



Economic Commission for Africa

Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
7-10 October 2003**



Economic Commission for Africa

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List of Acronyms

ADLI	Agricultural Development Led Industrialization
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
AU	African Union
CSD	Committee on Sustainable Development
CNRST	Committee on Natural Resources Science and Technology
DND	Dakar-Ngor Declaration
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GR	Green Revolution
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centre
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDEP	Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IFORD	Regional Institute for Demographic Research and Training
IHA	Integrated Holistic Approach
INRA	Institute for Natural Resources in Africa
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
NARS	National Agricultural Research Systems
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OPC	Office of Programme Coordination
PEDA	Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
PTA	Preferential Trade Area
R&D	Research and Development
RETs	Renewable Energy Technologies
RIPS	Regional Institute for Population Studies
SDD	Sustainable Development Division
UDP	Urban Development Projects
UNCC	United Nations Conference Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNU	United Nations University
WFP	World Food Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

I. Attendance and Organization of Work

1. The Third Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD-3) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7-10 October 2003, at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC).
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.
3. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and United Nations University/Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU/INRA).
4. The African Union (AU) was also represented.
5. Observers were present from Integrated Holistic Approach/Urban Development Projects (IHA/UDP) and the Embassies of Iran, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

II. Account of Proceedings

A. Opening Addresses

6. The Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed delegates to the Third Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD-3) reminding them of the need to work within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), both of which underscore the importance of the challenges of eradicating poverty in a sustainable way in Africa.

7. He said that Africa needs to use its comparatively rich endowments in natural resources as a platform to engender growth and development. He also stressed that ECA is committed to assisting African countries by playing an advisory role for promoting science and technology and innovation, and for harnessing Africa's bountiful mineral, energy and water resources.

8. He proposed that the CSD-3 deliberations should be part of the cycle of the global UN Commission on Sustainable Development, beginning with the 2004-2005 biennium.

9. Despite frequent occurrences of drought and famine, coupled with volatile environments created by wars and epidemics, Africa could not afford to be left behind in accelerating efforts to achieve sound macroeconomic environment for growth, the Executive Secretary said.

10. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary stressed that strategic and holistic support from African governments was necessary for achieving economic, political and social sustainable development on the Continent.

11. In his capacity as host country representative, the Vice Minister of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia made reference to statistics on some of the issues that needed to be approached with pragmatic strategies:

- Three billion people live on less than \$ US 2 per day; and
- Two to three billion people will be added to the world's population over the next 30-50 years.

12. The Vice Minister cited the development experience of the agricultural sector in Ethiopia with regards to strengthening the capability of small-farm holders, towards food security and agricultural modernization. He said that the Ethiopian Government has been increasing support for the basic requirements of agricultural modernization, such as technical and institutional support to farms, fertilizer supply and distribution, improved seed, improved irrigation and rain water harvest and hands-on training schemes in science and technology. He added that through stakeholder participatory approaches, Ethiopia has designed an Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy, which aims to use agriculture as the base for the country's overall development. Central to this strategy is the enhancement of small-

farm holders' productivity and of private investments to improve food security.

13. The Vice Minister said ADLI had registered some successes since its establishment in 1995. These include:

- Increase in the number of beneficiary farmers from a few thousand to millions ,as direct beneficiaries;
- Ensuring effective coordination and utilization of natural resources, such as land, to ensure food security;
- Helping farmers to be involved in various types of market-oriented agricultural production; and
- Consideration of vulnerable and marginalized people and how they could achieve sustainable livelihoods through voluntary resettlement.

14. He recommended that CSD-3 should elaborate the steps in the way forward and presented a detailed analysis of the challenges facing application of science and technology in the pursuit of sustainable development.

B. Election of the Bureau

15. Following consultation, a new CSD Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chairperson:	Egypt (North Africa)
First Vice Chairperson:	Republic of South Africa (Southern Africa)
Second Vice Chairperson:	Ethiopia (East Africa)
Third Vice Chairperson:	Republic of Congo (Central Africa)
Rapporteur:	Ghana (West Africa)

C. Agenda Items

16. In introducing the agenda, the new Chairperson congratulated the outgoing bureau for executing its task successfully and welcomed the new bureau upon its election. He emphasized the importance of CSD for Africa and underscored the need to reach sound decisions that would move the process of sustainable development in Africa forward. Following this introductory remark, he invited participants to consider the agenda for adoption. The following agenda was unanimously adopted without amendments:

Opening of the Meeting

- Remarks by the Chairperson of the Bureau of CSD/ Committee on Natural Resources Science and Technology (CNRST)
- Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA
- Opening address by a Representative of the Government of Ethiopia

Progress Report on the Implementation of the ECA Work Programme (Presentation by ECA Secretariat)

Making Technology Work for the Poor

- Presentation by ECA Secretariat
- Lecture by a Distinguished Guest Speaker United Nations University (UNU)/ National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)
- General Discussion

Panel 1: Food Security and Sustainable Development

- Presentation of papers by ECA Secretariat on:
 - (a) Raising awareness and building analytical capacity to address nexus issues in Africa;
 - (b) Follow-up on major global, regional and international conferences related to food security and sustainable development;
 - (c) World summit on sustainable development: regional implementation; and
 - (d) The state of food security in Africa 2003.
- Panel discussions

Panel 2: Natural Resources and Science and Technology

- Presentation of papers by ECA Secretariat on:
 - (a) Small-scale mining and technology challenges;
 - (b) Renewable Energy Technologies (RETS) for Poverty Alleviation; and
 - (c) Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.
- Panel discussions

Plenary Presentation on the Outcomes of the Panel Discussions

Presentation of the 2004-2005 Work Programme of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD)

The CSD Mandate

Theme, Dates and Venue for the Next CSD Meeting

Any Other Business

Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

Closure of the Meeting

1. Progress Report on the Implementation of the ECA Work Programme

17. The Director of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD), Mr. Josué Dioné, began his presentation by highlighting the objectives of the subprogramme. He identified the following:

- Strengthening the capacity of ECA member States to design institutional arrangements and implement national policies and programmes that reinforce the nexus issues of food security, population and environment;
- Helping build the capacity of African countries to utilize science and technology to achieve sustainable development;
- Raising the awareness of African countries on the need to integrate the concerns of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection into national development planning and poverty reduction programmes.

18. Having identified the main objectives of the subprogramme, the Director presented a brief synopsis of the activities undertaken by SDD to accomplish the set objectives. He grouped the subprogramme activities into five categories:

- Servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies;
- Other substantive outputs;
- International cooperation and inter-agency cooperation;
- Advisory services; and
- Field projects.

19. With respect to the convening of CSD-3, the Director reminded participants that a decision was taken by the ECA Conference of Ministers to merge CSD and CNRST. For CSD-3, he said the following reports had been prepared:

- Report on emerging issues in science and technology for food security and sustainable development;
- Progress report on the follow-up on major global, regional and international conferences related to food security and sustainable development;
- Progress report on raising awareness and building analytical capacity to address nexus issues in Africa;
- Progress report on the state of food security in Africa; and
- Reports on selected themes in natural resources development in Africa: “Artisanal and small-scale mining and technology challenges in Africa” and “Renewable energy technologies (RETs) for poverty alleviation”.

20. With respect to the ad hoc expert group meetings, the Director listed the following:

- Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Dakar-Ngor Declaration: The International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (DND-ICPD) (Dakar, December 2002);

- Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Population, Agriculture and Environment: Indicators for Measuring the State of Food Security in Africa (January 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia);
- Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Population, Agriculture and Environment: Land Tenure Policies and their Implications for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa (April 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia);
- Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Science and Technology: Meeting on Biotechnology for Africa's Sustainable Development (July 2002, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); and
- Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on Science and Technology: Towards a Green Revolution in Africa (July 2003, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

21. Mr. Dioné said that out of the six expert group meetings programmed for the biennium, only one, the DND-ICPD, was outstanding and would be implemented in December 2003.

22. He explained that in addition to servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies, the Division was also seeking to accomplish its objectives by delivering substantive outputs, preparing recurrent and non-recurrent publications, booklets, technical materials and distance-learning modules. Concerning recurrent publications, the Director informed the meeting that out of the four reports programmed for the biennium, two had been implemented while the remaining two were in progress to be completed by December 2003. Similarly, two of the four non-recurrent publications had been implemented while the remaining two on: (a) "Land Tenure System and their Implications for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa," and (b) "Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Selected African Countries", are also expected to be completed in December 2003.

23. The Division also delivered other substantive outputs such as training on the Population, Environment, Development and Agriculture (PEDA) model, fellowships, and so on. The Director informed the participants that the Division intends to undertake a field project before the end of 2003 on the operationalization of the Green Revolution in Africa.

24. The Committee was further informed that in addition to servicing intergovernmental expert bodies and delivering substantive outputs, SDD routinely liaised and cooperated with key partners on sustainable development issues. The Director highlighted some of the activities undertaken under this item. These were:

- Consultation on population, reproductive health, gender and poverty reduction with Princeton University, New Jersey;
- Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the preparation of an Action Plan for the NEPAD Environment Initiative;
- Cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on revision of the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Nairobi, Kenya; and
- Collaboration with UNFPA in monitoring the implementation of regional and global conferences including DND and ICPD.

25. The Director added that another important work programme activity of the Commission and SDD, in particular, was to help build capacity in member States through the provision of advisory and technical assistance. Some of the services provided by the Division during the 2002-2003 biennium were:

- Development of a science and technology policy for Lesotho;
- Implementation of a regional food security programme for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region;
- Implementation of a project for technology generation and the commercialization of smallholder agricultural production in Nigeria;
- Preparation of a concept paper on a five-year proposal on marketing research priorities for sorghum and millet at the Steering Committee Meeting of the network in Cote d'Ivoire; and
- Identification of sustainable financing mechanisms for the Desert Locust Organization of Eastern Africa (DLCO).

26. In concluding, the Director reiterated that the implementation of the work programme on fostering sustainable development for the 2002-2003 biennium is on course. He further recalled a recommendation from CSD-2 for ECA to make an assessment of the perceived impact of its work on member States and affirmed that the Commission had taken that recommendation seriously and had established a new Division, the Office of Programme Coordination (OPC), to better monitor the impact of ECA's work on member States.

2. Making Technology Work for the Poor

27. The ECA Secretariat presented a paper on "Making Technology Work for the Poor". The paper stressed the importance of technology to modern societies and the role of a technologically informed population in promoting sustainable development, particularly promotion of food security and acceleration, and diffusion of the Green Revolution in Africa.

28. The paper stressed that science and technology were the most important and readily available means of empowering the poor. African countries needed to promote new approaches that would shift the direction of scientific development from its current elitist and conservative emphasis, to new initiatives that are inclusive and populist, and which would be of more direct benefit to the poor. African countries that have not sufficiently addressed the development of scientific and technological capacities of the poor should now redouble their efforts, particularly in the following five areas:

- Basic scientific literacy (education for all, particularly women and mothers);
- Popularization (activities to develop a scientific culture);
- Science communication (extensive use of the media to reach ordinary people);
- Extension (extension workers to work closely with poor farmers); and
- Application of appropriate modern technology.

29. The paper further highlighted that although science had a universal character, it was supported or constrained by cultures that were influenced by local customs and values. In Africa, behaviours and practice being deeply rooted in traditional beliefs that are not easily displaced by science or modern approaches based on new knowledge, science and technology policies, therefore, need to take into account the nature of the local environment and to effectively deliver the benefits of science to the poor.

30. The paper showed that the rapid growth and unprecedented influence of new technologies was already raising global awareness of the power of technology to lift the poor out of poverty. It urged African countries to invest in pro-poor science and technology or risk widening the gap between them and the rest of the world. This realization should encourage science and technology strategies that work for the poor, and put them at the top of the African agenda. The key issue should be the empowerment of the poor so that they will be able to use scientific knowledge and technological know-how to address the most pressing problems on the continent.

31. The paper underscored that initiatives in public understanding and utilization of science should find means to deliver scientific information to lay-people in a manner that makes it attractive and enjoyable. Scientists should also be trained to communicate their messages effectively. Several instruments are available, particularly through formal and informal education, media presentations by experts and practitioners to interpret, for the general public, the scientific and technical aspects of such issues of concern as farming methods, community health care; broadcasts of relevant science and technology messages about daily living, highlighting the implications of science and technology to matters of daily routine; and exhibitions, fairs, and science competitions, all of which present opportunities for the public to see and ask questions about products and processes.

32. Those initiatives, the paper noted, should seek to answer questions about how technology should be used to facilitate development, what role the private sector and the non-governmental sector should play, what technologies should be promoted and what type of educational structure and curricula would facilitate the achievement of national objectives. The strategies of delivery should include a restructuring of science education, a focus on the utility of scientific culture, the use of familiar materials and processes, and teaching through indigenous science and technology practices, including use of indigenous languages.

33. Furthermore, stakeholders in African development need to appreciate the imperative of giving greater attention to pro-poor policies. They should also recognize that strategies that specifically target the poor are also more beneficial to national development. Although, external influences and the global economic climate have often limited African options, the performance of African countries, even within those limits has not met expectations. Stakeholders now have to come up with new policies that recognize that development should be participatory, starting from the grassroots, and provide equitable benefits for the whole society, including the poor.

34. In conclusion, it was noted that a strong programme for making technology work for the poor should be located in an institution that carries a clear mandate for that purpose. Such an institution has to be both regulatory and advisory, under an oversight arrangement

that is as close as possible to the highest levels of government. The institution needs to be invested with enough authority to be able to command the respect and cooperation of other institutions and organizations, both public and private that are relevant to the popularization of science. Governments should demonstrate political will towards such a programme through appropriate funding and political patronage.

35. In the discussions that followed, it was stated that technology should not be seen as an objective per se but as a means to fight poverty. It was also emphasized that there were a number of prerequisites that must be met before technology could bring real benefits to the poor. The prerequisites that were mentioned included peace, good governance, adequate infrastructure, strong solidarity and the involvement of local communities. The issue of funding was also underlined as one of the most crucial aspects of technology policy.

36. The Meeting noted that the best technologies were those that were relevant, adapted to local needs, affordable and sustainable. Traditional technologies and traditional knowledge were widely underused and could be more beneficial in areas such as animal husbandry, pasture/grazing, biodiversity conservation, health, wildlife and nutrition. It was further noted that society stood to gain most from empowering women, since they form a large proportion of the poor and play a major role in the provision of food, health care and education. Technologies that would save time and ease the burden of women would have the greatest impact on poverty alleviation. The youth must also be targeted since they are likely to learn and adopt technology faster.

37. Professor Robert Evenson of Yale University, made presentations on:

- The Green Revolution in Africa;
- The Prices of Admission to the Growth Club for African Countries; and.
- Development Strategies for Africa.

38. The main points of Professor Evenson's presentations are presented below.

39. He outlined five stages of the Green Revolution (GR):

- Landraces undertaken by farmers themselves;
- Early modern varieties in the early 1960s undertaken mainly by National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS);
- Development of the modern varieties (MV1 are the first generation of modern varieties developed by the International Agricultural Research Centre (IARC) and are characterized by high-yielding plants);
- Development of the MV2 by IARC and NARS with disease-resistant qualities; and
- Development of MV3 by IARC and NARS and characterized by abiotic stresses resistance.

40. The development of modern varieties was undertaken by IARC and NARS and supported by Foundations, notably Rockefeller and Ford in the 1940s, bilateral aid agencies and the World Bank. Unfortunately, industrialized countries and NGOs have not contributed to their

development. The GR affected 11 food crops. The regions that have been successful in GR in terms of adoption and releases have been Asia, Latin America, and to some extent, the Middle East and North Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa was left behind because most IARCs were located outside Africa while the developed MVs were released to the region only in the last twenty years.

41. The Green Revolution has benefited the world in terms of high productivity and reduced prices. For instance, real grain prices in 2000 were 35 per cent of the 1950 prices. Consequently, consumers have benefited while non-adopting areas such as sub-Saharan Africa have not. The Green Revolution has helped to reduce the unit area of land cropped, as well as child mortality, child malnutrition and poverty.

42. The Gene Revolution has radically changed the world's scientific outlook. Countries that intend to adopt the gene revolution should have food safety and environmental safety regulations in place.

43. The Gene Revolution has also led to cost reduction through productivity increases, which non-adopters are losing. The development strategy that must be taken to maintain advancement in agriculture through GR and Gene Revolution are:

- Building capital innovation through IARC and NARS;
- Research and development (R & D) in agriculture and industry and imitation capital through agricultural extension; and.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in industry.

44. The capacity of NARS was built from the 1950s to 1970 through regional centres that sent students abroad for Masters and Doctorate programmes and through the establishment of “flagship” university programmes. The minimum requirements for success included mentoring support through international faculty, support from local governments and political stability. There was success in Asia, limited success in Latin America and failure in Africa.

45. Professor Evenson stated that what needed to be done to build NARS capacity in Africa in the 21st century included replacement migration by Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, sandwich Ph.D. programmes, support for African universities and extensive use of visiting faculty. He further noted that Africa could not build NARS without Ph.D. studies and agricultural scientists, and Africa could not afford to ignore biotechnology and international NGOs cannot build the NARS capacity that Africa needs.

46. During discussions, it was noted out that Africa should also find a way of improving the environment needed for the Green Revolution and the Gene Revolution such as infrastructure, markets, in-depth processing and other inputs. The need to cooperate with research centres was also pointed out. It emerged that although the world trade order was still unfair to Africa, pursuing modern technologies would reduce its negative impact.

3. Panel 1: Food Security and Sustainable Development

47. The Panel reviewed and discussed the following papers presented by the Secretariat:
- Raising Awareness and Building Analytical Capacity to Address Nexus Issues in Africa;
 - Follow-up to Major Global, Regional and International Conferences related to Food Security and Sustainable Development; and
 - The State of Food Security in Africa.
48. The summary of recommendations which emerged from panel discussions is as follows:

Raising Awareness and Building Analytical Capacity to Address Nexus Issues in Africa

- There is need to develop the PEDDA model further and to popularize it in member States. The Committee suggested that the Secretariat should contact universities and other development institutions in member States to popularize the PEDDA model. The Committee also noted that member States faced numerous constraints when it came to adopting and utilizing the PEDDA model. The major constraints noted were lack of computers and relevant data required to fully take advantage of the PEDDA model.
- Training of trainers is a best practice for building capacity in this area. Since many Ministries may not have the human and material resources (e.g. computers) or the modeling know-how for conducting further training in PEDDA, ECA should first build PEDDA capacity in universities and development research institutions (e.g. Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), Regional Institute for Demographic Research and Training (IFORD), which would then be in a better position to train policymakers in Ministries and other institutions.
- Candidates for PEDDA training should also be drawn from the national Committees on Sustainable Development (CSD) since these Committees are well represented by staff from key sustainable development sectors. Staff from economic and social institutions should also be trained. Member States should be involved in the selection of participants so that they can follow up on in-country capacity building activities. ECA was called upon to include countries that are not English or French speaking in the training and other activities.
- There is need to decentralize PEDDA training activities. Preferably, the training of trainers should be organized at the sub regional level. Delegates also suggested that the Secretariat should seriously consider utilizing existing training institutions in Africa, such as IFOR and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).
- Efforts should be made to coordinate the data collection and collation to be used in the PEDDA model since most countries do not have adequate available data for initializing PEDDA. To this end, it is important to build capacity for creating an African database for all countries by conducting training to build capacity in database building and management. Pan-African challenges such as endemics, e.g. malaria, should be included in constructing these databases. In addition, building capacity for agricultural meteorology should be encouraged. It would also be useful

for ECA to assist in restructuring education curricula that help to maximize the benefits of ECA initiatives.

- As the use of PEDDA is promoted, other models should also be examined to draw lessons on how to better address sustainable development nexus issues in Africa.

Follow-up to Major Global, Regional and International Conferences Related to Food Security and Sustainable Development

- There is need to integrate, at the regional level, future follow-up activities of global meetings. This strategy will allow member States to better integrate the goals of these global meetings since sustainable development goals are cross-cutting in nature. Such a strategy will also increase grassroots support for the recommendations and goals emerging from global meetings. The Panel noted that for this strategy to work effectively, there is also need to rationalize sub regional and regional organizations when it comes to implementing the goals and recommendations of global meetings.
- The Secretariat should consider ways and mechanisms to enable it to follow up on national implementation activities. For example, it was suggested that the Secretariat should ask member States to submit national reports covering national deliberations of sustainable development issues to ECA. The strategy should also foster the growth of grassroots participation in the adoption and implementation of global goals and recommendations.
- The problems that member States face in implementing recommendations agreed upon at global and regional conferences should be addressed. There is great need to integrate Africa's common needs and to build common political will.
- African States needed to coordinate resources and national strategies to handle the demands of the numerous global agreements entered into and to rationalize the fragmented nature of implementation. The Committee noted that member States were overburdened by the demands of these global agreements. Due to the large number of systems in Africa, SADC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), etc.), member States spend a lot of resources servicing various meetings and preparing reports. It was also suggested that member countries should adhere to the necessary preconditions outlined in NEPAD.
- Greater involvement of civil society is very important, as is the need to include conflict resolution as part of sustainable development goals. The Secretariat should also take a more proactive role in the operationalization of WSSD goals at the national, sub regional and regional levels.
- All actors need to be engaged in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). In accordance with the mandate given to it at the WSSD and at the Eleventh Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development, ECA should provide the necessary technical assistance to member States, including the definition of a framework within which the Johannesburg objectives can be operationalized. On the other hand, member States should demonstrate their political will by establishing institutional mechanisms and providing the resources necessary for effective implementation.

The State of Food Security in Africa – 2003

- There is need to focus discussion on three or four areas, primarily in the sectors that can improve nutrition. These areas include food security, poverty reduction, and natural resources management. There is also need to invest in agriculture (appropriate technology approaches are more acceptable).
- There is need for countries to better define and clarify their needs so that assistance from donors can be maximized, rather than developing a new set of initiatives. There is also need to enhance existing programmes of inter-country cooperation, particularly South/South cooperation and “triangular cooperation” (i.e. Africa, donors, and other countries of the South).
- The development and use of appropriate technology for small-scale farmers should be promoted.
- State intervention and support is necessary in order to address the existing under-capitalization of agriculture. State-supported community banks with affordable interest rates should also be established.
- There is need for member countries to prioritize training activities primarily because basic training is central to the successful adoption and implementation of technology for the poor.
- Member States should address the issue of land tenure since access to land and security of land tenure are among the most important issues in agricultural development.
- There is need to address the issue of security of tenure and private sector participation in the agricultural sector. The lack of property rights means that small farmers across the region cannot have access to credit facilities.
- To improve agricultural productivity in Africa, member States need to address appropriate agricultural technologies and focus on the provision of basic primary education to the rural population. Improving the level of education of rural communities will enable them to master new agricultural techniques and technologies.
- Member States should also increase their efforts to secure the funding that is crucial to improving the agricultural sector in Africa.

The Secretariat needs to address livestock production and access to pasture and water, in its future work as these issues were not addressed in the papers presented.

4. Panel 2: Natural Resources and Science and Technology

49. Panel 2 reviewed and discussed the following papers presented by the Secretariat:

1. Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) and Technologies Challenges in Africa (ECA/SDD/CSD/3/4)
2. Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for Poverty Alleviation (ECA/SDD/CSD/3/5)
3. Emerging Issues in Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa (ECA/SDD/CSD/3/6)

50. The summary of recommendations emerging from these panel discussions are as follows:

Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) and Technologies Challenges in Africa

51. The panel recognized that although ASM contributes to income generation and creation of employment, especially in rural areas, it is essentially a poverty-driven activity. In this regard, while acknowledging the importance of technology for improving productivity in artisanal small-scale mining and to reducing its impact on the environment, the panel noted that technology is not a panacea for the problems of poor miners. In this respect, it recommended the following:

- Approaches to tackle the challenges of ASM must be multi-pronged and holistic to increase social wellbeing, improve livelihoods and reduce the vulnerability of ASM communities.
- To design demand-driven programmes to assist ASM communities, there is need to better understand and profile ASM. To this effect, new toolkits for re-profiling ASM should be developed.
- African countries should use the “Yaounde Vision” as the framework for reducing poverty and improving livelihoods in ASM communities. In this regard, mining policies and laws of the member States should be reviewed with a view to incorporating a poverty reduction dimension in ASM strategies.
- ASM should be integrated in poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs).
- The PRSPs and interim-PRSPs of African mineral economies, where mining and ASM in particular have not been properly reflected, should be revised accordingly.
- ASM should be part of integrated rural development programmes.
- The types of minerals mined by ASM miners should include industrial minerals, for these offer more possibilities for integration with other sectors of the economy.
- Government should assist in establishing marketing channels for ASM products.
- The ASM sector needs to be formalized and appropriate land has to be made accessible to artisanal and small-scale miners.
- Innovative mechanisms to scale-up ASM should be considered, including cooperation with large-scale mining.
- Competitive, robust, simple and affordable equipment should be made available to artisanal and small-scale miners.
- To encourage local entrepreneurs to start local fabrication of specialized equipment for ASM, low-cost and long-term financing should be provided. Other incentives (e.g. fiscal) should be provided to reduce entry barriers.
- Establishment of ASM cooperatives and associations should be encouraged, to realize economies of scale.
- Taxes for importation of equipment for ASM should be reduced.
- ASM should be involved in the development of appropriate technology.
- Regional cooperation should be promoted to develop R&D infrastructure for technology creation, adaptation and innovation.

Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for Poverty Alleviation

52. The Panel recommended that efforts should be made to:

- Promote RETs in order to improve delivery of energy services for people living in poverty, thereby helping them to improve living conditions and expand opportunities for income-generating activities.
- Facilitate access to RET-based energy services for the poor through setting up innovative financing mechanisms, such as micro-credit, that can provide low-income households and small businesses with access to capital, via loans that typically include flexible repayment schemes, fee schedules that match customer income streams, and longer repayment terms.
- Create an enabling policy environment that can help mobilize resources and encourage private sector participation in the widespread dissemination of the most cost-effective, RET-based energy systems.
- Provide the poor with information on the availability and use of alternative RET-based energy systems in order to help them to make informed choices about energy services and their delivery.
- Provide training to local people to install, operate and maintain RET-based energy systems so as to ensure reliable operation, reduce technical barriers and lower transaction costs.
- Promote cost-sharing partnerships with power utilities, local administration and beneficiaries of RET-based power supply systems in order to lower the cost of electricity service delivery to remote rural areas.
- Promote the most cost-effective technologies for the production of modernized biomass-based energy carriers (cleaner and more convenient fuels, and electricity) that can be used to improve the living conditions of poor households.
- Promote exchange of experiences and best practices in the use of RET-based energy supply options to improve access to modern energy services for the poor.
- Identify the best RET-based energy supply options for different regions through an assessment process.
- Support measures to develop indigenous capacity in the area of R&D, adaptation of RET-based energy systems to local conditions, and creation of manufacturing capabilities in order to make the systems affordable for the poor.

Emerging Issues in Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa

53. In discussing GR, the Panel noted the need to:

- Design a plan for the modernization of agriculture;
- Cooperate with countries sharing similar agro-ecological zones and/or resources;
- Mobilize renewed Public, Private and Donor commitment for providing policy, human, scientific, and financial support to the sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation;
- Form partnerships with Regional Research Institutions for networking, sharing

responsibilities and information exchange with respect to suitable crop and livestock technologies;

- Allocate more resources for the development of infrastructure, especially irrigation, rural road and market facilities such as post harvest handling processing and storage; and
- Urge ECA to engage in extensive consultations with senior agricultural experts and/or ministries and other stakeholders, about GR methodology, risk assessment, ownership and strategy.

54. In relation to biotechnology, the delegates accepted the recommendations made in the paper with slight modifications. The consensus pointed to:

- An African-focused biotechnology research programme in which emphasis is laid on indigenous crops and animals;
- African-owned biotechnology policies whereby all the relevant stakeholders, namely, government, civil society, private sector and farmer organizations are involved in the formulation of national biotechnology plans;
- Establishment of regional regulatory institutions for risk assessment and management, since most African countries have weak human resource capacity to perform these functions;
- Increasing investment in modern biotechnology research within regional agricultural research institutions. The current levels in most African countries are very low (hardly 2% of the total agricultural research funds);
- Promotion of public/private sector partnerships in modern biotechnology research; and
- Strengthening the linkages between modern crop biotechnology and its practical application in plant breeding.

55. Additional recommendations forwarded by the Panel included:

- Recommendations of CSD-3 should be taken to a wider forum (e.g. African Ministerial level) for endorsement; and
- The ECA Secretariat should reinforce and strengthen cooperation within the five sub-regions of ECA.

5. Plenary Presentation of the Outcomes of Panel Discussions (Agenda Item 8)

Panel 1: Food Security and Sustainable Development

56. The Plenary adopted the recommendations presented by Panel 1 with the following additions:

- In terms of animal husbandry, pastoral area management and irrigation, the users should be organized in cooperatives or associations. The Moroccan experience in these areas could be shared.

Panel 2: Natural Resources and Science and Technology

57. The Plenary adopted the report presented by Panel 2.

Proposed Work Programme for Sub-programme “Fostering Sustainable Development” for the 2004-2005 Biennium

58. The Director of SDD, Mr. Josué Dioné made the presentation of the work programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium. He highlighted that the focus of the sub-programme would be on:

- Strengthening the capacity of ECA member States to design institutional arrangements and implement national policies and programmes that reinforce the linkages within the nexus of food security, population, and environment.
- Helping to build the capacity of African countries to utilize science and technology for achieving sustainable development.
- Raising the awareness of African countries on the need to integrate concerns of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection, into national development planning and poverty reduction programmes.
- Help in strengthening the capacity of member States to exploit their natural resources on a sustainable basis.

59. He further informed the Meeting that, for the focus of the work of the Division over the next biennium, four thematic areas were agreed upon, consistent with the WSSD plan of implementation and NEPAD priority areas:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Improving land resources management;
- Harnessing technology for sustainable development; and
- Monitoring progress on sustainable development.

60. In terms of the Division’s overall strategy for next biennium, Mr. Dioné highlighted the following:

- Strengthening human and institutional capacity;
- Providing advisory services;
- Distilling and disseminating best practices; and
- Tracking and assessing progress and impact.

61. He noted that in order to accomplish its objectives, the Division would undertake a number of activities, comprising:

- Servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies;
- Other substantive outputs;
- International cooperation and inter-agency cooperation,
- Advisory services, and
- Field projects.

62. With respect to servicing intergovernmental and expert bodies, Mr. Dioné informed the participants that the Division would convene the following two intergovernmental meetings: (a) Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD-4) and (b) Regional Preparatory Meeting for ICPD+10 review. For CSD-4, the Director informed the Meeting of the parliamentary reports that would be prepared. These were:

- Managing Land-based Resources for Sustainable Development: Policy Recommendations;
- Report on ECA Programme for Promoting Biotechnology for Sustainable Development in Africa;
- Report on Emerging Issues in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa; and
- Progress Report on the Follow-up and Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

63. With respect to ad-hoc expert group meetings, the Director said that SDD would convene only three meetings as opposed to six that were convened during the 2002-2003 biennium. These are:

- Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Sustainable Development;
- Science and Technology Issues for Sustainable Development; and
- Developing Water Resources for Sustainable Development.

64. In addition to servicing intergovernmental and expert group meetings, the Director said that the Division would deliver a number of recurrent and non-recurrent publications. These include: (a) one issue of the Report on Sustainable Development in Africa; (b) two issues of the Bulletin on Sustainable Development in Africa, which would replace the current Population and Development Bulletin, and (c) one issue of the African Water Development Report.

65. The Director also said that SDD would undertake field projects on a number of issues, especially science and technology, as well as on the relation between women's reproductive health and household food security in rural Africa. In conclusion, he said that the division would continue to provide advisory services to member States on sustainable development issues. In addition to the advisory services mainstreamed in the regular activities, the Division would also continue to respond to specific requests from member States for technical assistance.

66. The Committee endorsed SDD's Work Programme for 2004-2005 with the following remarks:

- The work of ECA's CSD should be streamlined with that of the global CSD;
- Better synchronization and coordination between the national focal points of the global CSD and ECA should be promoted. In this regard, reports from the national focal points should be submitted to ECA before they are transmitted to UN headquarters; and
- SDD's work programme should be indicative and not exclusive. Flexibility should be built in to accommodate needs from the member States as well as other emerging issues.

6. The CSD Mandate

67. The Secretariat presented the mandate of CSD as approved by the Conference of Ministers. Amendments to the mandate were made, taking into consideration the need to align ECA's CSD with the global CSD. The revised and approved version of the mandate of ECA's CSD is presented as annex 1 in this report.

Theme, Date and Venue for next CSD

68. The Chairperson informed the Meeting that the themes for the next global CSD are energy for sustainable development, air pollution, industrial development and climate change. He then invited proposals from the delegates on the theme, date and venue for ECA's CSD-4. Following the Chairperson's comments, the Director of SDD suggested that in thinking about the themes and date for next CSD-4, particular attention should be paid to the need to align ECA's CSD with the global CSD. He said that the work of CSD would be fed into the global CSD process by December 2005. Therefore, the theme of CSD-4 should be in harmony with the global CSD.

69. He suggested that the theme for CSD-4 could be based on the clustering of thematic areas for the global CSD. The Director further informed the Meeting that for CSD-3, the theme was chosen by CNRST, and since a decision was taken to merge CSD and CNRST, that theme was eventually carried to CSD.

70. The Committee observed that in line with the experience of past CSD sessions, the theme has never been agreed upon immediately. In this regard, it was suggested that a theme be decided on at a later stage after consultation between the members of the bureau and the ECA Secretariat.

71. It was further agreed that in choosing a theme and date for CSD-4, particular attention be given to dates and themes that coincide with international dates and events.

72. It was noted that the theme and date for CSD-4 should be decided on as early as possible so that all the necessary preparations can be made.

73. The Director of SDD proposed that the CSD-4 meeting be convened before December 2005 so as to ensure that inputs from CSD are fed into the global CSD by December 2005. He further emphasized the need for a mechanism to tap information from member States to feed into the Division's work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium.

74. It was agreed that the CSD-4 bureau should meet every six months. It was also agreed that a meeting be convened before October 2004 to decide on the theme, date and venue of the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

75. No issue was raised under this agenda item.

8. Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

76. In introducing the report, the Chairperson informed the Committee that only the recommendations would be considered for adoption and that delegations with comments and observations on the body of the report should forward these to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

The recommendations on food security and sustainable development were subsequently adopted with the following amendments:

- In terms of animal husbandry, pastoral area management and irrigation, the users should be organized in cooperatives or associations. The Moroccan experience in these fields could be shared.
- African countries should continue to pursue the sustainable sharing and management of water resources through international cooperation.

77. Recommendations on energy and minerals were adopted without amendments.

78. Regarding recommendations on science and technology, in particular those pertaining to GR and Biotechnology, member States requested additional information before any endorsement could be given. In this regard, it was recommended that ECA compile relevant GR information, its scope and implications for Africa, for presentation to relevant bodies (e.g. African Ministers of Agriculture), for further review and consideration.

79. With respect to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the Meeting took note of the statement made by the Zambian delegation regarding its precautionary government policy in view of inadequate scientific information about the effects of these organisms on human health and on the environment. The Meeting was informed of the efforts of the Zambian Government to develop a biotechnology policy and strategy as well as the research and development capacity to enable it to address the challenges posed by GMOs effectively.

80. Referring to statements on GMOs attributed to ECA by the press, the ECA Secretariat informed the Meeting that its policy has always been to assist member States to build relevant capacity to make informed decisions, through policy analysis, training and consensus building. In this regard, the press report was considered to be a complete distortion of the facts.

81. The Meeting recommended that in view of the controversy associated with GMOs, ECA should officially spell out its position on the matter and further, request the press to change its story accordingly.

D. Closure of the Meeting

82. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson thanked the Ethiopian Government and ECA for hosting and organizing the Meeting. He also thanked all support staff, including the interpreters for their support and valuable contribution. He emphasized the significance of the recommendation regarding the holding of a six-monthly bureau meeting. This, he said, would help guide ECA in formulating and implementing a sound programme of work that would benefit all member States. Finally, he reiterated his call to all the delegations present to send comments on the report to the ECA Secretariat so as to ensure its finalization without delay.

Annex I

Revised CSD Constitution and Functions

I. Background

1. The Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning adopted Resolution No. 826 (XXXII) in April 1996, through which the Ministers structured new organs to deal with overall development issues facing the continent. Among these organs and subsidiary bodies, the Ministers established the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology (CNRST).
2. CSD was created to serve as an expert forum for advising ECA in the interlinked areas of food security, population, environment, and human settlements; provide a platform for advocacy and assessment of follow-up activities to regional and global plans of action by African governments; and address specific measures to promote the protection and regeneration of the environment, enhance food security and sustainable human settlements and issues arising from increased population growth in Africa.
3. CNRST, on the other hand, was established to subsume the functions performed by the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology and the Conference of African Ministers responsible for the development and utilization of mineral resources and energy. CNRST thus serves as a forum for the promotion of cooperation among African countries in the areas of science and technology issues relevant to the development of member States.
4. To strengthen institutional arrangements for sustainable development at the regional level, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) provides in its Chapter 11(G) that the regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and sub-regional bodies, should:
 - (a) Promote balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into their work, including through implementation of Agenda 21. To this end, the regional commissions should enhance their capacity through internal action and be provided with appropriate external support;
 - (b) Facilitate and promote balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, sub regional and other bodies; for example, this could be done by facilitating and strengthening exchange of experiences, including national experience, best practices, case studies and partnership experience related to the implementation of Agenda 21.

5. In light of the above and with a view to rationalizing the subsidiary organs of ECA, the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of ECA further decided at its Twenty-Fifth Session held in Johannesburg in October 2002, to merge the Committee on Sustainable Development and the Committee on Natural Resources and Science and Technology to form a unique Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD), which subsumes the functions of the former CSD and CNRST and deals with critical and emerging issues related to sustainable development in Africa.

6. Accordingly, the revised Constitution and functions of the Committee on Sustainable Development are as follows.

II. Composition and Functions

7. CSD is composed of high-level experts from governments, academia, R&D institutions, the private sector and civil society. It meets on a biennial basis and serves as a forum for the promotion of cooperation, exchange of information and sharing of experiences in the areas of food security, population, human settlements, natural resources, environment, and science and technology among African countries. It provides advice in those fields to the member States and to ECA on ways to strengthen its support to member States. It also provides a platform for advocacy and for assessment of follow-up activities by African governments to global plans of action, especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the Habitat Agenda, the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Food Summit.

III. Terms of Reference

8. The Terms of Reference of the CSD are:

- (a) Undertake periodic review of the implementation of global programmes of action such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Agenda 21, the Cairo Programme of Action on Population and Development, the Habitat Agenda and the World Food Summit;
- (b) Consider and make recommendations on a multidisciplinary approach to implementation of the relevant programmes of action;
- (c) Promote the formulation of policies and measures for environment protection, food security, improved human settlements, integration of population variables in development planning, and cooperation among African countries in natural resources management and application of science and technology;
- (d) Provide a forum for exchanging information and sharing experiences in these areas; and
- (e) Advise the Commission on the formulation of programmes and activities for supporting member States in integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into national development policies and strategies.

IV. Operational Guidelines

9. CSD will:
 - (a) Consider special and burning sustainable development concerns of member States in all sectors and make related policy recommendations for use by African policy-makers and their counterparts in the development cooperation community;
 - (b) Monitor and review activities undertaken and progress made in the implementation of the global plans of action mentioned above and recommend further actions based on the experiences of member States through national reports submitted to the ECA Secretariat; and
 - (c) Provide guidance to the work of ECA by reviewing the existing programme of work and examining proposed programmes and priorities of the Sustainable Development Division of the Commission.

V. Relationship of the Committee with the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

- (a) The African Committee on Sustainable Development will serve as Africa's regional forum of experts that deals with all the fields mandated by the UN General Assembly to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (b) It will also serve as the regional advisory arm of the Commission on Sustainable Development on cross-sectoral activities in Africa as well as on proposed activities and follow-up actions in the implementation of international programmes; and
- (c) The periodic reporting of CSD follows the established procedures and practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

VI. Relationship between CSD and other institutions

10. CSD recognizes the existence of similar sustainable development committees in the other UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-related regional commissions and will liaise with them to enhance cooperation in the global field of sustainable development.

11. CSD also recognizes the need to collaborate with the five other technical committees under the auspices of ECA and will promote regular liaison and communication with these committees.

Annex II

List of documents

ECA/SDD/CSD.3/1	Agenda
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/Inf.1	Programme of Work
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/Inf.2	Aide-mémoire
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/Inf.3	List of participants
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/Inf.4	List of documents
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/2	Report on Follow-up to Major Global, Regional and International Conferences Related to Food Security and Sustainable Development Population-Food Security-Habitat
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/2/Add.1	World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) Outcomes and Regional Implementation Issues in Africa
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/3	Making Science and Technology Work for the Poor and for Sustainable Development in Africa
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/4	Reports on Selected Themes in Natural Resources Development in Africa: Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Technology Challenges in Africa
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/5	Reports on Selected Themes in Natural Resources Development in Africa: Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) for Poverty Alleviation
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/6	Parliamentary Documentation: Emerging Issues in Science and Technology for Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/7	The State of Food Security in Africa-2003
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/8	The Status of Awareness of the Nexus Issues of Population, Environment and Agriculture in Selected African Member States

ECA/SDD/CSD.3/9	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Activities of the Sub-programme “Fostering Sustainable Development” during the 2002-2003 Biennium
E/ECA/CM.36/5	Proposed Programme of Work for the 2004-2005 Biennium
ECA/SDD/CSD.3/11	Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development, 7-10 October 2003

Annex III

List of participants/Liste des participants

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