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Expert Group Meeting for the African
Region in Promoting Regional Co-operation
for the Establishment of an Organizational
Framework for Sugar-Cane Producers and
Co-operation on Technology and Market

Vienna, Austria, 5-8 June 1990

REPORT*

* This document has not been edited.

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PREFACE

The System of Consultations is an instrument through which UNIDO serves as a forum for developed and developing countries in their contacts and consultations directed towards the industrialization of developing countries. Consultations permit negotiations among interested parties at their request, at the same time as or after the meetings. Participants of each member country include representatives of governments, industry, labour, consumer groups and others, as deemed appropriate by each government.

Benefits emerging from this activity include the identification of obstacles to industrial development in developing countries, monitoring trends in world industry in order to identify action-oriented measures for increasing the share of developing countries in world production and determination of new forms of international industrial co-operation in North-South and South-South relations.

Follow-up to the First Interregional Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry with Emphasis on Sugar-Cane Processing

The First Interregional Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry with Emphasis on Sugar-Cane Processing, held at Havana, Cuba, from 26 to 30 September 1988, analysed the issue of diversification of all aspects and improvement in the productivity of the cane-sugar sector. The Consultation called for the expansion of technical assistance programmes in such areas as processing technology, management, quality of production, restructuring and rehabilitation of existing plants, the achievement of a better balance within the sugar complex as well as promotion of regional and interregional co-operation and that UNIDO and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar-Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA) should play an active role in the promotion of such co-operation.

Taking into account the specific problems of the African cane-sugar producing countries such as low profitability and economic instability of the sector, lack of technology and market information, outdated equipment, as well as the interest shown by African cane-sugar producers to create regional organizations, and following the results of UNIDO's Consultation on Sugar-Cane Processing, it was proposed by UNIDO to convene an expert group meeting to promote regional co-operation for the establishment of an organizational framework for cane-sugar producers and co-operation on technology and market.

The basic objective of the Expert Group Meeting of African countries was to assist cane-sugar producing countries to develop a strategy towards improving the viability and profitability of the sugar industry and to assist in starting a programme for the establishment of an organizational framework for African countries based on the experience and practice of GEPLACEA. This regional organization would be a consultation, co-ordination and information body for African cane-sugar producing countries on issues of common interest related to cane-sugar production and marketing.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Expert Group Meeting for the African Region in Promoting Regional Co-operation for the Establishment of an Organizational Framework for Cane-Sugar Producers and Co-operation on Technology and Market was held in Vienna, Austria, from 5-8 June 1990. The meeting was attended by 10 participants. (See Annex I for list of participants).

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened by the Chief of the Unit for Light Industries Sector, System of Consultations Division, who welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the development of the cane-sugar industry to the region.

3. He pointed out that the present expert group meeting, convened by UNIDO, would provide an opportunity for the exchange of views to resolve the problems within the cane-sugar industry in Africa. He emphasized the need to support African cane-sugar producing countries in establishing regional organizations of producers, based on the model of GEPLACEA in Latin America, taking into account the potential benefits that could result from an organization of African producers. Finally, he expressed his best wishes to the participants for a successful and productive meeting.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

4. Mr. Abdel Al-Kholeif (Egypt), and Mr. Ekongolo Samuel Kwedi (Cameroon), were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the meeting respectively.

5. The Chairman stressed that the main areas to be tackled for improving the productivity of African cane-sugar producing countries were financing, need for rehabilitation and restructuring of existing plants, and formulation of management and technical training programmes. He introduced the agenda which was unanimously adopted and is attached as Annex II.

6. The meeting was then addressed by a representative from UNIDO, who welcomed the participants and presented the activities being carried out within the framework of the System of Consultations to encourage contacts between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries in order to promote industrial and economic development.

7. The UNIDO representative informed the participants of the activities of the Secretariat in preparation for the meeting, including studies analysing the situation of the sugar industry in Africa and its prospects for the next decade, as well as the problems of political and organizational nature in the elaboration of the outline for an organization of cane-sugar producing countries in Africa. Draft Statutes of the above Organization, based on the Statutes of GEPLACEA, were also prepared prior to the meeting. Finally, he emphasized the need for developing co-operation and co-ordination among the sugar-producing countries to improve the sector's profitability and to consolidate activities to defend the regional cane-sugar industry's interests.

8. A representative from the Department of Industrial Operations presented an overall view of UNIDO's technical assistance to agro-based industries in developing countries. He stressed that agro-industry projects represented a large share in the implementation of UNIDO's technical assistance programme. In the food-processing industry, UNIDO concentrates its efforts on technological updating of industrial production processes, improvement of quality and environmental problems in the sugar factories. He also pointed out that several activities were aimed at the techno-economic improvement of existing sugar production plants in Africa.

9. The UNIDO consultant, in his presentation, assessed the situation of the sugar industry in Africa and analysed the prospects for the next decade. He pointed out that improvement of profitability of the African sugar industry could be achieved by increasing the production to fill additional market opportunities and by substantial reduction in operating and capital expenditures. He underlined that the key problems of the African sugar industry were high costs of production, absence of appropriate training and research institutions, limited intra-African trade, high purchase costs of equipment, poor installation and maintenance and lack of diversification programmes.

10. In accordance with the agenda, the Chairman requested the participants to discuss the studies prepared for the meeting. The experts then gave an account of the situation of the cane-sugar processing industry in their countries with regard to development obstacles, agricultural techniques, processing, quality control, market, etc.

11. The participants recognized the importance of classification of African countries as follows: major exporters (export over 100,000 MTRV); net exporters; major importers (import over 85,000 MTRV), and other countries.

12. In light of this classification, participants agreed that there was no universal solution for improving the sector's efficiency in view of different requirements of each country in this field. Each country should find the solution best suited to its specific needs, including optimum size for its cane-sugar industry.

13. Some participants pointed out that there was scarcity in the supply of raw materials due to limitation of cultivable land for sugar cane which has to compete with other irrigated crops.

14. The participants concluded that the main obstacles to the development of the sector included low level of agricultural productivity, high costs of equipment and its installation, modernization and restructuring of existing plants as well as lack of adequate training programmes. Efficient energy-saving equipment, maintenance programmes, low-cost facilities were necessary, they stressed, to lower the cost of the final product.

15. The participants recognized that the formulation of diversification programmes would be an important step towards development. These programmes, in fact, allow optimum use of resources, generate new areas of production and employment, and foster development of scientific capacity and national technology.

16. Continuing the deliberations on the regional aspects of the sector, the participants indicated that a better exchange of and access to information was of vital importance to the development of this industry. Information should be collected and disseminated in the field of improvement of agricultural techniques, i.e. selection of varieties of cane, organization of disease and pest control, use of fertilizer methods, modern technology and equipment. In this connection, more intensive regional co-operation would contribute to the development of the sector.

17. The participants outlined the complexity of the international sugar-cane market as well as the need to find a mechanism to improve intra-African trade and protect cane-sugar prices on international markets.

18. Some participants stressed the importance of (i) elaborating environmental programmes aimed at reducing pollution, and (ii) finding uses for harmful waste material.

19. The UNIDO representative informed the participants that following the results of the Consultation on Sugar-Cane Processing, a sectoral development programme was initiated for technical assistance in Africa. Within the framework of specific projects, assistance would be provided to selected sugar factories covering the following aspects: techniques and technology, maintenance of equipment, problems of raw material production, marketing as well as management techniques and financial and economic assessments.

20. The participants noted that in view of the current situation of the cane-sugar industry, the implementation of such a sectoral development programme would benefit directly the development of African cane-sugar-producing countries and would facilitate identification of sources of funds.

21. A representative of GEPLACEA explained that the main objective in the establishment of an Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries was to develop and improve efficiency of the sector in the region. He stressed that the main advantages of the Organization were co-ordination of market policies designed for mutual benefit of member countries, exchange of scientific and technological knowledge in all spheres of cane-sugar agriculture and production, transfer of technology among member countries, creation of training and research programmes at all levels in fields connected with production and marketing of cane sugar, organization of production of sugar cane by-products and derivatives.

22. All participants agreed that the establishment of an Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries would develop regional co-operation and help to resolve problems on a permanent basis.

23. The participants proposed the creation of a focal point in three selected Arabic-speaking, English-speaking and French-speaking African countries to promote the idea of the creation of this Organization among cane-sugar industries and authorities in the subregions.

24. In the course of discussions on the draft Statutes of the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries, based on the Statutes of GEPLACEA, the participants agreed that the future Organization should be intergovernmental and serve as a consultative and co-ordinating mechanism. The modified draft Statutes of the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries were adopted by consensus by the participants.

25. At the end of the discussions, the participants expressed their appreciation of the meeting which offered an excellent opportunity to discuss the situation of the cane-sugar industry in Africa and make concrete recommendations.

26. The need for establishing the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries was unanimously reaffirmed. The participants stressed the importance of further co-ordination of activities by UNIDO and GEPLACEA in promoting regional co-operation for the establishment of the Organization.

27. Finally participants expressed the support for UNIDO's technical assistance programme currently being elaborated for the development of the sugar industry in Africa.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

28. As a result of the discussions, and taking into account the strategic importance of the sugar industry and its production in the social and economic development of rural areas in Africa and the potential benefits for the African countries of increased technical and commercial exchange, and recognizing that sugar is one of the cheapest food products per calorie, the following conclusions were agreed upon by the participants:

(a) The development of the cane-sugar industry should be based on an integrated approach with the aim of achieving a better balance within the sugar complex in African countries.

(b) There is no universal solution for improving the sector's efficiency in view of the individual conditions of each country and the different levels of development of the cane-sugar industry in the region.

(c) The efficiency of sugar-cane production depends on the improvement of agricultural techniques, e.g., introduction of improved varieties of cane, organization of disease and pest control, improvement of fertilization methods, use of mechanized harvesting, adequate irrigation systems, etc.

(d) The importance of improving efficiency in all phases of cane-sugar processing and its control.

(e) The costs of equipment and its installation as well as of modernization and restructuring of existing plants are very high. There is an urgent need for appropriate delivery of spare parts, maintenance programmes and introduction of energy-saving techniques.

(f) There is a crucial need for the improvement of technical and managerial skills at all levels of production.

(g) Programmes of diversification should be developed with the aim of gaining maximum benefits, diversifying the economy of the sector and increasing the productivity of the industry.

(h) There is a need for development of intra-African and international trade as well as for better knowledge of markets.

(i) Mobilization of financial resources for new investment and restructuring programmes were key elements for development of the sector.

(j) Efforts should be undertaken for neutralizing polluting elements of the cane-sugar industry and, whenever possible, for avoiding use of all environmentally-harmful wastes.

(k) The urgency to establish an Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries as a key element to develop this industry in the region was unanimously reaffirmed.

(l) Regional co-operation with the support of international organizations, can play an important role in promoting this sector in Africa.

(m) The proposal to have industries represented in the technical committees of the Organization was accepted.

29. The following recommendations were made at the meeting:

(a) In the formulation of development support policies for the cane-sugar industry, policy-makers should give due attention to:

- (i) Mobilization of financial resources through the creation of favourable economic and fiscal conditions for investment and the formulation of technical projects able to attract local financial resources;
- (ii) Elaboration of an exchange of varieties programme as well as development of modern methods of agro-technology directed at increasing efficiency of cane-sugar production;
- (iii) Promotion and establishment of national and/or regional cane-sugar research institutions to co-ordinate activities, prevent duplication of work and make better use of financial resources;
- (iv) Setting up diversification programmes taking into account the technical and economic potential of each country's cane-sugar industry as well as its specific conditions;
- (v) Carrying out comprehensive market studies, analysis and dissemination of market information, in order to ensure successful export/import marketing programmes.

(b) The creation of an intergovernmental Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries.

The future activities of the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries should concentrate on the following:

- (i) Consolidation of efforts to defend the regional cane-sugar industry's interests;
- (ii) Promotion of intra-African trade among member countries;

- (iii) Elaboration of mechanisms for strengthening co-operation and exchange of information on scientific and technological knowledge, transfer of technology, and for conducting joint research related to the production and marketing of cane sugar, its by-products and derivatives;
 - (iv) Training at all levels in member countries in the areas connected to production and marketing of sugar;
 - (v) Implementation of feasibility studies, investment and technical assistance projects, etc.;
- (c) The distribution of the draft Statutes of the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries (see Annex IV), which were adopted by consensus, among interested parties in Africa for exchange of opinion.
- (d) Creation of focal points among representatives of the cane-sugar industry in selected African countries, for promoting the creation of the Organization.
- (e) UNIDO and GEPLACEA, with the support of other international organizations, should act as a co-ordination body in promoting regional co-operation for the establishment of the Organization of African Cane-Sugar Producing Countries.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

30. At the closing session, the Chairman thanked the experts for their excellent professional contributions, efforts and enthusiastic and fruitful participation. He expressed his firm belief that the outcome and recommendations of the meeting would be implemented, and that all participants would concentrate their efforts in promoting co-operation among African representatives of the cane-sugar industry for the creation of a regional Organization.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme
4. Overview of UNIDO's activities in the field of sugar-cane industry
 - System of Consultations
 - Industrial Operations
5. Presentation and discussion of issues, prepared by UNIDO consultants:
 - Situation of the cane-sugar processing industry in the African region;
 - Advantages and viability of an organizational framework of African cane-sugar producers;
 - Draft Statutes for establishment of a regional institution of cane-sugar producers in Africa.
6. Problems and prospects of African cane-sugar producers - case studies prepared by experts
7. General discussions and proposals for future action
8. Adoption of conclusions and recommendations
9. Closure of the meeting

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

An Outline on the Organization of a Group of Sugar-Producing Countries in Africa prepared by J.A. Cerro	ID/WG.504/1(SPEC.)
Draft Statutes of the Group of African Sugar-Producing Countries prepared by M.A. Diaz	ID/WG.504/2(SPEC.)
The Sugar-Cane Processing Industry in Africa prepared by G. Rajpati	ID/WG.504/3(SPEC.)
Prospects for Development of the Sugar-Cane Industry in Africa prepared by the UNIL.O Secretariat	ID/WG.504/4(SPEC.)
Sugar Production in Egypt prepared by M. Abdel Al-Kholeif	---
Background Paper on the Sugar-Processing Industry in Ethiopia prepared by Haile Sellassie Solomon	---
La situation de l'industrie sucrière au Cameroun par Joseph Zambo	---
The Malawi Sugar Industry by P.J. Watson	---
L'industrie sucrière au Mali par Abdoulaye Elie Diallo	---
The Zimbabwe Sugar-Cane Processing Industry by J.M. Burton	---

Annex IV

DRAFT STATUTES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN SUGAR-PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Proposed Text

CHAPTER I

Objectives and Functions

The following are some of the principal objectives and functions of the Organization:

- a) To serve as a consultative and co-ordinating mechanism on common issues pertaining to the production and marketing of sugar, by-products and derivatives.
- b) To foster the harmonious development of the sugar cane agro-industry in the Member Countries of the Organization, through complementary, solidary action in special situations as well as in the regular matters involved.
- c) To exchange scientific and technological knowledge and further joint efforts in this sphere as pertains to field and factory so as to improve the use of cane in the production of sugar, by-products and derivatives.
- d) To establish a system concerning international sugar-trade for co-operation and the exchange of knowledge and information among the organizations in charge of marketing in each Member Country.
- e) To promote sugar trade among the Member Countries of the Organization, bearing in mind the goal of self-sufficiency in sugar in Africa.
- f) To contribute to the development of integration systems concomitant to the obligations stemming from the agreements signed by Member Countries and currently in effect, with the help of the consultative and co-ordinating mechanism.
- g) To promote the development, wherever required by a specific Member State, of the production of sugar from other sacchariferous plants.
- h) To foster the development of co-operation at all levels of the sugar industry.

CHAPTER II

Members

Membership in the Organization may be open to all independent African cane-sugar producing countries, with any exceptions the Organization decides on for any reason. An eligible country could become a member once its government ratifies the Organization's Statutes.

CHAPTER III

Observers

The Organization may accept as observer any country, regional or subregional, intergovernmental or international organization which has expressed its intention to participate in the Organization.

CHAPTER IV

Organization

The Organization should have the following two permanent organs:

- a) The Assembly, consisting of all the Member Countries, is the highest decision body of the Organization. Each Member Country shall appoint one representative to the Assembly and, if it so desires, one or more alternates or consultants.

Proposed Text

- b) The Secretariat, consisting of officials elected by the Assembly and the staff deemed necessary.

The Assembly

The following are the principal faculties of the Assembly:

- a) Study all matters of interest to the Organization; adopt resolutions, decisions and draft recommendations, according to the Statutes and in line with the Organization's objectives.
- b) Elect and remove the Executive Secretary and other elected officials.
- c) Fix the contributions of Member Countries and analyze, modify and manage the Organization's annual budget.
- d) Appoint the outside auditors of the Organization.
- e) Alter and approve the Secretariat's work plan.
- f) Elect the bureau at the Assembly sessions.
- g) Approve the participation of observers, in line with the provisions of these Statutes, and establish terms for participation.
- h) Set up special commissions or working groups.
- i) Adopt decisions with regard to the location of Secretariat Headquarters.
- j) Change or approve amendments to the Statutes.
- k) Interpret the Statutes, when necessary.

- l) Modify and approve regulations.
- m) Declare the dissolution of the Organization and of the Statutes.

ASSEMBLY SESSIONS

- The quorum of any Assembly Session shall be two-thirds of the Member Countries with the right to vote.
- As a general rule, the Assembly shall hold one or two ordinary meetings every year. The Assembly shall also have the power to hold special meetings when so decided by the Assembly or when requested by the majority of the Member Countries.
- The Assembly shall determine the date and place of its regular meetings.
- The meetings of the Assembly shall be convened by the Executive Secretary and shall be held at the Secretariat or in any Member Country offering to host the meeting.
- The meeting of the Assembly shall be convened at least thirty days in advance. The official convocation will be sent with the draft agenda of sessions.
- The Assembly shall adopt all of its resolutions and decisions, and shall formulate its recommendations by a two-thirds majority of the Member Countries with the right to vote.

Proposed Text

THE SECRETARIAT

- a) The Secretariat is the Organization's executive organ, and shall act in accordance with these Statutes, the regulations and decisions of the Assembly. It shall consist of the officials elected by the Assembly and other members of the staff that may be necessary to hire.
- b) For a candidate to be eligible for election, the government of his country must submit an official nomination within the period stipulated.
- c) The Executive Secretary shall bear the legal representation of the Organization.
- d) Each of the Member Countries agrees to respect the exclusively international nature of the duties of the officials and staff of the Secretariat, and not try to influence them in the performance of said duties.
- e) The elected officials shall be nationals of Member Countries and shall be elected on the basis of rotation and geographical distribution.

CHAPTER V

Financial Provisions

The Member Countries shall pay their contributions to the Annual Budget of the Organization which shall be determined by the Assembly on the following bases:

- a) Each Member Country shall pay an equal amount as a minimum quota.

- b) The balance shall be distributed in direct proportion to each country's sugar production volume corresponding to the average of the three years immediately preceding the budget year for which there is on the first day of the period, information published officially by the International Sugar Organization or by any other source determined by the Assembly.
- c) There shall be established a maximum quota of an amount equivalent to a percentage of the total Annual Budget as determined by the Assembly.
- d) If there is a difference between the amount of the contributions calculated in accordance with the preceding paragraphs and the total amount of the Annual Budget, such difference shall be distributed among the Member Countries in accordance with the provisions of paragraph b).
- e) The contributions to the Annual Budget shall be made in freely convertible currency and shall be due on the first day of the financial year.
- f) The expenses of the representatives of Member Countries and observers at meetings of the Organization shall be paid by their respective countries or by themselves.
- g) The expenses related to the organization of meetings of the Organization shall be the responsibility of the host country, unless the meetings take place at the Secretariat's Headquarters.

Proposed Text

- h) Expenses not budgeted for by the Secretariat when convening special meetings shall be met by the Member Countries in proportion to their contribution to the Annual Budget.

Other Contributions

- a) Any Member Country may contribute on a voluntary basis to a Special Fund, independent of the Annual Budget, for the purpose of financing programmes and studies, especially with respect to the interchange in scientific and technological matters which the Assembly may consider to be of special interest to the Organization.
- b) The countries admitted as observers in accordance with the pertinent article of these Statutes shall make contributions to the Special Fund in return for the services and benefits which they derive from their participation as observers in the Organization.
- c) The Assembly shall fix the level of the Special Fund, estimate the amount of voluntary contributions that may be made by Member Countries, and fix the amount of the contributions of observer countries.
- d) Through its Member Countries or the Secretariat, the Organization will apply for funds from external sources such as international and national co-operation organizations.
- e) The Assembly shall determine the conditions governing the operation of the Special Fund.

CHAPTER VI

Budget Year

The financial year of the Organization shall coincide with the calendar year.

Penalties

- If any Member Country fails to pay its total contributions to the Annual Budget within a period of six (6) months from the date on which it falls due, its voting rights in the meetings of the Assembly shall be suspended.
- The voting rights of any Member Country that have been temporarily suspended due to lack of payment shall be restored once payment has been made.

CHAPTER VII

Privileges and Immunities

Legal Status

- The Organization shall have juridical personality. In particular, it shall have the capacity to sign contracts, to acquire and dispose of movable and fixed property, and to institute legal proceedings.

Agreement with the Headquarters Country

- The Organization shall conclude with the Government of the country where the Secretariat Headquarters is located, as soon as possible, an Agreement that shall be approved by the Assembly regarding the legal status, privileges and immunities of the Organization, of the Secretariat and of the members of the staff. This Agreement, which shall be independent of these Statutes, shall establish the conditions for its termination.

Proposed Text

- Unless other provisions regarding taxes are applied in accordance with the Agreement, the Government of the country where the Secretariat is located shall:

- a) grant tax exemption on the remuneration paid by the Organization to its staff; and
- b) grant tax exemption on the property, income and other assets of the Organization.

Agreement with the other Member Countries

- a) The representatives of the Member Countries shall have during their stay in the territory of a Member Country for the purpose of participating in meetings or other activities of the Organization, the privileges and immunities accorded them by the said Member Country to permit them to perform their functions;
- b) The members of the Secretariat and the experts appointed by the Organization shall have during their stay in the territory of a Member Country the privileges and immunities accorded to them by the said Member Country to permit them to perform their functions; and
- c) The Organization, if it deems it necessary, shall authorize the negotiation of an Agreement on privileges and immunities with the Member Countries.

CHAPTER VIII

Final Provisions

Ratification

These Statutes shall be subjected to acceptance by signature or signature and ratification by the signatory Governments if this is required by the legislative provisions in force in the respective countries. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited at the Foreign Ministry of the Headquarters country, which shall notify the Member Countries and the Executive Secretary of each one of the deposits.

Entry into Force

These Statutes shall enter into force on the date they are accepted or ratified by two-thirds of the Governments of the countries that constitute the Organization.

The countries whose Governments have to ratify these Statutes in accordance with their legislative provisions shall be considered provisional members of the Organization with full rights and obligations until they become Member Countries through the deposit of their instruments of ratification.

Withdrawal and Exclusion

Voluntary Withdrawal

Any Member Country may, at any time, withdraw from the Organization and denounce these Statutes after giving prior notification in writing to the Depositary which shall transmit it to the Member Countries and the Executive Secretary.

Proposed Text

The withdrawal and denunciation shall take effect ninety (90) days after receipt of the notification by the Depository.

Exclusion

In the event the Assembly decides that a country has failed to fulfil its obligations stipulated in the Statutes and that the foregoing undermines the Organization's operations, it may exclude this country by a two-thirds majority vote. Said member country will no longer be a member country of the Organization ninety days after the Assembly has adopted the decision.

Settling Balances

If any Member Country withdraws at any time, all outstanding accounts shall be settled during the period of ninety (90) days.

No Member Country shall be entitled to any part of the proceeds of the Organization's liquidation or assets after withdrawal or exclusion.

Amendments

Each Member Country may propose amendments to these Statutes.

The amendments to these Statutes that are approved by the Assembly shall be formalized in protocols that shall enter into force after they have been accepted or ratified by two-thirds of the Member Countries, through the deposit of the respective instrument.

Duration and Termination

1) These Statutes shall continue in force indefinitely.

2) The Assembly may, at any time, by a majority of two-thirds of the Members with the right to vote, declare the Organization and these Statutes terminated; and

3) Notwithstanding the termination of the Organization and these Statutes, the Assembly shall continue in existence for as long as is necessary in order to liquidate the Organization and dispose of its assets, and during this period, it shall have all necessary powers for this purpose.