



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/39/223
1 May 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-ninth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Transport and Communications Decade in Africa: implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under the terms of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 38/150 of 19 December 1983, the General Assembly requested the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to organize consultative technical meetings as soon as possible following the launching of the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa in 1984 and not later than the middle of 1985 for the broadcasting, postal services, air transport, and railways and rail transport subsectors of transport and communications.

2. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Executive Secretary was further requested to undertake studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of various modes of transport and communications; to prepare, in collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, a study of the training and manpower needs of all African countries for all modes of transport and communications; to draw up urgently programmes on transport and communications for the land-locked developing countries in Africa; to organize, in January 1984, the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning; and to organize in 1984 a conference of the Governments of African countries and representatives of African airlines with a view to examining ways and means to promote inter-African air links.

* A/39/50.

3. In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to provide ECA with \$US 1 million from the regular budget of the United Nations for four consultative technical meetings in 1984 and 1985 for the subsectors referred to in paragraph 1 above, to elaborate the studies requested in the resolution and to organize the meetings planned in 1984, such as those specified in paragraphs 7 and 9 of the resolution, within the context of the Decade, and to seek additional support from extrabudgetary resources.

4. In paragraph 13 of the resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution. In accordance with a decision taken by the Fifth Committee at its 69th meeting, on 16 December 1983 (see A/38/751, para. 7), the Secretary-General will submit his report through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

II. PROGRAMMATIC ANALYSIS

A. Programme of work

5. In response to the General Assembly's request in paragraphs 7 and 9 of resolution 38/150, the following comprehensive programme of work has been developed. Activities to be carried out are listed by programme elements and specific outputs to be implemented in the context of the Programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 and presented according to the relevant subprogramme of the ECA Transport programme under which they will be carried out.

SUBPROGRAMME 1. General and multimodal transport

Programme element:

1.9 Studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport

- Output:
- (i) Report to Member States on the study on harmonization and co-ordination (16 countries of the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS) (II quarter 1985)
 - (ii) Report to Member States on the study on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes in the Central African subregion (10 countries) (III quarter 1985)
 - (iii) Report to Member States on the study on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes on the North African subregion (6 countries) (III quarter 1985)
 - (iv) Report to Member States on the study on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes in the eastern and southern African subregion (18 countries) (II quarter 1985)

- (v) Report to Member States on the study on harmonization and co-ordination of the various transport modes at the regional level (IV quarter 1985)

1.10 Manpower and training survey in transport

- Output:
- (i) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in general and multimodal transport (II quarter 1985)
 - (ii) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in roads, railways, inland water, air and maritime transport (IV quarter 1985)

1.11 Priority programme in transport and communications for land-locked developing countries in Africa

- Output: Report to Member States on priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked developing countries in Africa (I quarter 1985)

1.12 Fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning

- Output: Substantive servicing of the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (held in Conakry, Guinea, from 30 January to 11 February 1984)

SUBPROGRAMME 3. Land transport

Programme elements:

3.8 Consultative technical meeting on railways

- Output:
- (i) Report to the ninth consultative technical meeting on railways and rail transport (III quarter 1985)
 - (ii) Substantive servicing of the ninth consultative technical meeting on railways and rail transport (to be held in Blantyre, Malawi, in October 1985)

SUBPROGRAMME 4. Air transport

Programme elements:

4.3 Consultative technical meeting on air transport

- Output: (i) Report to the seventh consultative technical meeting on air transport (III quarter 1984)

- (ii) Substantive servicing of the seventh consultative technical meeting on air transport (to be held in Libreville, Gabon, from 8 to 12 October 1984)

4.4 Conference on the freedoms of the air

Output: (i) Report to the Conference on Freedoms of the Air in Africa (III quarter 1984)

- (ii) Substantive servicing of the Conference on Freedoms of the Air in Africa (to be held in Mbabane, Swaziland, from 8 to 12 October 1984)

SUBPROGRAMME 6. Communications

6.5 Manpower and training survey in communications

Output: (i) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in telecommunications (including satellite) and broadcasting for English-speaking African countries (III quarter 1985)

- (ii) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in telecommunications (including satellite) and broadcasting for French-speaking African countries (IV quarter 1985)

- (iii) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in postal services (IV quarter 1985)

6.6 Consultative technical meeting on broadcasting

Output: (i) Report to the sixth consultative technical meeting on broadcasting (II quarter 1984)

- (ii) Substantive servicing of the sixth consultative technical meeting on broadcasting (to be held in Port Louis, Mauritius, from 11 to 16 June 1984)

6.7 Consultative technical meeting on postal services

Output: (i) Report to the eighth consultative technical meeting on postal services (I quarter 1985)

- (ii) Substantive servicing of the eighth consultative technical meeting on postal services (to be held in Maputo, Mozambique, in May 1985)

B. Impact of the comprehensive programme of work mandated by General Assembly resolution 38/150 on the initial programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 (section 13 of A/38/6)

6. In the context of the initial programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 1/ a number of activities which relate to the implementation of the second phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa had been included. To show the relationship of the resolution to the activities initially foreseen for the 1984-1985 biennium, table 1 below lists in column (a) those programme elements or outputs which have been subsumed by the activities of the comprehensive programme, which are listed in column (b).

Table 1

Column (a)

Column (b)

Programme elements and output
as included in A/38/6,
vol. II 1/

Programme elements and outputs
foreseen in comprehensive
programme of work (para. 5 above)

1.5 Study of eastern and southern African
transport system

1.9 Studies on the harmonization
and co-ordination of the
various modes of transport

Output: Technical publications for
government officials on a study of the
transport system in eastern and southern
Africa with emphasis on the transport
capacities, traffic flows, operating costs,
charges and fares, and major commodities
transported (IV quarter 1985)

Output: (i) Report to Member
States on the study on harmoniza-
tion and co-ordination of the
various transport modes in the
eastern and southern African
subregion (18 countries)
(II quarter 1985)

1.3 Survey of training needs in the field
of general and multimodal transport)
)
)

Output: Technical publications for government
officials on training needs in the field of)
general and multimodal transport (IV quarter)
1985))
)
)

2.7 Feasibility study on the need to)
establish new and/or strengthen existing)
training centres in inland water)
transport*)

Table 1 (continued)

Column (a)

Column (b)

Programme elements and output as included in A/38/6, vol. II 1/	Programme elements and outputs foreseen in comprehensive programme of work (para. 5 above)
Output: Technical publication for government officials on feasibility study on the need to establish new and/or strengthen existing training centres in inland water transport in Africa (IV quarter 1984)	1.10 Manpower and training survey in transport
3.5 Survey of railway lines, traffic flows and training needs in the field of railways in Africa *	Output: (i) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in general and multimodal transport (II quarter 1985);
Output: Technical publications for policy-makers and government experts on a survey of railway lines, specifications and presentation of an updated map of railway lines in Africa (II quarter 1985); survey of railway passenger and goods traffic flows in the African region	(ii) Report to Member States on manpower and training survey in roads, railways, inland water, air and maritime transport (IV quarter 1985)
4.2 Survey of training needs and requirements as basis for the development of training centres in the field of air transport	
Output: Technical publication for government technicians on survey of training needs and requirements as basis for the development of training centres in the field of air transport (IV quarter, 1985)	

* Lowest priority.

7. In view of the additional support services required by the activities of the comprehensive programme of work, resources previously envisaged to implement the programme elements and outputs that have been subsumed have been reassigned to supervisory and co-ordinating functions related to the comprehensive programme.

Progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/150

8. Of the comprehensive programme of work elaborated under paragraph 5 above, one activity has been implemented in full, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/150. This relates to the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, which was held in Conakry from 30 January to 11 February 1984. The Conference reviewed the implementation of the first phase of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, considered and approved the programme of the second phase and launched the second phase of the Decade.

9. For those activities - programme element 1.9 output (i), programme element 1.11, programme element 4.3 output (i) and programme element 6.6 output (i) - to be implemented or initiated in 1984 and, where the required resources are assured from the regular budget of the Organization, preparations have gone beyond the preliminary stage and the specific documentation is under preparation for distribution to Member States. Where appropriate, contacts with the relevant parts in the Organization and with the specialized agencies are under way to co-ordinate activities in order to determine the level of contribution to be expected from those organizations.

10. For all other activities envisaged, preliminary preparations in developing the terms of reference and the selection of consultants have been started. Some of those activities will of course only be fully implemented subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds.

III. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

11. It should be recalled that, in the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted to the General Assembly in connection with its consideration of the draft of resolution 38/150 (A/C.5/38/94), the Secretary-General estimated that its implementation would call for additional resources in the amount of \$2,307,700 in 1984-1985. In view of the Assembly's decision to provide \$1 million from the regular budget, a portion of the activities foreseen in the resolution would be borne by the regular budget, while the remaining activities would be implemented subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources which the Secretary-General was requested to seek.

12. Table 2 below provides a list of the activities envisaged in the resolution, their related costs and the anticipated source of financing. For the consultative technical meetings on broadcasting and air transport, which are to be held in 1984, it is anticipated that the costs would be met exclusively from regular budget

Table 2

Related programme element (see para. 5)	Activities	Regular budget resources		Extrabudgetary resources		Grand total
		1984	1985	1984	1985	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E. 6.6	Consultative technical meeting on broadcasting (June 1984)	70 800	-	-	-	70 800
P.E. 4.3	Consultative technical meeting on air transport (Nov. 1984)	72 500	-	-	-	72 500
P.E. 6.7	Consultative technical meeting on postal services (May 1985)	-	69 600	-	17 400	87 000
P.E. 3.8	Consultative technical meeting on railways and rail transport (October 1985)	-	70 000	-	17 300	87 300
P.E. 1.9	Studies on the harmonization and co-ordination of the various modes of transport and communications	140 600	140 600	211 000	210 900	703 100
P.E. 1.10	Manpower and training survey in transport	88 900	88 900	234 100	234 100	646 000
P.E. 6.5	Manpower and training survey in communications	52 800	52 900	159 300	159 400	424 400
P.E. 1.11	Priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked developing countries in Africa	14 200	14 200	-	-	28 400

Table 2 (continued)

Related programme element (see para.5)	Activities	Regular budget resources		Extrabudgetary resources		Grand total
		1984	1985	1984	1985	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E. 1.12	Fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (January/ February 1984)	59 100	-	-	-	59 100
P.E. 4.4	Conference on Freedoms of the Air in Africa (October 1984)	64 900	-	29 600	-	94 500
Total		563 800	436 200	634 000	639 100	2 273 100

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resources. The estimated costs of those two meetings are \$34,600 less than previously foreseen owing to the need to limit the use of regular budget resources. Instead of having eight work-months of consultant services to prepare the reports for the two meetings, only four work-months would be available to ECA. That reduction accounts for the difference between the previously estimated total cost of \$2,307,700 required to implement the resolution and the current estimate of \$2,273,100.

13. The priority programme in transport and communications for the land-locked developing countries in Africa and the conference-servicing costs of the fourth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning would also be fully funded through regular budget resources. The remaining activities envisaged by the General Assembly would require extrabudgetary resources, which are currently estimated at \$1,273,100 if they are to be fully implemented.

14. On 20 March 1984, the Secretary-General sent an appeal to all Member States for voluntary contributions towards the unappropriated resources required to implement fully the activities mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 38/150. As at the date of the present report, no voluntary contribution in response to the appeal has been received.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/38/6), vol. II, para. 13.85.
