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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIAL
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN
AFRICA (SEAF) FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN
JUNE TO DECEMBER 2011**

INTRODUCTION

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa (SEAF) is composed of 15 Member States namely Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, S.A.D.R., Tanzania and Zimbabwe (Chairperson)

2. The Sub-Committee is responsible, among others, for determining the policy of the Fund; approving emergency relief assistance and determining terms and conditions for awarding grants or loans and formulating programs of financial resource mobilization in and outside Africa.

3. This Report summarizes activities of the Sub-Committee for the period between June and December 2011 and highlights some of the problems/challenges of the Fund.

GRANTS APPROVED

4. During the period under review, the Sub-Committee held its 18th and 19th Extra-Ordinary sessions at the Headquarters of the Commission in Addis Ababa. The 18th Extra-Ordinary Session, held on 14th July 2011, was called to discuss the drought situation which affected countries of the Horn of Africa and in particular Somalia, and the 19th Session held on 16 August 2011 was convened to consider the request from the Government of Djibouti for emergency relief assistance to 120,000 people who are in dire need of food aid and non-food supplies due to the unprecedented drought which affected Djibouti and other countries of the Horn of Africa. .

5. Having appreciated the seriousness of the situation in the two countries, the Sub-Committee decided to grant US\$300,000 each to Djibouti and Somalia for food aid and disaster response activities. The grant to Djibouti is to be disbursed directly to the Government of Djibouti while the grant to Somalia is to be executed by UNHCR, which has an active presence in the affected area.

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE FUND

6. The resource of SEAF comes mainly from voluntary contributions from Member States, while the African Union makes statutory contribution of US\$500,000 annually.

7. Unfortunately no new contribution was received during the period under review in spite of the general appeal made by the Sub-Committee to that effect. On the other hand during the same time a total of US\$600,000 was disbursed to Djibouti and UNHCR as stated above. As a result the net operational balance of the Fund stands at around US\$2.4 million.

PROBLEMS/CHALLENGES

8. SEAF is instrument of African solidarity and mutual support. In the past twenty six years SEAF supported more than 80 projects in 34 countries with a total disbursement of more than US\$34,000. However, the existence of the Fund is now falling under question due to continuous depletion of its financial resources.

9. In light of this situation the Sub-Committee was forced to take an austerity measure reducing the ceiling for food aid from US\$200,000 to US\$100,000 and disaster response assistance (non-food aid) from US\$500,000 to US\$200,000.

WAY FORWARD

10. The Sub-Committee is in the process of setting up a Task Force composed of five members of the Committee to review the policies and procedures of the Fund and develop a sound funding mechanism to replenish the resources of the Fund on a sustainable basis. The task is expected to be completed during the first half of 2012 and the outcome will be presented to the AU Policy Organs Meetings in June/July 2012.

2011

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