REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
BORDER PROGRAMME

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA
22-23 OCTOBER 2009

CONCLUSIONS
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1. As part of the implementation of the Declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) and its Implementation Modalities as adopted by the Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7 June 2007, and subsequently endorsed by the AU Executive Council at its 11th ordinary session held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 29 June 2007, a regional workshop for Southern Africa on the implementation of the AUBP was jointly organized by the AU Commission and SADC in Windhoek (SAFARI Hotel), Namibia, from 22 to 23 October 2009. The Workshop was opened by the Right Honorable Alpheus G. !Naruseb, Minister of Lands and Resettlements of the Republic of Namibia. Statements were also delivered by Ambassador Aguibou Diarrah, Head of the AUBP unit of the Peace and Security Department of the AU Commission and Mr. Habib Kambanga, Senior Analyst, Political and Security Threats (SADC).

2. The Workshop was attended by the following Member States of the Southern African Region: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were also in attendance: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

4. In addition, the following institutions and structures working in the field of cross-border cooperation and mechanisms also participated in the Workshop: African Wildlife Foundation, Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiatives, ECA, EU and GTZ.

5. The Workshop provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the overall implementation of the AUBP. In particular, the workshop focused its deliberations on the concrete steps being taken at the level of Southern Africa to follow-up on the specific aspects of the AUBP as they relate to delimitation and demarcation, cross-border cooperation and capacity building, as well as to other aspects of the Programme pertaining to its popularization, partnership and resource mobilization.

6. At the end of its deliberations, the workshop reached the following conclusions:
(a) Delimitation and demarcation

7. The workshop welcomed the significant progress made by the countries of the region in the delimitation and demarcation of borders (including the delimitation of maritime borders and efforts made towards the determination of the continental shelf) both within the region and between the countries of the region and other neighboring countries, and commended all the States concerned for their efforts and commitment. In order to consolidate the progress achieved thus far, the Workshop made the following recommendations:

(i) Member States to expedite the delimitation and demarcation of borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place, keeping in mind the deadline set by the African Heads of State and Government in the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) adopted at the OAU Summit held in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002, which provides for the completion of the exercise throughout the continent by 2012. In this regard, ECOWAS and the countries concerned are encouraged to regularly update the AU of the steps taken towards the realization of this objective;

(ii) Member States to make adequate budgetary provisions for the delimitation and demarcation activities as well as mobilize funds from development partners;

(iii) concrete steps be taken to regularly maintain and, where required, densify boundary beacons so as to make them more visible such that risks of disputes are reduced. To this end, Member States should work out detailed plans, including the related financial costs, to facilitate the mobilization of the necessary resources for the exercise;

(iv) urge Member States that have not yet done so to hasten the completion and transmission to the AU Commission of the questionnaire on the status of African borders which was sent in April 2008. The Commission will resend the questionnaire to facilitate the completion of this exercise before the end of 2009;

(v) urge Member States to jointly endeavour, where necessary with the assistance of development partners, to clear landmines in order to facilitate and accelerate delimitation and demarcation exercises;

(vi) in cases of border disputes, Member States should explore all options available, including recourse to African legal processes and conflict resolution mechanisms;

(vii) encourage Member States to endeavor to acquire up to date mapping and cartographic information, as well as survey equipment, and develop the necessary human capacity to facilitate accurate delimitation and demarcation exercises; and
(viii) encourage Member States to undertake research in their respective colonial archives to retrieve records relating to their boundaries.

(b) Cross-border cooperation

8. The Workshop noted with satisfaction the initiatives aimed at furthering cross-border cooperation within the region and between it and other neighboring countries. The Workshop further appreciated the depth of the cross-border experiences especially in the transport, wildlife and river management sectors and the dynamism of the stakeholders, local investors and civil society actors in the region, who view borders as a resource. In this respect, the Workshop highlighted the local cross-border cooperation initiatives involving some of the countries of the region and other neighboring States relating to the joint exploitation and management of trans-boundary resources and other issues such as illegal migration, cross-border crime, trade, health and education.

9. The Workshop recommended the following:

(i) undertake in collaboration with SADC a comprehensive inventory of existing cross-border cooperation initiatives and agreements in the region, in order to popularize them, assess their state of implementation and make recommendations on how they could contribute further to the achievement of the objectives of the AUBP. In this respect, the SADC countries will extend the necessary cooperation and support to the AU Commission for the continental convention on cross-border cooperation and other related activities;

(ii) highlight the links between all on-going cross-border cooperation initiatives with the relevant provisions of the AUBP, with the view to placing them under the umbrella of the Programme and sensitizing all the actors involved about its objectives;

(iii) take further steps to deepen local cross-border cooperation initiatives, including through joint planning, inter-services cooperation, and establishment of regional funds, as called for by the AUBP Declaration of June 2007.

(iv) the AU Commission to facilitate exchange of experiences with other regions within the continent and beyond, particularly Europe, for capacity building and resource mobilization; and

(v) encourage, where appropriate, joint management of resources, building on relevant experiences in the rest of the continent. The AU Commission should facilitate exchange of experiences in that regard.

(c) Capacity-building
10. The Workshop stressed the critical importance of capacity building for the successful implementation of the AUBP, through, among others, training, exchange of experiences and research aimed at deepening the understanding of border related issues on the continent and building a strong knowledge infrastructure, as well as collaboration with relevant structures in and outside of Africa. The Workshop took note of the existence of the African Regional Institute, Imeko, Nigeria, and its training programme and publications in support of the AUBP, as well as the Centre for Studies on Regional Integration of the Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique, established with the support of the ECA.

11. The Workshop recommended the following:

(i) inventory of all management, research and training institutions dealing with border issues in Southern Africa. In this respect, the countries of the region will extend the necessary cooperation and support to the consultancy that the AU Commission is planning to undertake in due course, as part of the initial measures for the launching of the AUBP as spelt out in the Declaration adopted in Addis Ababa in June 2007;

(ii) promotion of partnerships and networking amongst the relevant institutions-NGOs-the private sector and partners in Southern Africa and with other similar institutions in the continent and outside Africa. The countries of the region should update the AU Commission regularly on the steps taken in this respect;

(iii) development of boundary studies and border management curricula in the educational system, especially higher educational institutions of the countries of the region, with emphasis on regional integration;

(iv) organization, with the support of the AU Commission and other relevant institutions, of training workshops for border authorities and other stakeholders, to sensitize them on the AUBP and facilitate its implementation; and

(v) develop appropriate African jurisprudence in the area of boundary disputes settlement between Member States, by using local, national and regional mechanisms for resolving such disputes.

(d) Popularization of the AUBP and follow-up with Member States

12. The Workshop stressed the need to effectively popularize the AUBP to ensure ownership at regional, national and local levels, as well as that of continued interaction between the Commission and Member States in the implementation process of the Programme. To this end, and as part of the public relations strategy being carried out by the AU Commission, the Workshop recommended the following:
submission of briefings on the AUBP and its implementation during
meetings on cross-border projects and programmes;

(ii) use of national media and other relevant institutions to popularize the
AUBP activities;

(iii) appointment/designation by SADC and the Member States of the
Southern African region of focal points for the AUBP, by the end of
December 2009;

(iv) SADC Secratariat to establish a Unit in charge of cross-border cooperation
and along with Member States convene a stakeholders workshop to
articulate a regional cross-border cooperation Plan of Action by March
2010; and

(v) submission by the Member States of the West Africa region of regular
reports relating to the implementation of the AUBP. The first reports
should be submitted by June 2010.

**Partnership and resource mobilization**

13. The Workshop noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the AU
Commission to build the necessary partnerships and mobilize the required
resources for the implementation of the AUBP, in accordance with the initial
measures identified in the Declaration for the launching of the Programme, and
expressed its gratitude to the partners who have so far provided technical and
financial support (notably Germany, through GTZ). The Workshop encouraged
the Commission to pursue these efforts in order to mobilize further support both
from within and outside Africa.

14. The Workshop expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of
Namibia for having hosted this meeting and for its support, which contributed
greatly to the success of this event.