



Organization of African Unity

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY DR SALIM A. SALIM,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU ON HIS PAPER ON
"LESSONS FROM DECADES OF CONFLICT: PROSPECTS
OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE YEAR 2000"**

**Presented to the Conference of African Planning
Ministers and UNDP Resident Representative
in the Africa Region
SECRETARY GENERAL**

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

30 - 31 January 1996

**BRIEF ON THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN
MINISTERS OF PLANNING AND UNDP REPRESENTATIVES
IN THE AFRICAN REGION
OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO 30 - 31 JANUARY 1996**

I. BACKGROUND

The UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa is organizing a joint Conference of African Ministers of Planning and UNDP Resident Representatives in the Africa Region to discuss, within the context of the UNDP Sixth Cycle, the fifth Intercountry Programme for Africa for the period 1997-1999. The purpose of the meeting to be held in Ouagadougou from 30-31 January 1996, is to delineate priority areas for the UNDP country Programmes, describes the process to be followed in formulating the substantive Cooperation Framework and elaborate a new approach to collaboration among key ACTORS in the programme cycle. Moreover, the intention is also to propose a new approach which will limit intervention to a small number of well-defined programmes, with clearly stated objectives, performance indicators and assignment of responsibilities among key players. It is expected that the Conference will come-up with a suitable framework for embarking on further dialogue with UNDP's major partners in Africa including the OAU in the preparation of a full Cooperation Framework Paper for UNDP Executive Board consideration in January 1997.

II. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

The Regional Bureau for Africa has solicited for two major contribution from the OAU and from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. While the OAU Paper focuses, essentially on the intricate relationship between Conflicts and socio-economic development in Africa, the ECA paper is expected to dwell more on the economic problems facing the continent and the challenges faced by Africa in realising the objectives of economic growth and development. A third paper will be presented by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa focusing on Fifth Inter-Country Programme for Africa (1997-1999). This paper is supposed to provide the Conceptual Framework on how the UNDP intends to develop its intercountry programme of support to Sub Saharan Countries for the period 1997-1999. Apparently, the position of the UNDP is that the context for African development over the next five years is likely to remain uncertain and much will depend on what happens with the peace agenda and on how the continuing political uncertainties in some of the larger economies are resolved. It would seem that the previous programme covering the period 1992-1996 had three broad areas of concentration: regional cooperation and integration, long term strategic planning, and fostering human development.

UNDP funded regional projects and programmes to OAU during the fifth cycle included:

- i. **RAF/87/101:** Improvement of OAU Administration and Management Capacity. The total budget approved for the project was US\$ 1,100,000. Expected results included: Group training of OAU staff, computerization of the Finance Department, Reproduction and Printing, purchasing and upgrading of new equipments and computers as well as study on the structural organization of the OAU.
- ii. **RAF/87/104:** Establishment of African Economic Community. Total budget approved US\$2,450,997. Expected results included: the finalization, signing and ratification of Treaty. Drafting protocols, undertaking several studies and organize study tour.
- iii. **RAF/004/W15:** Establishment of Women Unit. Total budget approved for the project was US\$ 144,410. Expected results were: establishment of a Women Unit in the OAU,

sensitization of workshops on Gender issues and the setting up of an inter-departmental Technical Advisory Committee as well as providing assistance for the preparation for the World Conference on Women in Beijing.

All these projects have been completed at the total cost of US\$ 6,695,407. There are, however, other two projects; one which has been approved and other which is still in the process to be approved. The two projects include:

- i. **RAF/94/008:** Promotion of Africa's Economic Cooperation and Integration through the Establishment of AEC. The total budget for the project is US\$ 1,900,000. The expected results include: the compilation of Protocols, Rationalization of ECA sponsored IGOs, support to the improvement of working relations of the Joint Secretariat of AEC and the RECs.
- ii. The second programme which has not been approved is on Conflict resolution. This has a total budget of US\$ 3,000,000.

The programme support Document has been approved. The PSIA together with the agreed work plan have been forward to UNDP headquarters for approval. Implementation is expected to start before the end of the 1st quarter 1996.

It is clear that the fifth UNDP intercountry programme will focus on the following programme Areas:

- i. Capacity Development for Economic Management
- ii. Enhancement of Governance
- iii. Private Sector Development and
- iv. Trade and Economic Integration.

It is also clear that our point of convergence is at two levels. The first is at the level Programme No. ii. Enhancement of Governance and Programme iv. Trade and Economic Integration.

III. OAU's CONTRIBUTION

There is no doubt, therefore, that the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa intends to work closely with the OAU in the area of Enhancement of Governance. From the perspective of the UNDP, governance issues have increasingly been identified as fundamental to sustainable development. This, indeed, is what the paper has attempted to put across. Apparently, as part of its contribution to the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, the new Regional Programme will develop a special initiative on Governance in Africa (SIGA). The following are expected to be among the specific considerations of the SIGA:

- i. Management Capacity and Utilization
- ii. The empowerment of Civil Society
- iii. Political Institutional Development and
- iv. **Conflict Prevention and Management as well as Peace-Keeping.**

During the Sixth Cycle cooperation between UNDP and the OAU in the areas of Trade and Economic Integration is expected to concentrate on :

- i. Trade as the main integrating mode

- ii. Selective Support for Regional Cooperation Arrangements
- iii. Support to capacity enhancement of regional communities.

IV. CONCLUSION

This brief provides only an overview what the meeting in OUAGADOGOU is all about and what is expected from the OAU. It might be necessary at some stage to initiate a framework for follow-up to ensure that the OAU Mechanism derive maximum benefit from the resources of the UNDP both technical and financial.