



**ORGANIZATION OF  
AFRICAN UNITY**

Secretariat  
P. O. Box 3243

منظمة الوحدة الافريقية  
السكرتاريه  
ص. ب. ٣٢٤٣

**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE  
AFICAINE**

Secretariat  
B. P. 3243

Addis Ababa ••••• ادريس ابابا

CM/894 (XXXI)

Add. II

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Thirty-First Ordinary Session

Khartoum

7 - 15 July, 1978

REPORT ON THE JOINT BADEA/OAU/CILSS/FAO MEETING

ROME 20 - 23 JUNE, 1978

REPORT ON THE JOINT BADEA/OAU/CILSS/FAO MEETING

ROME 20 - 23 JUNE, 1978

At the invitation of BADEA (Telex No. 1658 of 12/6/78 addressed to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the OAU) a joint meeting on emergency assistance to African Countries recently effected by Drought and Other Natural Disasters was held in Rome at the FAO Headquarters from 20 to 23 June, 1978, in accordance with Resolution CM/Res. 616 (XXX) adopted in Tripoli, 20 to 28 February 1978, and Recommendation 2 of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Drought and Other Natural Disasters which met in Banjul from 21 to 23 March 1978. The OAU General Secretariat was represented at the meeting by Mr. Moise Akle Chief of Drought and Other Natural Disasters Section.

1. OPENING SESSION

The meeting was opened on Tuesday, 20 June, 1978 at 11.00a.m. by Mr. J.R. de Meredien, Director of Cabinet who represented the FAO Director General and chaired the meeting.

Mr. Meredien stated that the FAO General Secretariat was happy about the initiative taken by OAU and BADEA to alert more actively and concretely international opinion on the situation of countries affected by natural disasters especially by drought. He stated that the FAO was fully aware

of the decision taken by BADEA to provide 15 million US. Dollars for emergency assistance to the countries affected by natural disasters and urged the BADEA representatives participating in the meeting to convey his warm gratitude to the President of the BADEA for the action taken and for associating FAO the feasibility study of the Programme.

Mr. de Meredien recalled briefly the background of the meeting and defined its objectives from the point of view of the FAO. He then gave the floor to the representatives of BADEA, OAU and CILSS to express the views of their various organizations.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The representative of the BADEA took the floor and, in defining the objectives of the meeting, the dramatic situation which prevailed in the Sahelian region of Africa after the last drought and the contacts which took place between the OAU General Secretariat and the President of the BADEA in Khartoum in February 1978. He further recalled the decisions taken by the Thirtieth Session of the OAU Council of Ministers at its meeting in Tripoli, from 20 to 28 February 1978, CM/Res. 616 (XXX) and the Recommendation adopted by the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on Drought and Other Natural Disasters at its meeting in Banjul, Gambia, from 20 to 23 March, as well as the Resolutions adopted by the Afro-Arab Permanent Commission at its meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 5 to 7 June, 1978. He then pointed out that according to instructions received

from the President of the BADEA, the four Organizations were to undertake together feasibility studies of the projects submitted to the BADEA by the OAU in April 1978 for the speedy implementation of the various recommendations relating to the 15 million US Dollars emergency assistance to be given by the BADEA to drought stricken countries. Speaking on the allocation of funds to the different projects, the delegate of BADEA stated that the 15 million US dollars were allocated to the projects of the various countries affected in the form of soft loans under normal FASA condition, that is loans which are ~~re-~~fundable in a time limit within 25 years at an interest rate of 1% with a 10 year grace period. He further indicated that one of the fundamental objectives of the meeting was to study with the help of the FAO, which has a long experience in that field, the technical feasibility of the various projects mentioned and their financial implications to ensure a possible continuity of the present action. He finally, stated that since BADEA intended to entrust the execution of the Programme to FAO, the possibility of concluding an inter-agency agreement between BADEA and FAO should be discussed.

Taking the floor on behalf of the OAU, we expressed our thanks to the FAO Director General for his constant efforts to help African countries to overcome the current food crisis in Africa brought about both by international factors affecting agricultural produce markets and natural disasters. We also thanked the FAO General Secretariat

for having kindly hosted this meeting convened by BADEA. After giving a brief account of OAU action regarding natural disasters and our relations with BADEA, we immediately made it known in reply to the statement by the BADEA representative, that in the OAU General Secretariat's understanding there was never any question of a loan but rather a grant of 15 million dollars which BADEA had agreed supply in the form of emergency aid particularly to countries which had been stricken by drought again in 1977. We intimated that we had not been authorised to discuss, on behalf of the countries concerned, projects to be financed by loans and that in any case, we had to refer the matter to our senior officers before determining our participation in the proceedings of the meeting.

In the same vein, the CILSS representative stated that in CILSS' understanding and, following the exchange of letters between the OAU General Secretariat and the CILSS Executive Secretariat, the Rome meeting was to lead to procedures for the release of a 15 million dollars grant from BADEA to the Sahel countries which had been drought stricken once again in 1977 and for the payment of transport of food aid awaiting delivery in the ports of the coastal countries. He remarked that he had not been authorized to discuss projects to be financed on the basis of loans and expressed his disappointment.

The BADEA representative then took the floor and said that his stand was not personal but fully reflected the instructions of the BADEA President who was then in Paris. To make sure that his position concurred with the instructions received, the BADEA representative called Dr. Chadlly Ayari, the BADEA President, in Paris on Wednesday 21 June and reported that the latter had confirmed those instructions and said that the BADEA position indeed reflected the agreement reached between the OAU Secretary-General and the BADEA President during the meeting of the Afro-Arab Permanent Commission held in Niamey from 5 to 7 June 1978.

We then rang up Ambassador Djoudi, Acting Secretary-General, in Addis Ababa, in order to obtain specific instructions on this matter. Upon being informed by Ambassador Djoudi's secretary that he was unavailable, we asked that he call us back to the FAO Headquarters. However for technical reasons apparently, the call did not come through.

Meanwhile the discussions continued and an agreement could not be reached on the nature of the operation. At that point, so as to enable the meeting to attain its technical objectives, the Chairman, Mr. M.J. de Meredien suggested that the BADEA, OAU and CILSS representatives meet in closed session.

During the closed session, a compromise was reached to consider three different alternatives to which the meeting was to find three different solutions with the understanding that should negotiations be resumed between the supreme bodies of BADEA and OAU as soon as possible, the final decision regarding the nature of the operation, namely whether the projects would be financed by grants or loans, was the responsibility of the governments concerned and the supreme bodies of OAU and BADEA. The three alternatives were as follows:-

- a) BADEA emergency aid provided in full in the form of grants. In this case, BADEA could opt to deal directly with the Governments concerned, CILSS or with OAU for the implementation of the aid programme.
- b) BADEA emergency aid given partly in the form of grants and partly in the form of loans. In this case, it was envisaged that BADEA would give its assistance to the drought stricken countries in the form of grants amounting to at least one-third of available funds for the purchase of lorries or settlement of transport expenses. In Appendix III of the documents of the meeting, the projects of categories 1 and 3 total US.\$ 13,900,000 with a contingency sum. of US \$ 1,100,000. The FAO, designated as the executing agency by BADEA is

CM/894 (XXXI)

Add. II

Page 7

entrusted with finalizing the projects and an inter-agency agreement was to be concluded for the release and management of funds and projects. BADEA emergency aid provided in full in the manner of FASA loans,

In this case as well and subject to the agreement of the beneficiary countries, FAO was designated by BADEA as the executing agency for the assistance programme. In this regard, an agreement to be concluded between the two Organizations and the beneficiary governments on the terms and conditions for releasing the funds, and for management of field projects. Projects in categories 1 and 2 of Appendix III fall within this alternative. The total cost of these projects stands at US. \$ 13,900,000 with a contingency sum of US. \$ 1,100,000.

PROCEEDINGS

The projects were discussed country by country according to the various alternatives suggested earlier. At the beginning of the deliberations the BADEA representatives requested that the following beneficiaries which are African Member Countries of the League of Arab States, be excluded from the list, as agreed at the Niamey meeting: Mauritania, Sudan and Somalia.

Besides, since the lumpsum of US\$ 50,000 granted to certain countries recently affected by floods, such as Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, did not produce the expected results, the representatives of BADEA asked for these countries to be excluded from the list of the beneficiaries of BADEA Emergency Assistance. With regard to our participation in the deliberations, as often requested of us, we regularly intervened to provide necessary information on the background of the projects mentioned in the main working paper, their cost, their preparation and the progress achieved of the relevant studies.

We pointed out whenever it was necessary, how urgent it was to carry out a number of operations such as, the transport of food stuff and the rural water supply.

The FAO representatives made a valuable contribution by giving further information on the different projects and by providing elements for a more comprehensive feasibility study.

New projects were added to the list, while, such operations as the supply of vaccines and medicines were left out (Annex III of the working papers).

In referring to the assistance to be given to the inter-African institutions engaged in the control of depredators, the representative of the BADEA was of the opinion that the financial assistance to be given to these institutions could only take the form of loans - he went on to state that the BADEA could allot an amount of US \$300,000 to this operation. This amount should go to OCLALAV which had submitted a request to the OAU to that effect. The representatives of FAO, and ourselves drew the attention of the BADEA participants to the locust situation in East Africa and stressed the urgent need for an intervention in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.

Besides, representatives had heard a statement made on this issue at the meeting by an expert from the FAO. Considering the large financial requests made by the DLCOEA (Desert Locust Control Organization in East Africa) and confirmed by FAO - (US \$3.5 to 4 million), representatives asked the BADEA to give a substantial assistance to this Organization - The discussions which followed did not however lead to a definite decision. Representatives from the BADEA showed how much they were appreciative of this problem and promised to give a faithful account to the President of the BADEA for speedy action to be taken by the BADEA.

The representatives of the FAO disclosed that their institution was studying the possibility of contributing from its own funds an amount of half a million dollars for locust control in East Africa.

After studying the various projects country by country the representatives of the BADEA and the FAO deemed it necessary to lay down the terms and conditions of a cooperation between their two Organizations for the implementation of the programme. The FAO stated the general conditions of its contribution to such programmes and called upon the BADEA to conclude an inter-agency agreement with it in which the obligations, rights and duties of both parties would be defined. Furthermore, the FAO wanted to know if the funds should be handed over to beneficiary governments or to the FAO once it is agreed that the FAO should be the executing agency. The meeting felt that this question could not be answered without first consulting the governments concerned.

However, the wish expressed was that the Funds should be made directly available to the FAO and that in order to avoid the time consuming procedures that would ensue if funds were to transit through the treasuries of beneficiary countries. The representative of the FAO apprised the meeting of the decision taken by the FAO Director-General to have all necessary technical missions accomplished with a view to finalizing the various projects of the programme on the FAO's own funds contingent upon requests submitted in this connection by beneficiary countries.

#### CONCLUSION

Although the joint BADEA/OAU/FAO/CILSS meeting held in Rome, came up against a major political problem arising from the nature of the emergency aid expected from the Afro-Arab Cooperation by countries that had suffered disasters, it did

not fail to attain its technical objectives. An agreement was reached by the four Organizations to ascertain the suitability and the feasibility of the programme - It is now up to the higher organs of these Organizations and the governments of beneficiary countries to define the nature of the programmes of assistance by a common agreement.

1978-07

# Report of the Joint BADEA/OAU/CILSS/FAO Meeting- Rome 20-23 June, 1978

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

---

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/9816>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*