

48th Session, Bangui 27-28 March 2001

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1: On the report of the Board of External Auditors for the 1999 Financial Year

Considering that the Commission's accounts for the 1999 financial year were audited;

Considering the observations of the Board of External Auditors on:

- payment vouchers which must be endorsed by the Financial Controller or someone acting in this capacity in his absence;
- Payment not endorsed by the Financial Controller but which must be authorized by a written requisition from the Budget Officer;
- A statement on new acquisitions and boarded property which, as a matter of obligation, must be handed to the Board of External Auditors during their work;

Considering the accumulated arrears and poor payment of contributions;

Considering that the auditor from Chad does not receive a per diem like his colleagues from other countries;

Considering the Board of External Auditors' satisfaction with the management and presentation of accounting documents for the 1999 Financial Year;

The Commissioners adopted the Board of External Auditors' report and gave the Executive Secretary and the Chief Accountant a final discharge from their 1999 financial management.

They resolved to:

- clear their arrears and pay their contributions regularly;
- pay henceforth, as fees, the same per diem to the Chadian auditor.

Resolution 2: On the Inter-basin Water Transfer Project

Considering that the inter-basin water transfer project is the only means of saving Lake Chad, which is threatened with extinction;

Considering Member States lack of enthusiasm towards contributing the one million US dollars for the inter-basin water transfer project;

Considering the inadequate sensitization in Member States as regards the water transfer project;

Considering that the non-objection of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo is required prior to implementing this important project;

The Commissioners have resolved as follows:

- Member States should pay their respective quotas quickly so that feasibility studies can commence as soon as possible;

- prepare an action plan to raise donors' awareness on the necessity to finance the project study;
- the two Congos should be admitted as special observers in order to get them fully involved in this vital project;
- the CAR should make all technical documents available to LCBC in order to facilitate the commencement of feasibility studies.

Resolution 3: On holding a Donors' Conference

Considering the urgent necessity to save Lake Chad;

Considering the pertinent projects on the Master Plan;

Considering the international community's willingness to contribute to the environmentally sound management of natural resources;

The Commissioners:

- Request the Executive Secretariat to keep negotiating with development partners on the holding of a donors' conference as soon as possible;
- Owing to budget constraints, the financing of the Heads of State and Commissioners participation should be left at the discretion of Member States. The Executive Secretariat should only take care of national experts and staff from the Secretariat. All Member States should be represented;
- Once more express their gratitude to GEF (Global Environment Facility) for assisting the Commission in the search for solutions to environmental problems. Appeal to donors and the international community for financial support to the Commission.

Resolution 4: On activity programmes of technical departments.

Considering the setting up of the Department of Water Resources following a decision of the Heads of State at the last summit of the Lake Chad Basin Commission;

Considering that the proposed projects are well targeted and are a reflection of the resolutions taken at ministerial sessions and Heads of State decisions;

Considering the 2000 activity reports and 2001 activity programmes of the Department of Planning and Project Execution, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Documentation, Information, Remote Sensing and Advanced Technologies;

Considering the pertinent recommendations contained in the reports of statutory meetings;

Considering the report on the low 4.5 m piezometric level recorded one year at a water point contaminated by petroleum products;

Considering the necessity to ensure proper management of groundwater resources in view of the high pressure exerted on these resources;

Considering the necessity to encourage the use of satellite images, aerial photographs and field surveys through reliable computerization of the wetlands of Lake Chad;

The Commissioners have decided to:

- Adopt the 2000 activity reports and 2001 activity programmes;
- Have a limited number of well-targeted projects to be implemented in conformity with the decisions taken at the last summit;
- Approve the conclusions and recommendations of the following statutory meetings:
 - * 2nd Management Committee of the Regional Agricultural Training School, Ngala. The burden of this school should be reduced and greater importance given to cooperation with centres/institutions of a higher level;
 - * 9th Meeting for the Coordination and Harmonization of Zoo-sanitary Actions at the borders of LCBC Member States;
 - * Meeting of Member States Experts on Crop Protection.

Resolution 5: On the 2001 budget

Considering the necessity to establish a balance between the objectives of LCBC and Member States' difficult economic situation;

Considering that the Water Transfer Project is a vital project with a special allocation lodged in a separate account, which is not part of LCBC's budget;

Considering that all resources must henceforth appear in the budget, especially the development budget;

Considering the plan showing how arrears of contributions are to be used;

The Commissioners have resolved as follows:

- Request the Executive Secretariat to try and allocate 60% of the budget for development and 40% for recurrent expenditure, as a concrete response to the Commissioners' constant call for the necessity to accord more importance to development issues in the conventional basin;
- Approve and sets the 2001 budget at 806 190 199 CFAF, distributed as follows:
 - Recurrent budget: 480 511 113 CFAF
 - Development budget: 325 649 086 CFAF
- Approve a plan on the use of arrears of contributions, including funds for the holding of the donors' conference.

Resolution 6: On memoranda presented by the Executive Secretary

Considering the pertinent memoranda presented by the Executive Secretariat;

Considering the well-founded Memo N° 3 on the Executive Secretary's request for payment of his salary and allowances for June and July 2000;

The Commissioners resolved to:

- Adopt these memos on condition that they are in conformity with the discussions pertaining to the recommendations of the Experts on the budget and water transfer project;
- Accede to the Executive Secretary's request for payment of his salary and allowances for June and July 2000;

Resolution N° 7: Setting up National Committees to coordinate the activities of the Lake Chad Basin Commission

Considering the necessity for the Executive Secretariat to enhance communication with Member States (Resolution 4 of the 47th Session) and to have a broad-based and dynamic focal point in Member States;

Considering the conclusion of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) which makes provision for National Inter-ministerial Committees in each Member State;

Conscious of the fact that only integrated and concerted management can lead to sustainable development in the Lake Chad Basin;

Anxious to involve all those concerned at various levels in order to minimize the risk of repetition and enable LCBC programmes become an integral part of national programmes;

The Commissioners have resolved:

to set up a National Committee to coordinate the activities of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in their respective sub-basins.

Resolution N° 8: Setting up a Fishery Unit within the Executive Secretariat and a Committee to monitor Fishery Activities in the Lake Chad Basin

Considering that fisheries are a strategic sector in the fight against poverty in the Lake Chad Basin;

Considering the highly degraded Lake Chad ecosystem;

Considering that only sub-regional cooperation can help reverse trends that have been observed and that LCBC has a key role to play in the mobilization of this cooperation in the sub-region;

Conscious of the urgent necessity to give a new impetus to the fishery activities within the Executive Secretariat, in the light of studies on continental fisheries in the Lake Chad Basin;

The Commissioners have resolved to:

- set up a Fishery Unit within the Executive Secretariat;
- put in place a Technical Committee of National Experts to monitor fishery Activities in the Lake Chad Basin. The Committee is to meet once a year.