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JOINT OAU/UNDP REPORT ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION  
AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES



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JOINT OAU/UNDP REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
NAIROBI RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL  
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES

INTRODUCTION

1. The Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) maintained excellent ties of cooperation in many fields.

Technical cooperation among Developing Countries in general and among African countries in particular, is an area where the two Organizations, the OAU and UNDP, strive to coordinate their activities and programmes within the framework of complementarity and in the light of the Inter-African Convention on the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Programme on the one hand and the "Nairobi Recommendations for a Programme of Technical Cooperation among African Countries" on the other.

2. "The Conference of African Governmental Experts on Technical Cooperation among African countries organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nairobi, Kenya from 12 to 20 May 1980, decided to assemble the overall recommendations adopted by the participants and named it "Nairobi Recommendations for a Programme of Technical Cooperation among African Countries". One of these recommendations reads as follows:

"In order to ensure that African Governments are aware of the progress made and the outstanding difficulties in the development of TCDC in Africa, from 1981 onwards UNDP in collaboration with the OAU should prepare annual reports on these two matters. These reports should be submitted to the ECA Ministerial Conference and the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers prior to the Summit Conference of African Heads of State and Government. The Conference strongly recommends that all African States collaborate closely with UNDP in the preparation of these annual reports". (See paragraph 72 of the Nairobi Recommendations).

3. In conformity with that recommendation, this report was prepared jointly by the UNDP and OAU. Both organizations agreed that the UNDP Resident Representatives would be requested to collect from African Governments the necessary information on the implementation of the recommendations made to African States. Thus in November 1981, the UNDP Secretariat requested the UNDP Resident Representatives serving in Africa to collect information on paragraphs 15 to 24, 26, 29, 31 and 33 of the brochure, published by the UNDP in English and French, entitled Nairobi Recommendations for a Programme of Technical Co-operation among African Countries

I. Measures recommended to African Governments

4. The measures recommended in these above paragraphs are the following:

- i) Each African country should nominate a ministry which will be responsible for coordinating and promoting technical co-operation between that country and other developing countries in general and other African countries in particular.  
(See paragraph 15 of the Nairobi Recommendations).

- ii) National administrative bodies should be created where necessary in order to strengthen national associations with a view to developing the role of women in technical cooperation among African countries. (See paragraph 16 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- iii) All countries should provide a flexible and effective legal and administrative framework to facilitate the exchange of pooling of resources. An inventory of the possibilities that countries can offer their neighbours and other African countries in the field of TCDC should be prepared. (See paragraph 17 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- iv) Where possible, every effort should be made to associate national experts, universities, women's organizations, trade unions, employers, young people and financiers in the development of TCDC. (See paragraph 18 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- v) Existing bodies such as the Pan-African Women's Organization, the African Research Centre for Women and other continental associations should be closely involved in the preparation and coordination of technical cooperation activities at the sub-regional and regional levels with a view to enhancing the exchange of experiences and promoting joint ventures among women. (See paragraph 19 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- vi) Technical Cooperation relations between regional and sub-regional institutions and bodies should be strengthened particularly in jointly agreed priority areas, in the light of the requirements and potential of the countries concerned, taking account of the need for complementarity. (See paragraph 20 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- vii) Special bodies should be established at sub-regional or regional levels and within the UNDP to work in conjunction with the OAU to coordinate TCDC activities among Member Countries. (See paragraph 21 of the Nairobi Recommendations).

- viii) Sub-regional and regional associations between teaching, research and development institutions, on the one hand, and production, distribution and service industries, on the other, should be encouraged within the framework of which scientific and technical information could be exchanged. (See paragraph 22 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- ix) Professional associations should be invited to collaborate in the implementation of these recommendations. (See paragraph 23 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- x) A fund should be established to cover the transportation and expenses of visiting African University professors within the framework of exchanges between African Universities. (See paragraph 24 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- xi) In cooperation between countries of the African region of the Indian Ocean, priority should be given to specific areas, including for example, the study of rural development in island countries in relation to tidal power; communications and telecommunications; fishing and fish processing; reafforestation and soil conservation. (See paragraph 26 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- xii) African countries as a whole are not only failing to make rational use of the experts available within the continent but they must also take steps to stop the brain drain. (See paragraph 29 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- xiii) Systematic cooperation is called for in project formulation, purchase of technologies, efficient utilization of resources, environmental protection and financing of industries. Further information should be exchanged on management agreements and the selection of appropriate technologies conducive to cooperation in Africa. Information should also be exchanged on rates of technical and management fees. (See paragraph 31 of the Nairobi Recommendations).

- xi) In the sphere of technical cooperation, a catalogue listing available cooperation programmes for each developing country should be prepared. This would indicate which country has what, thereby facilitating the matching with the availability of resources. The first step is essential in view of the already existing cooperation between several countries. (See paragraph 32 of the Nairobi Recommendations).
- xv) Since the primary responsibility for initiating and enhancing technical cooperation among African countries lies with the countries and governments concerned, the latter should take all appropriate measures in order to fully participate in the financing of that cooperation. These measures may include:
- a) Provision in national budgets of a percentage of resources that should be devoted to the promotion and support of TCDC activities;
  - b) Provision in budgets of African sub-regional and regional inter-governmental organizations of a percentage of resources that should be devoted to TCDC activities;
  - c) The inclusion, at the request of African countries of TCDC components to the extent of 5 to 10 percent of the costs of projects presented for financing to the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa (BADEA);
  - d) Utilization of a percentage of bilateral assistance received by the country (at least 5 to 10 per cent) for the financing of TCDC activities of interest to the countries in question. (See paragraph 33 of the Nairobi Recommendations).

## II. Progress Made by African Countries in the Development of the TCDC

5. At the time of the preparation of this document, only ten African governments had replied to the request for information made by UNDP in compliance with the recommendation reproduced in paragraph 1 above. These countries are: Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Togo. The restricted number of countries which had supplied the required information (one fifth of the OAU member states), did not make it possible to have a global idea of the progress made and the difficulties encountered by African countries in the development of the TCDC in Africa. However, a number of lessons can be derived from the information thus collected. These lessons may be summed up in the following paragraphs:

### A. Organization of the TCDC

6. Some African countries have already appointed Ministers to coordinate and to promote Technical Cooperation with other developing nations. This is the case with Botswana (Ministry of Finance and Development Planning), Egypt (which has created, within its Foreign Ministry, the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa) the Peoples' Revolutionary Republic of Guinea (Ministry for International Cooperation placed directly under the Office of the President since September, 1977), Guinea-Bissau (Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development), Seychelles (Ministry of Planning and Development), Sierra Leone (Ministry of Economic Development and Planning) and Togo (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation). Another country, Lesotho, is examining the possibility of entrusting its Ministry of Planning, Labour and Economic Affairs with the task of coordinating and promoting the TCDC. The recommendation being considered includes the appointment of a Committee to be responsible for assisting the Planning Board in the execution of this function. For its part, the Government of Mauritius has even set up a TCDC Unit within the Technical Assistance Coordination Division of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. The role of this unit is to ensure that information about TCDC activities are passed on to the various national institutions so as to keep them abreast with events in this area in other countries.

7. Certain countries, namely Botswana, Guinea, Lesotho and Sierra Leone have suitable institutions for women's activities. In Botswana, a special Committee for women's development and Planning known as Women's Development and Planning Committee has been established within the Ministry of Home Affairs. This Committee held an International seminar from 18 to 20 January 1982. In Guinea, Women Development Centres have been established and scattered all over the territory since 1982. Activities of these centres include dyeing, weaving, sewing, embroidery, pottery works, and handicrafts and so on. In addition to these, the centres train and run courses for women for African countries, at their request, especially in the case of Portuguese - speaking countries. Guinean women dyers have been sent out to Tanzania. In Lesotho, there is Women's Bureau which will serve as a focal point for TCDC Women's activities. In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rural Development plays a vital role by providing a suitable senior administrative staff to help strengthen national associations with a view to promoting women's role in technical cooperation among African countries. For their part, Seychelles and Togo, without indicating the existence of any special administrative machinery, reported that there is National Women's Association in the Seychelles and a National Union of Togolese Women (UNFT) in Togo. The UNFT maintains good working relationships with Women's Associations in Senegal, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta and Guinea.

8. Concerning the compilation of lists of what the various countries are capable of offering their neighbours and other African countries on TCDC matters, Guinea suggests that these lists be prepared and discussed during the meetings of joint commissions between her and her African partners or within the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Other countries, Mauritius and Seychelles, reported that their lists were being drawn up.

9. With regard to the organization of the TCDC at the sub-regional and regional levels, the general consensus seemed to be summed up in the declaration made by the Government of Guinea Bissau which was of the



opinion that technical cooperation among African countries could be promoted considerably through already existing organizations on the continent. For its part, the Government of Mauritius argued that even if new organizations were to be set up, it would be necessary to see to it that the relevant running costs were reduced to the minimum possible. Among the already existing institutions, besides the OAU, ECOWAS and the MULPOC sponsored by ECA, mention can be made of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) cited by Botswana and Lesotho, the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Learning (CAMES), the Organization for the Development of Kagera River Basin (OBK), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) suggested by Burundi, the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) cited by Guinea-Bissau, the Mano River Union suggested by Sierra Leone, OCAM and the Entente Council cited by Togo.

10. Certain countries intimated that they had bilateral agreements between themselves and with other African countries. This is the case of Burundi which had signed a scientific and cultural cooperation agreement with the United Republic of Tanzania since 9 November 1972. Burundi had also institutionalized its Joint Commissions with Algeria, the Congo, Libya, Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. Besides, within the framework of its fund technical cooperation with Africa, Egypt has signed cooperation agreements with Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, Egypt admits a large number of African students in its Universities and higher institutions of learning. Over 600 such students had been admitted during the 1980/81 academic year, without considering other facilities extended to Africans for junior staff training. In addition, Egypt has placed about 650 experts and technicians at the disposal of African Governments on bilateral basis. For its part, the University of Benin in Togo has signed many agreements with other African Universities in the fields of exchanges among these institutions. Besides, Togo admits in its schools and colleges, nationals of many African countries, for short or long-term courses and technical exchanges. Some national institutions have very special disciplines on TCDC matters. This is the case with the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research

Institute, the National Centre for the Promotion of Small and Medium Scale Industries and the Cacanéli Centre for Construction and Housing, both in Togo which constitute Special fora for the exchange of experience and in the respective disciplines of these institutions.

11. With reference to recommendations relating to the Indian Ocean countries, the Seychelles Government announced that countries of this sub-region had already initiated an active cooperation in the field of telecommunications with assistance from the European Development Fund (EDF). Besides, a regional programme to assess the power potential that sea wave energy represents for the economies of these countries is being considered with EDF assistance.

12. Regarding the establishment of professional associations at the sub-regional and regional levels, the Sierra Leone Government announced that efforts had been made, in this respect, in the educational, and research fields as well as in the fields of medicine and pharmacy.

B. TCDC Financing

13. As indicated in paragraph 8 above, Egypt has recently established the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa. This Fund has two aims, namely:

(a) financing the services of Egyptian experts in all fields requested by other African countries;

(b) financing training programmes in Egypt for the benefit of nationals of other African countries.

At the end of 1981, requests were made to the Fund by African countries for 355 experts and 959 bursaries for training in Egypt.

14. No other country indicated that its Government had established a Special Fund for TCDC financing. However, the Government of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea intimated that, within the scope of inter-African University exchanges, transport expenses and subsistence allowances of Guinean Professors are borne by the Government of Guinea or, if need be, from UNDP Fund placed under Guinea's Indicative Planning Figure (IPF).

### III. Difficulties to be overcome in developing TCDC in Africa

15. On the basis of answers received from the ten countries which had provided the information requested, it became patent that there are four major difficulties impeding the development of TCDC in Africa, the most serious being financing. The other difficulties relate to the shortage of competent national cadres or the lack of appropriate national institutions; linguistic barriers and inventory of supplies and demands.

#### A. Financing

16. With regard to financing, Guinea-Bissau believes that serious consideration must be given to the question of the contribution of each country within the framework of the financing of TCDC activities in Africa. All commitments in respect of financing such as the fixing of percentage should be made only after formulating a definite Technical Cooperation Programme so that each country can assess the real impact of this cooperation on its economy and development. At the time when the assistance provided by the international community is inadequate to cover the urgent needs of Guinea Bissau, the Government of that country does not think that it is reasonable to earmark before hand a portion which it considers substantial (5 to 10 per cent) for TCDC financing. The Government of Mauritius, Seychelles and Togo on their part stressed the TCDC with the sole resources of their countries.

B. Shortage of National Cadres or lack of appropriate Institutions

17. Guinea Bissau's example illustrates the difficulty inherent in developing TCDC when such appropriate institutions as universities or research institutions are lacking or when the number of competent national cadres is inadequate. Burundi also cited the shortage of national cadres as a difficulty that can limit its participation in TCDC development.

C. Linguistic Barriers

18. Burundi also drew attention to the difficulties resulting from linguistic barriers existing in several African countries.

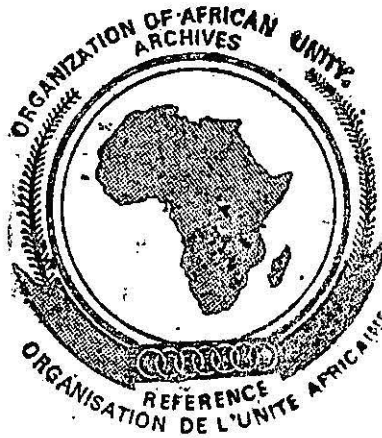
D. Inventory of Supplies and Demands

19. Lastly, it is observed that, without appropriate inventory of supplies and demands in respect of TCDC, there is the danger that Technical Cooperation Among African Countries may not be adequately developed. In fact, the preparation of this inventory runs into technical difficulties in some countries (Guinea Bissau) and has only begun in others (Mauritius, Seychelles).

CONCLUSION

20. Despite the relatively small number of countries which has provided the information needed for the preparation of this document, the nature of the information received made it possible to identify vital indications which it would not be prudent to generalize but which sufficiently illustrate the position of the progress made and the difficulties to be overcome in developing TCDC in Africa. A point which deserves consideration was made by the Government of Guinea Bissau during its intervention, namely, to be able to assess correctly the progress made and the difficulties encountered, it would be advisable to specify clearly the deadline for the implementation of each of the recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Conference. The discussion of this report might perhaps facilitate exchange of views on this point.

21. It is worth recalling at this juncture that as part of the implementation of resolution OM/Res. 850 (XXXVI) on Technical Cooperation Among African Countries, adopted by the Thirty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and, more particularly, its operative paragraph 3 on the establishment of an OAU Technical Cooperation Fund, a separate document was prepared for the Council. OAU and UNDP have been holding regular consultations with a view to working out practical and operational modalities for the execution of this resolution as well as all other previous resolutions adopted by OAU Competent Bodies in respect of Technical Cooperation Among African Countries.



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