**Agenda item: 1.5**                                                          **PLENARY MEETING**

## Benin (Republic of)

### PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

### OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE BAAP PROGRAMMES

### Programme No. 1: Policies, strategies and financing

With regard to the action proposed in paragraph 2.3, the handbooks relating to surveys and studies concerning the programme should be popularized so that the developing countries can see exactly where they stand in the current telecommunication context.

### Programme No. 2: Human resources management and development

The aim of this programme was to raise the standard of telecommunication staff, having regard to the changes currently taking place in the sector; one cannot fail to note, however, that there is a considerable need for human resources training in the developing countries.

Activities in this field might place more emphasis on the transfer of know-how in direct relation to the transfer to technology.

The global telecommunication university should be set on foot, so that the standards for developing country managers are the same as for their colleagues in the developed countries.

### Programme No. 3: Guidelines for the elaboration of a business-oriented development plan

No comments.

### Programme No. 4: Development of maritime radiocommunication services

The programme has been implemented in a normal manner, providing some countries with a sounder basis for their maritime radiocommunication structure.

**Programme No. 5: Computer-aided network planning**

The programme is of particular interest to the developing countries in general and to the LDCs in particular as a means of enhancing their autonomy in respect of telecommunication network planning. Certain comments are called for in this connection, notwithstanding ITU's stated intention to popularize the PLANITU software.

– Training for managers in French-speaking African countries has all but failed, because of problems encountered at both the logistic and the organizational levels.

– To date this training has not been resumed. All countries should be able to derive proper benefit from the programme.

In the future, special attention could be given to the telecommunication network planning aspect, as this is an area in which countries are being badly held back in their efforts to develop their telecommunications.

**Programme No. 6: Frequency management**

The objective of the programme is to assist developing countries in computerizing their spectrum management. Software has been developed for frequency management, and some training programmes have been carried out. However, certain tasks still need to be performed:

– continuation of training programmes in some developing countries, particularly the French-speaking African countries;

– assistance to requesting countries in the fine-tuning and practical application of spectrum management software at the national level.

**Programme No. 7: Improvement of maintenance**

The prerequisites for improving maintenance include: organization of maintenance, implementation of management information systems to monitor quality of service, and staff training. Some countries have implemented a national plan for the improvement of maintenance, with beneficial effects for certain quality-of-service indicators. Nevertheless, the following aspects need to be reviewed in the future:

– improvement of stock management in the developing countries, taking into account that most of their material is imported;

– development of a management information system at the subregional or regional level by means of regular meetings, and analysis of common quality-of-service indicators;

– improvement of training for maintenance staff;

– implementation of network management and monitoring structures.

**Programmes Nos. 8-12:**

No comments.

**Suggestions**

In view of the foregoing comments, we have prepared the following recommendations for consideration at the second World Telecommunication Development Conference:

1)      Evaluate the 12 programmes, classify them in order of priority and speed up implementation of the outstanding tasks.

2)      Review the problem of telecommunication network development in the least developed countries (LDCs) on the eve of the 21st century and in the current economic context conditioned by international trade agreements.

3)      Establish regulatory bodies and introduce new network development technologies.

4)      Speed up the work of the study group responsible for dealing with the call-back phenomenon, in order to provide the developing countries with regulatory provisions.

5)      Provide training for network planning and maintenance staff.

6)      Allocate a specific budget to the Telecommunication Development Bureau to provide funding in priority areas for the least developed countries.

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