies among the reduced number of Divisions is at the heart of the restructuring. He hoped that these synergies will become more evident in the 2000-2001 Biennium Work Programmes of all the Divisions of the ECA including FSSDD.

49. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that 25 per cent of the professional staff of ECA had been reassigned to the SRDCs and that the sub-regional centres were expected to work in close collaboration with the substantive Divisions at headquarters as well as with other sub-regional organizations such as SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA, etc. He emphasized that ECA was part of a larger UN family and informed the meeting that the Commission had developed a good collaborative relationship with UNDP at the country level. He cited the recent ECA 40th anniversary celebrations in which various UN agencies fully participated including the funding of some of the activities as a good example of the progress the Commission was making in this area.

50. The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of "ownership" of the work of ECA. Regional and sub-regional Conferences of Ministers provide the fora for harnessing commitment and support for the Commission's programmes. Although, as part of the restructuring process, the number of Ministerial Conferences had been reduced to two, there is no reason why Ministers dealing with the nexus issues could not be invited to join their colleagues in Finance and Economic Planning during their meeting. Another avenue for promoting ownership is through the African Development Forum jointly organized by ECA, OAU and ADB.

51. With respect to the issues of skill mix and financial resources, the Executive Secretary informed the meeting that efforts were being made to augment existing levels of financial and human resources through partnership arrangements such as a visiting Fellowship Programme, which is still in its early stages. He hoped that the programme will ultimately provide avenues and opportunities for aspiring young African scholars and researchers to work at ECA using extra-budgetary resources.

52. The Executive Secretary announced that ECA will be convening a partners meeting in March, 1999 to look at specific proposals including those emanating from FSSDD. He emphasized the importance of a demand-driven programme of work supported by an eminent group of stakeholders such as the present Expert Group Meeting. He then thanked the Group for its excellent work and invited them to reconvene again sometime in 1999 to review the progress of the work of the Division.

53. Dr. Dunstan Spencer then gave a vote of thanks. He thanked professor Adebusoye, the Chief of FSSDD for putting together the Group and expressed the Group's gratitude to the Executive Secretary for being an excellent host. He commended the Commission for its desire to involve African stakeholders in its programme planning and urged the new ECA to continue on the set path.

54. Following the vote of thanks, the Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/1/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda |
| 2. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/Add.1/Rev.1 | Provisional annotated agenda |
| 3. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/Inf.1 | Provisional list of participants |
| 4. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/Inf.2/Rev.1 | Programme of work |
| 5. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/Inf.3 | List of documents |
| 6. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/Inf.4 | Africa: Population, Environment and Agriculture Indicators (Draft Tabulation) |
| 7. | ECA/FSSD/AGR.ENV/EG/98/2 | Report |
| 8. | | FSSDD's issues paper |
| 9. | | A guide to FSSDD's work programme – 1998-1999 |
| 10. | | Proposed work programme for 2000-2001 biennium |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ETHIOPIA

Dr. Kidane GEORGIS

Director
Dryland Agricultural Research
Ethiopian Agricultural
Research organization
P.O. Box 2003
Addis Ababa

Tel.: 251-1-61 34 09
Fax: 251-1-611892/611222

Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabeher

General Manager
Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority
P.O. Box 12760
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-18 61 97
Fax: 251-1-61 00 77
E-mail: sustain@telecom.net.et

GHANA

Prof. George BENNEH

International Association of University Presidents
African Regional Council or University of Ghana
Department of Geography & Resource Development
University of Ghana
P. O. Box 59
Legon

Tel.: [233] 21-500394
Fax: (233) 21 500310/500392

Dr. Kwadwo TUTU

Senior Lecturer
University of Ghana
P.O.Box 57, Legon
Accra

Tel. [223-21] 501487/6
Fax: [223-21] 501486
E-mail: Economics@ug.gn.apc.org

KENYA

Ruth ONIANG'O, Ph. D.

Professor of Food Science and Nutrition
Jomo Kenyatta University
Department of Food Science and
Post Harvest Technology
Nairobi

Tel: (254) 632220/631200

Fax: (254) 583294

E-mail: oniango@iconnect.co.ke

Mr. Peter M. AMUKOA

Deputy Director of Agriculture
Secretary of the National Committee for
the Implementation of the World Food
Summit Plan of Action,
Ministry of Agriculture
Kilimo House
Cathedral Road
P.O.Box 30028
Nairobi

Tel.: [254-2] 71 88 70/9 Ext. 48180/48101

Fax: [254-2] 72 24 11/72 57 74

Telex: 22766

NIGERIA

Prof Abiodun Olu FALUSI

Department of Agricultural and Economics
University of Ibadan
U.I Post Office
Box 19974
Ibadan, Nigeria

Tel: (241)02 810 3390

Fax: (241)02 810 1488

E-mail: idea@linkserve.com.ng

SIERRA LEONE**Dr. Dunstan S. C. SPENCER**

Managing Director
Dunstan Spencer & Associates
27 Guy Street, PMB108
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Tel.: [232] 22 228669

Fax: (232) 22 228985

E-mail: dsa@sierratel.sl**SOUTH AFRICA****Mr. J. A. RIDL**

RIDL-GLAVOVIC
Environmental Lawyers
4 Burnside, 1 BULDERSWAY
P. O. Box 1819
Hillcrest 3650 Kwazulu Natal
South Africa

Tel.: 27[0] 7656524

Fax: 27(0) 765 6939

E-mail: jarid@iafrica.com**ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS****ARSSRN****Prof. Anthony IKPI**

Chairman, TAC
African Rural Social Sciences Res. Network
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
PMB 5320, Oyo Road
Ibadan, Nigeria

Tel. [234-2] 241 2626

Fax: [234-2] 810 2987

E-mail A.IKPI@CGIAR.ORG**CIMMYT****Dr. Wilfred MWANGI**

Regional Economist/Regional Liaison Officer
CIMMYT,
East African Region
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-61 50 17/61 51 29

Fax: 251-1-61 18 92

E-mail: W.Mwangi@cgiar.org

COMESA

Dr. E. A. MOHAMMED

Acting Director, Agriculture Division

P.O.Box 30051

COMESA

Lusaka, Zambia

Tel.: (260-1) 229725/32

Fax: (260-1) 225107

E-mail: emohammed@comesa.int

ISNAR

Prof. F. S. IDACHABA

Deputy Director-General

International Service for National

Agricultural Research (ISNAR)

P.O.Box 93375

2509 AJ, The Hague

The Netherlands

Tel.: 3170-349-6209

Fax: 3170-381-9677

E-mail: f.idachaba@cgnet.com

WORLD BANK

Mr. Rudolph POLSON

Senior Economist

Rural Development Department

Africa Region

World Bank

1818 H. Street

NW Washington D.C. 20433

Tel.: 202-473-5526

Fax: 202-473 8229

E-mail: rpolson@worldbank.org

Mr. Joseph Baah-DWOMOH

Sector Manager, Rural Development 2

Africa Region

The World Bank Group

Washington D.C. 20433

Tel.: [202] 4734937

Fax: [202] 4735147

ECA SECRETARIAT

Prof. P.K. Makinwa-Adebusoye
Chief, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis-Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16
E-mail: Makinwa-adebusoye@un.org

Mr. I. I. Ekanem
Team Leader on Population, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

Mr. G. Abalu
Regional Advisor, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 63 36
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16
E-mail: Abalu@un.org

Mr. S. M. Donkor
Regional Advisor, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

Mr. Don Oben

Team Leader on Agriculture, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis-Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16
E-mail: Obend@un.org

Mr. Ousmane Laye

Team Leader on Environment, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel. 251-1-51 57 61
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16
E-mail: Laye@un.org

Mr. K. Abassa

Team Leader on Science and Technology, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

Mr. Sarim Kol

Environment Affairs Officer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00
Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

Mr. Maurice Tankou

Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

E-mail: Tankoum@un.org

Mr. J. Hamel

Scientific Affairs Officer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

E-mail: hamelj.uneca@un.org

Ms. J. Sendi

Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

Mr. Fidèle Byiringiro

Associate Economic Affairs Officer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00 Ext. 33525

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

E-mail: Byiringiro@un.org

Mr. Han Chol O

Associate Expert, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001

Addis-Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

E-mail: han.uneca@un.org

Mr. Georges Reniers

Associate Expert, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001

Addis-Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16

E-mail: Reniers.uneca@un.org

Mr. Assefa Belai

Demographer, FSSDD
P.O. Box 3001

Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251-1-51 72 00

Fax: 251-1-51 44 16