

LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION



REPORT OF THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

JINJA NILE RESORT HOTEL, JINJA, UGANDA
SATURDAY, 24TH JUNE, 2000

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CM.3.1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Hon. Hussein Maalim Mohamed, EGH, M.P., the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Republic of Kenya, at 12.30 hrs by welcoming all the delegates and observers to the Third Regular Session of the Council. The United Republic of Tanzania was represented by Hon. Zakia H. Meghji, M.P., the Outgoing Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism. The Republic of Uganda was represented by Hon. Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa, M.P., the In-coming Vice Chairperson of the Council and Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. The Chairperson requested all the participants to introduce themselves. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

CM.3.1.1 Opening Remarks by the Out-going Chairperson, Hon. Hussein M. Mohammed

The Out-going Chairperson, Hon. Hussein M. Mohammed, EGH, M.P., thanked the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to all the delegates to the Session.

Hon. Mohammed informed the delegates that he took the challenge of leading the Organization from his predecessor Hon. Francis Lotodo, the then Minister for Natural Resources of the Republic of Kenya who was elected the Chairperson during the Second Session of the Council of Ministers in November, 1998. He said that he was happy to announce that throughout his tenure of office as the Chairperson of the Council, the Member States have vigorously endeavoured to implement various activities of the Strategic Vision of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO). This, he said, was exhibited by the encouraging performance of the Member States in the

execution of the Collective Regional Strategy and Action Plans and the National Action Plans for a sustainable Fisheries Industry in Lake Victoria.

Hon. Mohammed mentioned the challenges facing the Lake that need to be addressed. He said that the list of challenges will continue to grow unless there is willingness to co-operate and take joint actions.

The Honourable Minister listed the achievements of the Organization during his tenure of office, which included, among others, the holding of a successful "*LV2000: A New Beginning*" International Conference and the LVFO becoming an Institution of the East African Community (EAC).

Hon. Mohammed concluded his remarks by appealing to the Member States to remain united, committed and focused on matters of fisheries management in the Lake for the benefit of the present and future generations. The speech of the Out-going Chairperson, Hon. Mohamed, is attached as **Annex 2**.

CM.3.1.2 Statement by the Host Minister, Hon. Dr. Kisamba-Mugerwa

The Host Minister, Hon. Dr. Wilberforce Kisamba-Mugerwa, M.P., the Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, started his speech by welcoming to Uganda his counterparts from Kenya and Tanzania. He expressed his pleasure for hosting such distinguished colleagues. The Minister noted that the Republic of Uganda was privileged to host the LVFO Secretariat.

Hon. Dr. Kisamba-Mugerwa pointed out that his Ministry is advocating for the eradication of rural poverty through modernisation of agriculture including fisheries. He said that this noble aspiration can only be achieved if regional riparian partners in the fisheries sector have clear policies with achievable objectives and strategies to implement management measures.

Hon. Dr. Kisamba-Mugerwa concluded his speech by reiterating the commitment of the Government of Uganda and its peoples to the LVFO and the East African Community. He wished the participants a pleasant stay in Jinja and other parts of Uganda. The full text of the statement by Hon. Kisamba-Mugerwa is attached as **Annex 3**.

CM.3.1.3 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

In accordance with Article V, Part 3 of the Convention establishing the LVFO; and Part III, Rule IV, Section I of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers, the United Republic of Tanzania was elected the Chairperson of the Council, to serve for a two-year term until the Fourth Regular Session. Hon. Zakia H. Meghji, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania took the Chair.

The Council of Ministers elected Uganda as the Vice-Chairperson. The Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda, Hon. Dr. W. Kisamba-Mugerwa consented.

CM.3.1.4 Statement by the In-coming Chairperson, Hon. Zakia H. Meghji

The In-coming Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Zakia H. Meghji, M.P., the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, United Republic of Tanzania, started his speech by pointing out that it is a great honour to be elected as the Chairperson of the LVFO Council of Ministers. On her own behalf, and that of the Government of Tanzania, she thanked the Council of Ministers for bestowing her this honour, which she humbly accepted. The Chairperson thanked the Republic of Uganda and its people for hosting and supporting the LVFO Secretariat in the spirit of the Headquarters Agreement as stated in the Convention Establishing the LVFO.

The Chairperson congratulated the Out-going Chairperson for the excellent leadership and work done during his term. Hon. Meghji enumerated the environment and the socio-economic issues that affect Lake Victoria and required immediate attention. She pointed out that appropriate action plans by the Member States, the LVFO Secretariat and all parties involved in implementing various undertakings in the Lake basin, are needed to tackle the problems. With the LVFO now an Institution of the East African Community, the Chairperson, pointed out that we should foster the spirit of regional co-operation and collaboration with all other sectors to ensure sustainable development and prosperity for our people.

The Chairperson extended an invitation to her colleagues, Hon. Mohammed, the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Kenya; and Hon. Kisamba-Mugerwa, the Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda, to visit Tanzania. Hon. Meghji said the purpose of the visit would be for strengthening the mandates and objectives of the Organization in the spirit of the EAC by learning from each other's experience. The two Ministers accepted the invitation.

Hon. Meghji concluded by reminding the delegates that it is their responsibility to ensure that there is food security and alleviation of poverty within the riparian communities. The speech of Hon. Meghji is attached as **Annex 4**.

CM.3.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROGRAMME

The Agenda and the Programme, **Annex 5** and **Annex 6** respectively, were amended and adopted by the Council.

CM.3.3 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LVFO STATUTORY BODIES AS AT 22ND JUNE, 2000

This report gives an up to date status of implementation of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) statutory bodies decisions and recommendations. The review covers the period after the last meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 10th December 1999 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania up to 22nd June 2000. Those decisions that have been fully implemented are excluded from this report.

CM.3.3.1 Diplomatic Matters

The Kenyan Delegation informed the meeting that the procedure for granting Diplomatic status to the LVFO is in its final stages.

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of the above development.

CM.3.3.2 Database and Information Dissemination

The development of a Legacy Database for Lake Victoria co-ordinated by the LVFO Secretariat has been very successful. The input from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the collaboration from the three riparian Fisheries Research Institutes and Fisheries Departments/Division has produced a bibliographical database that can be used by researchers and managers. The database will be available on the LVFO's Internet's World-Wide-Web site once the Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (LVFRP) sponsored LVFO Web Site is developed. Currently more information is being input into the database by the three research institutions. CIDA is planning to send more technical assistance to assist the Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI) to build the database.

The other set of databases such as capture fishery, social economics and stock assessment will be developed with assistance from the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) and LVFRP. The LVFRP will provide Technical Assistance to write the software and training, while the LVEMP will provide the hardware infrastructure for the databases such as computers, printers, modems and scanners.

The implementation will start once a report by the Regional Task Force (RTF) on Database and Information Dissemination is considered and

adopted by the LVEMP Regional Policy Steering Committee. The LVEMP facilitated the work of the Regional Task Force. The Task Force completed its work in mid-February, 2000 and handed over the report to the LVEMP Regional Executive Secretary on 11th February 2000.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of the above development;
- (b) Thanked the institutions that have supported and sponsored the work.

CM.3.3.3 International Conference on Lake Victoria

The LVFO organised an International Conference, "*Lake Victoria 2000: A New Beginning*", which was held on 16–19 May 2000 at YMCA Conference Centre in Jinja, Uganda. The Conference was preceded by a Pre-Conference Workshop, held on 15th May 2000 at the same venue and attended by selected Scientists, Fisheries Managers and other Stakeholders. Over 200 participants attended the Conference from Africa, Canada, Europe and the United States of America. In view of the wide ranging issues associated with the lake a number of recommendations for sustainable development of the aquatic resources were made by the LV2000 Conference. The summary of the recommendations of the Conference is attached as **Annex 7**.

Various institutions and organizations supported the Conference. The LVFRP, which is funded by the European Union, participated actively in the organization of the Conference. The LVFRP sponsored the Local Organizing Committee meetings, the participation of Scientists working in the Project to the Conference, the printing of the First and Second Conference Announcements and the Book of Abstracts. The Project will also sponsor the printing of the Conference Proceedings. The LVEMP, which is funded by the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility, supported the Conference by sponsoring Scientists working in the Project and by providing transport during the Conference. The FIRRI participated actively in the whole Organization of the Conference and provided transport and some facilities for the Conference. The meeting observed that the LVEMP (Kenya and Tanzania) did not sponsor some of the Scientist expected to participate in the Conference.

The Conference was also supported and sponsored by the East African Development Bank (EADB), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO), the Standard Chartered Bank Ltd. (Uganda), the University of Zurich, the Nile Breweries Uganda, the Fisheries Society of Africa (FISA), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The East African Community (EAC) supported and attended the Conference.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of the above development;
- (b) Commended the LVFO Secretariat for organising the Conference and directed it to study the Conference recommendations and propose how they can be implemented.

CM.3.3.4 Public Sensitisation on Lake Victoria

The East African peoples are aware of the existence of Lake Victoria. However, there is need to sensitise them more using other forms on the values of Lake Victoria resources.

CM.3.3.4.1 Lake Victoria Fish basket *Drama*

During the Conference, a number of activities were organised and among them was the drama on Lake Victoria entitled "*Lake Victoria Fish basket*". A renowned artist, Mr. Alex Mukulu of Change Africa International Limited, was contracted by the Organization to perform the drama. The purpose of the drama was to sensitise the public on the issues generated and imposed on the lake and the possibility of addressing them. The drama focused on the impact of the activities of the fishermen and other people who live in the Lake basin on the lake resources.

The play was found interesting, educative and an eye opener to the people as well as being entertaining. The audience recommended that it should be performed for the fisher communities, industrialists and other people impacting on the healthy and sustainability of the Lake, in the theatres within the Member States, particularly, in the Lake Victoria basin and abroad.

The outputs of the drama include a Video and a proposal of a Lake Victoria Goodwill Ambassador Project. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union/ Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (EU/LVFRP), the World Bank/Global Environmental

Facility/Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (WB/GEF/LVEMP) and the University of Zurich sponsored the production of the *drama*.

CM.3.3.4.2 Lake Victoria Goodwill Ambassador Project

The Lake Victoria Goodwill Ambassador Project is proposed to be an annual event. An eligible young person will be selected to sell the survival of Lake Victoria to the global community. He/she will be chosen on his/her merit of having genuine concern, knowledgeable and willingness to learn more about the issues of the Lake.

He/she will go around the world sensitising the general public and solicit financial support for Lake Victoria activities. The fund will be used to support various conservation, management and development programmes geared at achieving a healthy Lake ecosystem, sustainable fisheries and other living resources of Lake Victoria. There is need to develop and solicit funds for the implementation of the project. To achieve this, the LVFO Secretariat needs full support of the Member States to undertake this difficult but crucial activity.

The Committee observed that the project is a good idea, which should be pursued and implemented.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of the above development;
- (b) Thanked UNEP, LVFRP, LVEMP and the University of Zurich for their sponsorship of the Play, and commended the LVFO Secretariat for the good work done;
- (c) Directed the LVFO Secretariat, in conjunction with the EAC Secretariat, to mobilise the necessary resources for the purposes of developing and implementing the proposed Goodwill Ambassador Project.

CM.3.4 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF A COLLECTIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES INDUSTRY IN LAKE VICTORIA

As regards the implementation of the Decisions of the Council of Ministers on a Collective Regional Strategy and Action Plans towards a sustainable Fisheries Industry in Lake Victoria, the following is the status of implementation by Member States, Regional Task Forces and Committees:

CM.3.4.1 Harmonisation of Fisheries Legislation

The Regional Taskforce (RTF) on the harmonisation of the Fisheries Legislation completed its report, which has been circulated to Member States for review and comments for further action. In Tanzania, an internal consultation was completed in March 2000 and the final report was submitted in April, 2000 to the Regional Executive Secretary for further action. In Kenya the report was reviewed by the Fisheries Department and then sent to Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP). It is important that wide internal consultations in each Member State should be done before holding a Regional Meeting to be facilitated by the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project.

CM.3.4.2 Harmonisation of the Competent Authority

In Uganda, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and its parent Ministry, Commerce and Industry, have agreed to transfer the powers to the Fisheries Department to become the Competent Authority. The Fisheries Department is in the process of transferring the authority without alarming the market. The Ministry of Health in Kenya has also agreed in principle to transfer its powers of Competent Authority on fish to the Fisheries Department and the formalisation process is going on well.

CM.3.4.3 Standing Committee on Fish Quality Assurance

The Policy Steering Committee approved and formalised the Standing Committee on Fish Quality Assurance that was formed at the Mwanza Workshop on Fish Quality Assurance in July 1999. The Committee was to be operationalised in May 2000. Due to lack of funds this Committee has not yet been operational. LVEMP - Uganda clarified that it is not possible to fund a Standing Committee under the project. However, it is possible to fund a Task Force provided the Fisheries Management Component of the LVEMP includes this activity in their Work Programmes. The LVFO Secretariat should follow-up this matter with LVEMP Secretariats to have the funding available.

CM.3.4.4 Regional Referral Laboratory

The Standing Committee on Fish Quality Assurance should have prepared a proposal for the establishment of a functional Regional Referral Laboratory for consideration by the Executive Committee during its Fourth Regular Session. The proposal has not been prepared and therefore the Standing Committee should finalise the process. The National Laboratories under the Fisheries Departments/Divisions in the three countries should be strengthened and accredited even before the establishment of the Regional Referral Laboratory. Tanzania proposed, for noting, that it is willing to host the Regional Referral Laboratory on behalf of the other two Member States.

CM.3.4.5 Establishment of a Monitoring and Sampling Plan

All the three Member States have established sampling plans for pesticides and heavy metals in fish, water and sediments.

With the LVEMP support, Kenya is having its laboratory completed soon to handle microbial tests. She is also planning to equip the Laboratory to be able to handle chemical tests. A similar laboratory will be set up in Nairobi using the development funds from the Government. The tests for heavy metals will be done at the Kenya Bureau of Standards. The sampling plan for monitoring pesticide residues in fish, water and sediments, has been established. Sampling and analysis is being done on a monthly basis.

In Uganda, the fish quality laboratory has been completed, staffed and equipped. The Fisheries Department has already published a draft manual for inspection of fish in processing plants, at landing sites, in markets and during transportation. It contains the sampling plans to be applied at the landing sites (on raw materials) and in the factories (for finished products). All the necessary documentation are operating at the 13 landing sites gazetted for fish exports and they have been given six months to conform, otherwise they will be de-gazetted. The World Bank Mission has sanctioned LVEMP funds to be used for sampling for a period of one year.

Tanzania has instituted a three phase monitoring programme for pesticide residues in the Lake. The first phase, which was an emergency action plan, was implemented between September and November 1999. It included upgrading the microbiology analysis Laboratory at Nyegezi, Mwanza; improvement of the beach landing sites, campaigns to educate the people on the impact of the illegal practices with regard to fish and the environment, and emphasized cleanliness through regular monitoring of fish landing sites and processing factories. The second phase is a medium action plan, which focuses on monitoring of chemicals and heavy metals

from water and fish by carrying tests on scheduled periods for a year. The third phase is a long-term action plan, which includes continuing with the microbiology tests and the establishment of a laboratory at Mwanza for testing pesticides residues and heavy metals. The laboratory is scheduled to start functioning in December 2000.

CM.3.4.6 Enhance Lake-wide Community Mobilization and Sensitisation Programmes Against Illegal Fishing Practices

All the three countries are using the public '*barazas*', community-based workshops/seminars, and radio programmes to mobilise and sensitise local communities on co-management and the dangers of using illegal fishing gears and practices.

In Kenya, twelve public lectures and three seminars were held and 215 fishermen were trained. The Provincial Administration has mobilised the District and Divisional Administrators to work with the District Fisheries Officers and involve the committees in cleaning up landing sites.

In Uganda, the Task Forces that were formed in March 1999 to combat "fish poisoning" have been strengthened into Co-management Task Forces. These have been formed on the majority of fish landing sites. The Department collaborates with the Districts for them to internalise these task forces. Radio programmes are used to target the consumers, boat owners and owners of vehicles used to carry fish and the general public. Uganda has plans to send teams of Community leaders to study what is happening in Tanzania and to come back to emulate their model. This activity will be funded by the LVEMP.

In Tanzania, efforts are being made to expand the establishment of beach management units in all potential and strategic fishing communities. Currently, a total of 503 beach management units were established as follows: Mwanza Region 257 units, Mara Region 123 units, Kagera Region 123 units. They have involved, at all stages, the Regional, District and Community Administrators.

CM.3.4.7 Strengthen the Law Enforcement Organs on the Lake and Surveillance Mechanism through the EAC/LVFO arrangement

The LVFO Secretariat is organising a meeting between the Directors/Commissioners for Fisheries Departments/Division and the EAC Secretariat to discuss the issue of joint surveillance. This will involve

Security Organs on the Lake. In earlier Sessions of the Statutory Committees, the need for surveillance was identified due to gear theft and other malpractices on the Lake. As a preparatory activity to this meeting, the LVFO, in February 2000, hosted the EAC Mission comprising the Executive Secretary, the Sectoral Economist and the Information Officer, who went around Lake Victoria to see what is happening on the Lake.

The EAC Secretariat informed the meeting that it is ready to cooperate on the issue once a meeting is organised to chart out a strategy of joint surveillance. The LVFO Secretariat was directed to call for such a meeting as soon as possible.

CM.3.4.8 National Committees for Lake Victoria

The LVFO Secretariat has been liaising with the Directors/Commissioners for Fisheries Departments/Division to plan the launching programme and have the National Committee operational in each country by 21st May 2000, as per the decision of the Council of Ministers. The launch has not taken place as planned due to budgetary constraints in the Member States.

Kenya has already mobilised the potential Members of the National Committee from a cross-section of the Organisations expected to participate. There was very good response. A meeting of these Members is to be scheduled by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, before the launch. The Department of Fisheries promised to launch the Committee once the additional funds are obtained.

Uganda planned to launch the National Committee at the end of March 2000 but could not due to lack of funds. More than US\$ 5000, which was budgeted for by the LVFO Secretariat, is required for the activity. The Fisheries Department is sourcing for additional funds.

Tanzania indicated that the launch of the National Committee will be on **29th August, 2000**. Tanzania proposed to other Member States to consider declaring a National Fishing Day to be celebrated by fishermen, fisherfolk and riparian communities.

CM.3.4.9 Improvement of Fish Landing Sites and Infrastructure

Improvement of fish landing sites and infrastructure is going on well in the three Member States. In Kenya, nine selected strategic landing beaches for improvement through an integrated approach by all stakeholders have been established. The stakeholders involved in this programme include, the

fishing community, the co-operatives, the County Councils, the fish processors, the Fisheries Departments and other Government agencies. The first phase includes fencing, paving, building a drainage system, sorting sheds renovations, access road improvements, cleaning up, and provision of insulated fish collection boxes. The second phase includes electricity supply, ice-making plants, potable water and fish landing jetties. The fencing of the first beach is almost complete.

In Tanzania, four landing sites have been provided with floating barges and the intention is to provide barges to all identified sites. A mechanism has been put in place so that fish landed elsewhere, other than the designated landing sites, would not go to the fish processing factories.

In Uganda, an Inter-ministerial Technical Team visited the selected landing sites (Kisenyi, Kasensero, Ddimu, Lambu, Wakawaka, Bugoto and Kitobo) to assess their features, make practical designs and cost estimates. The Team produced a report, which indicates that the total investment for improvement of the landing sites is US\$5,177,530,000. A Japanese project in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is facilitating the construction of four fish landing sites, while the Chinese are assisting with another one.

CM.3.4.10 Sustainable Funding for Lake Victoria Fisheries Activities

Kenya and Uganda are studying the Retention Scheme being implemented in Tanzania for adoption. Uganda is in advanced stages with a proposal to the Ministry of Finance that the Fisheries Department should levy 4% of the fish exports based on a price of US\$2.5 per kilogram.

CM.3.4.11 Status of the EU fish ban

Despite the actions already taken by the Member States and the verification visit by EU Veterinary Inspectors, the fish ban has stayed on since 25th March 1999 for Kenya and Uganda. The ban on fish exports from Tanzania was lifted on 4th January 2000. Both Kenya and Uganda are doing everything possible to fulfil the requirements of the EU in order to have the ban lifted. It should be noted that, countries that will fail to conform to the EU requirements would be excluded from the market because by 23rd December 2000, only countries on List 1 will be allowed to export to the EU market.

Kenya indicated that they have done a lot to convince the EU to lift the ban. Apart from the harmonisation of the Competent Authority, the other conditions have been adequately addressed. Uganda is also confident that the ban shall be lifted before the set deadline.

CM.3.4.12 Mission by the Executive Secretary of the East African Co-operation Secretariat (EAC) around Lake Victoria

The Council of Ministers, during its First Special Session in December 1999, requested the Executive Secretary of the East African Co-operation (EAC) Secretariat to follow up the issue of the Lake Victoria fish ban to the European Union (EU) market with the European Commission (EC) Delegations in the EAC Member States and abroad as a matter of extreme urgency. To this end the Executive Secretary of the EAC Secretariat, Amb. Francis K. Muthaura, undertook a Mission around Lake Victoria in February 2000. The purpose of this Mission was to assess the situation on fish handling, landing sites and fish processing factories. It was also intended to meet the fisherfolk, businessmen, Provincial and Local Authorities Administration, Environmentalists, Research Scientists and Natural Resource Managers in the environs of Lake Victoria before following up the fish ban issue with the EC.

The Mission was planned and co-ordinated by the LVFO Secretariat with logistical support and assistance from Fisheries Departments in Member States as well as the LVEMP and LVFRP Secretariats.

During the Mission, Kenya and Uganda agreed to make similar fact finding Mission to Tanzania to, among other things, study beach management and fish handling techniques at landing sites and fish processing factories. The Republic of Uganda made an initial visit to Tanzania in May 2000.

The Executive Secretary, LVFO should plan such fact finding tours more regularly. A similar Mission for the Permanent Secretaries and Directors/Commissioner of Fisheries is scheduled for the year 2000/2001.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of the progress made to-date in the implementation of the Regional Strategy and Action Plans for a sustainable fisheries industry for Lake Victoria;
- (b) Commended the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for maintaining the quality assurance measures they have taken so far and urged Tanzania to improve where necessary; and
- (c) Urged both Kenya and Uganda to comply with European Union standards in order to have the ban lifted.

CM.3.5 REPORT OF THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Fisheries Management Committee held its Second Regular Session on 30th – 31st March 2000 in Jinja, Uganda. The following are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- (a) The Committee noted that Member States acted very fast to combat the use of pesticides in fishing, however, they are slow in enforcing the ban on trawling and use of illegal nets such as the beach seines. Although there are recommended mesh sizes, they seem not to be working. Meanwhile, there is concern that a lot of undersized fish is procured as raw material by the fish factories. The LVFO Secretariat is procuring a *Consultancy on Fishing Gear and Methods* in April 2001 at a cost of 15,000 USD to study and recommend suitable gears and methods for inclusion in the fisheries regulations by the Contracting Parties.
- (b) The Republic of Uganda is planning to regulate the open access to the fishery, which will be incorporated and enforced when the new *Fish Act* comes into effect. However, Kenya and Tanzania feel that this could be socially and politically dangerous to the canoe fishery, which does partial fishing and engage in other small-scale rural activities to generate income. The people who live around the lake are very poor, and yet, are the greatest stakeholders in safe guarding the lake. It is suggested that a programme of working with them should be instituted within the Regional Human Resources Development Project to be carried out in Lake Victoria, to teach them to conserve the lake.
- (c) The LVFRP is in the process of implementing the three beaches study in each country. The LVFRP presented a brief paper on the planned *three-beaches* study and requested the Directors/Commissioner to lift the regulations from the selected beaches to enable the researchers to examine the reactions of the Communities to the responsibility of fisheries management. In recognition of the social, political and legal implications, the Committee resolved there is need to consult widely on the legal implication of deregulating the pilot beaches.
- (d) The Directors/Commissioners of Fisheries Departments have appointed Desk Officers to liase with the Secretariat on the routine issues of the LVFO. The following Officers were designated:
 - (i) Kenya - Mr. Bernard Ayugu, Deputy Director;
 - (ii) Uganda - Mr. Francis X. Kizza, Assistant Commissioner;
 - (iii) Tanzania - Mr. Rashid Hoza, Senior Fisheries Officer.

- (e) During the 8th Management Committee meeting of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Project held on 3rd December 1999 in Mwanza, Tanzania, the issue of Frame Survey on Lake Victoria was discussed. It was agreed that a Lake-wide regional Frame Survey on Lake Victoria be carried out with funding from the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project. The Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project offered to fund three preparatory meetings of a Rapid Task Force for the Frame Survey; printing of frame survey questionnaires and publicity materials; fund training of enumerators; facilitate the resource person for data analysis training and print the Frame Survey Report. The Rapid Task Force under the co-ordination of the LVFO Secretariat completed its meetings during which: (i) frame survey questionnaires were harmonized, (ii) a training manual for enumerators was developed, (iii) budgets for training and the frame survey were done and (iv) dates for training and the frame survey were agreed on. The survey was carried out from 22nd – 25th March 2000 and training on Data Analysis for fisheries statisticians done from 17th – 20th April 2000. The data is being analysed and a report expected by end of July. The LVFRP will finance the procurement of ZIP-drives for each Fisheries Department/Division. The ZIP-drives are to enhance data storage hardware capacity, which was identified as a need in the three countries.
- (f) The Committee recommended that for each Member State, the Directors for Water Resources and Environment should be requested to attend Sessions of the Scientific Committee and the Fisheries Management Committee respectively. Both then can attend the Executive Committee in the same capacity as well as the Policy Steering Committee and Council of Ministers Sessions as part of their Country Delegations.

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of the above developments.

CM.3.6 REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee held its Second Regular Session on 17 – 18th March 2000 in Jinja, Uganda. The following are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- (a) The LVFO Secretariat is to facilitate the formulation of a structure for the Bulletin of Fisheries Statistics for Lake Victoria. The Secretariat is planning to engage a Consultant to come up with the structure during the 2000/2001 Financial Year at a cost of US \$ 15,000.

- (b) The LVFRP has agreed to facilitate the Scientific and Fisheries Management Committee meetings. The 2000/2001 LVFO Budget for these meetings is US \$ 48,000.
- (c) Members of the New Editorial Board of the *African Journal of Tropical Hydrobiology and Fisheries* should come from the East Africa region to form the core of the Editorial Board. The following Editorial board members were proposed:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Prof. M.J. Ntiba | - | Editor-in-Chief |
| 2. | Dr. Yusuf Kizito | - | Uganda |
| 3. | Prof. Wangila Baraza | - | Kenya |
| 4. | Dr. Yunnus Mgaya | - | Tanzania |
| 5. | Prof. P. O. J. Bwathondi | - | Tanzania |
| 6. | Ms. Rose Muggide | - | Uganda |
| 7. | Dr. N.C. Weggoro | - | EAC Secretariat |

The Editorial Board will have its first meeting in July 2000 to consider an International Panel of Reviewers and other matters of the Journal, which are not policy related.

- (d) The Committee suggested that an International Scientific Advisory Committee be formed and should be constituted of scientists who are interested on Lake Victoria. The following members were proposed to be on this Committee, whose main function would be to advise the LVFO on a range of scientific matters.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Prof. John Okedi | - | Uganda |
| 2. | Prof. Kenneth Mavuti | - | Kenya |
| 3. | Dr. Robert Hecky | - | Canada |
| 4. | Dr. Frans Witte | - | The Netherlands |
| 5. | Prof. Mary Okwakol | - | Uganda |
| 6. | Dr. Antony Ribbink | - | South Africa |
| 7. | Dr. Ian Cowx | - | UK |
| 8. | Prof. Issa Musoke | - | Tanzania |

The final membership of the Committee will be reviewed to be a full representation of all the key geographical areas.

- (e) Recognising that women play major roles in the fishery industry of Lake Victoria and that their participation in the discussions of the lake's fishery resources is important for sustainable management and socio-economic improvement of the riparian peoples, the LVFO Secretariat is developing the Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Workshop on Women's role in the Management of Lake Victoria, to be held in October-December 2000 at a cost of 15,000 USD.

(f) The LVFO Secretariat co-ordinated a Regional Workshop for Scientists working in the East African Fisheries Research Institutes i.e. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Fisheries Resources Research Institute (FIRRI) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) in Mwanza on 21-22 February 2000. This workshop was facilitated by the LVFRP. The workshop participants reviewed the scientific work that they have done so far in Lake Victoria, identified gaps in knowledge and made the following recommendations on the way forward:

(i) *Phytoplankton and Zooplankton*

- Knowledge on the horizontal and vertical distribution of phytoplankton and zooplankton is missing therefore more research is needed in this area.
- Sampling equipment for this thematic area are inadequate.
- Scientists working in this thematic area should standardise their identification keys and sampling methodologies.
- Standardisation of nets used for plankton sampling was also recommended.
- Capacities of scientists in the three countries were not at par and exchange visits of scientists was recommended.
- The LIDAWOG group of the LVFRP Project should be facilitated to meet regularly as per the work plan for 2000.

(ii) *Fisheries biology*

- The need to do more research in the rivers was observed. Electric fishing gears should therefore be purchased wherever necessary to facilitate the sampling of fish.
- More scientists should work on *Caridina nilotica* as it is an important food item for *Lates niloticus*.
- The area of fish genetics was identified as an area that needed more scientists.

(g) The present parameters that are collected for the Fisheries Statistics at the landing sites, species type, weight, boat type, and type and number of gears, do not give an indication of the trend in the status of the fish stocks. The Committee observed that if length and weight parameters of the different species were also recorded, it would give an indication of the sizes of the species caught and on a long time

basis this would show the trend in the fishery and in particular whether there is recruitment over-fishing. The LVFO Secretariat in conjunction with the LVFRP will facilitate the formulation of a proposal to widen the programme for Fishery Statistics at the landing beaches.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of the above developments; and**
- (b) Directed the LVFO Secretariat to consult the Fisheries Management Committee on the composition of the Editorial Board and International Scientific Advisory Committee.**

CM.3.7 LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

The LVFO Secretariat advertised in the East African Newspaper on 10th April 2000 seeking for Consultancy Services to make recommendations of a Fisheries Management Plan Framework for Lake Victoria. The Secretariat received three (3) quotations from Consultancy Firms. A team of experts composed of Prof. Phillip Bwathondi, Dr. Richard Ogutu-Ohwayo and Mr. James Ogari was selected and appointed to conduct a study to come up with a framework for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan. The team prepared a First Draft Report which will be circulated to the Fisheries Departments/Division Fisheries Research Institutes and the EU/LVFRP for their comments. More interviews and consultations will be made and the findings will be included in their Second Draft Report. The Second Draft Report will be presented to the Stakeholders' Workshop to be held before the end of the year. A Final Report will be prepared after the Stakeholders' Workshop. This study has been funded by the European Union through the Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project.

To ensure that the Fisheries Management Plan Framework is fully implemented for the benefit of the present and future generations and for sound environmental and fisheries management of Lake Victoria, the activities during the implementation should expand to cover the following: infrastructure at landing sites/beaches and airports, monitoring natural resources, construction of research vessels, implementation of Co-management; and strengthening of the LVFO human resources capacities in the EAC Members States.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of this development;**
- (b) Commended the EU through the LVFRP for funding the study;**
- (c) Directed the LVFO Secretariat to prepare a funding request to the EU for a Grant to the East African Community countries, spanning ten years beginning from 2002, to implement the Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan Frame Work; and also**
- (d) Directed the LVFO Executive Secretary to liaise with the EAC Secretary General to communicate this decision to the European Union.**

CM.3.8 LVFO AS AN INSTITUTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The Treaty establishing the East African Community was signed on 30th November 1999. Chapter Three, Article 9, Part 3 states that "upon the entry into force of the Treaty, the East African Development Bank established by the Treaty Amending and Re-enacting the Charter of the East African Bank, 1980 and the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization established by the Convention (Final Act) for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, 1994 and surviving Institutions of the former East African Community shall be deemed to be Institutions of the Community and shall be designated and function as such".

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of this development; and**
- (b) Directed the Executive Secretary of the LVFO to communicate to the Director General of the FAO drawing his attention to Chapter Three, Article 9 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community.**

CM.3.9 COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LVFO AND THE FAO

The LVFO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have entered a Co-operation Agreement. The FAO Council approved the Co-operation Agreement and it was confirmed by the FAO Conference at its Thirtieth Session held in Rome, Italy on 12 – 23 November 1999

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of this development.

CM.3.10 NEW REGIONAL FISHERIES PROJECTS ON LAKE VICTORIA

The existing projects on Lake Victoria include the European Union funded project, the Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project; and the World Bank/Global Environmental Facility funded project, the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project. There are a number of new Regional Projects on Lake Victoria. These include the following:

CM.3.10.1 Regional Human Resource Development Programme

The Commonwealth Secretariat is coming up with a *Regional Human Resource Development Programme*, which was initially done in Tanzania and is now being extended to Uganda and Kenya. The LVFO Secretariat will co-ordinate it. The Needs Assessment has been done in Tanzania and the exercise cost Sterling £79,422. The Needs Assessment will also be done in Uganda at an estimated cost of Sterling £87,365 and in Kenya at an estimated cost of Sterling £57,580. The operational cost at the Secretariat will be Sterling £ 7,942.

CM.3.10.2. IUCN Projects on Lake Victoria

The following are the proposed two projects by IUCN:

CM.3.10.2.1 Biodiversity and Sustainable Fisheries in Lake Victoria: The Nile Perch Project, Phase II.

The IUCN -The World Conservation Union, Eastern Africa Regional Programme completed the first phase of the *Biodiversity and Sustainable Fisheries in Lake Victoria: The Nile Perch Project*, which was done in Kenya in collaboration with the Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Kisumu. The second phase, the *Biodiversity and Sustainable Fisheries in Lake Victoria: The Nile Perch Project, Phase II*, has been approved and will be conducted in the three Member States, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

CM.3.10.2 Network of Environmental Journalists on Lake Victoria

The IUCN also intends to assist in the establishment of a media networking on Lake Victoria to assist the Journalists in accurate reporting of the management issues of the lake and its environment.

CM.3.10.3 FAO/COMESA Common Fund for Commodities Project

The FAO/COMESA Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Project will focus on the development, promotion and trade in value added fishery products, focusing on two specific freshwater species from the participating countries. In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the Project will concentrate on the Lake Victoria fishery. The estimated cost for phase one is US\$544,005, which will be in a form of grant, co-financed by FAO and COMESA. The executing agency will be the LVFO and the supervisory body the FAO Intergovernmental Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (The ICB for Fishery Products).

CM.3.10.4 EAC/SIDA Co-operation on Development of the Lake Victoria Region as an Economic Growth zone.

The LVFO along with other Organisations is participating in the EAC/SIDA Co-operation on development of the Lake Victoria Region as an economic growth zone.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of these new developments on the Lake;
- (b) Directed the LVFO Secretariat to follow-up the FAO/COMESA, EAC/SIDA Co-operation, IUCN and the Commonwealth Secretariat HRD Projects, and
- (c) Noted that for future Regional Fisheries Projects on Lake Victoria the LVFO Secretariat will provide project proposals to implementing Government Agencies for comments before an Agreement is made.

CM.3.11 CONTACTS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1999 TO MAY 2000

During the period under review, the Secretariat made contacts with the Development Partners, Diplomatic Missions, International and Regional Organisations, Regional Projects on Lake Victoria, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), the media and other interested Organisations to promote awareness about the LVFO and elicit the participation of these Organisations in the projects and programmes on Lake Victoria.

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of these activities undertaken to promote the LVFO.

CM.3.12 FINANCE REPORT

CM.3.12.1 Final Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 1998/99

The Final Audited Accounts of the Secretariat for the Financial Year 1998/99 are attached as **Annex 8**.

Action: The Council of Ministers:

- (a) Took note of this development; and
- (b) Gave a retrospective approval for the over expenditure of US\$35,072, which occurred as a result of emergency meetings of the Executive Committee, Policy Steering Committee and Council of Ministers following the European Union fish Ban from the Region in March 1999.

CM.3.12.2 Status of Member States contributions

The Member States annual contributions to the Organization for the years 1997/98, 1998/99 and 1999/2000 as at 20th June 2000 is as follows:

Country	1997/98 Contrib. (US\$)	1997/98 Arrears (US\$)	1998/99 Contrib. (US\$)	1998/99 Arrears (US\$)	1999/2000 Contrib. (US\$)	1999/2000 Arrears (US\$)	Total Arrears (US \$)
Tanzania	70,000	0	70,000	0	70,000	0	0
Kenya	70,000	0	70,000	0	24,535	45,465.76	45,465.67
Uganda	30,999	39,001	0	70,000	0	70,000.00	179,001.00
TOTAL	170,999	39,001	140,000	70,000	94,535	115,465.67	224,466.67

Notes to the table:

- 1) The Republic of Kenya sent a cheque for Kenya Shillings 3,340,000 to cover the outstanding arrears. The cheque is undergoing clearance through the normal banking system.

- 2) The Republic of Uganda has tendered a firm commitment of Uganda Shillings 280,226,065 as per letter of release from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. The Uganda Delegation assured Member States that these funds will be in the LVFO Secretariat account in two weeks time.

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of the above developments.

CM.3.12.3 Receipt from the GEF/World Bank

The contribution of the Global Environmental Facility/World Bank through the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project from July 1997 to date is **US\$ 737,264**; in 1997/98 – US \$ 185,489; in 1998/99 – US \$ 267,800 and in 1999/2000 – US \$ 333,994.

Action: The Council of Ministers noted the above developments towards the establishment of the LVFO Secretariat.

CM.3.12.4 Receipts from the European Union/LVFRP

During the financial year July 1999 to June 2000 the European Union through the Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project, contributed **US\$ 126,200** to the activities of the Organization.

Action: The Council of Ministers took note of the above developments and commended the Project Coordinator for making timely payments towards the establishment of the LVFO Secretariat.

CM.3.13 THE LVFO WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2000/2001 AND PROJECTION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2001/2002

CM.3.13.1 The LVFO Work Programme for Financial Year 2000/2001

The Work Programme for the LVFO activities from July 2000 to June 2001 is attached as **Annex 9**. Due regard has been taken to avoid overlap of activities with other Institutions, e.g. the East African Community and the Regional Projects on Lake Victoria (LVEMP, LVFRP, etc.).

In preparing this Programme, first, provision was made for those meetings that are mandatory, as required by the instruments governing the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. These include the Council of Ministers, the Policy Steering Committee, the Executive Committee, the Scientific Committee, the Fisheries Management Committee and the Regional Forum for National Committees on Lake Victoria.

Second, provision was also given to harmonisation and co-ordination of activities, information gathering and dissemination, and regional workshops to be organized by the Secretariat.

Third, the need to ensure effective implementation of all outstanding decisions of the LVFO Statutory bodies and the need to purposefully space out meetings and other activities in order to reserve time for necessary follow up work on implementation of decisions/recommendations.

Action: The Council of Ministers considered and approved the Work Programme of the LVFO for the year 2000/2001.

CM.3.13.2 The LVFO Budget for the Financial Year 2000/2001 and Projection for the Financial Year 2001/2002.

- (a) The LVFO Total Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2000/2001 is **US \$ 619,643** and US\$737,875 for 2001/2002 estimated at an incremental cost of 10% (**Annex 10**). This Budget is proposed to be financed as follows:
- (i) Member States **US \$ 210,000** shared equally in contributions i.e. each Member State to contribute US \$ 70,000;
 - (ii) The World Bank/Global Environmental Facility/Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project **US \$ 409,643**.
- (b) The European Union (EU) through the LVFRP will make payments of US\$158,000 in 2000/2001 to finance some activities of the LVFO such as Fisheries and Scientific Committee meetings, publications of the *African Journal of Fisheries and Hydrobiology* and the LVFO Website.

Action: The Council of Ministers considered and approved the LVFO Budget for the Financial Year 2000/2001 and Projected Budget for Financial Year 2001/2002.

CM.3.14 PROPOSAL FOR SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION

- (a) In 1996, during the First Session of the Council of Ministers held in Kampala, the Member States approved a provisional budget of 210,000 USD to be contributed in equal amounts of 70,000 USD by each Member State to run the Secretariat and conduct some activities in Member States.
- (b) Three years since the LVFO Secretariat became functional, it appears the right time for the Member States to review what would be the realistic Budget to run the Secretariat at its present staffing and also be able to conduct core activities especially the statutory body meetings of the LVFO. The Secretariat has worked out a realistic budget along these lines, which comes to 630,000 USD per year, as shown below:

Salaries	203,612
Gratuity & Pension	63,183
Medical Scheme/Insurance	23,000
Allowances	77,406
Travel	25,200
Vehicle operations	23,700
Office Operations	40,082
Statutory Meetings	177,517
TOTAL	630,000

- (c) The World Bank/Global Environmental Facility funded Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project and the European Union funded Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project have been assisting the Member States in funding the Organization. The two projects have, since July 1997, been funding the LVFO Secretariat budget to levels of 70%. The two projects, however, are winding up in the next year or so. Member States should be prepared to take-over the funding of the Organization and, therefore, may consider starting increasing gradually their annual contributions to the Organization.

Action: **The Council of Ministers:**

- (a) Took note of this situation;
- (b) Directed the LVFO Secretariat to explore possibilities of continued funding from GEF and EU, and also find other prospective Development Partners and Financiers.

CM.3.15 RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE/TOKEN OF APPRECIATION/HONARARIA

- (a) During the Third Regular Session, the Executive Committee directed the Secretariat to propose a Responsibility Allowance/Token of Appreciation/Honoraria for Chairpersons of the Council of Ministers, Policy Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Scientific Committee for spending substantial amount of their extra time in the service of the LVFO when they finish their term. The following rates are proposed:

(i)	Council of Ministers	-	US \$ 1000
(ii)	Policy Steering Committee	-	US \$ 800
(iii)	Executive Committee	-	US \$ 500
(iv)	Scientific Committee	-	US \$ 300

- (b) Responsibility Allowance/Token of Appreciation/Honoraria not exceeding US\$ 200, to be determined by the Chairman of Executive Committee in consultation with the Executive Secretary, to anybody who has done remarkable work for the Organization.

Action: The Council of Ministers considered and approved the proposed rates of Responsibility Allowance/Token of Appreciation/Honoraria.

CM.3.16 VENUE AND DATE OF THE FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

The Fourth Regular Session of the Council of Ministers will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in May, 2002 on a date to be communicated by the LVFO Secretariat after consultation with the Republic of Kenya, the Host State.

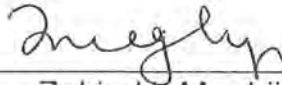
CM.3.17 CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 13.55 hrs and wished the participants a safe journey home.

CM.3.18 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

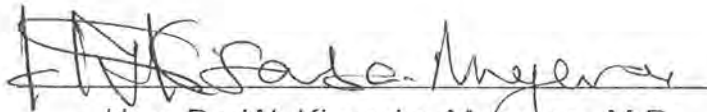
This report of the Third Regular Session of the Council of Ministers of the LVFO held in Jinja, Uganda, Tanzania was adopted and dully signed by the Ministers on Saturday, 24th June, 2000.

For Tanzania



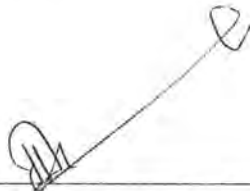
Hon. Zakia H. Meghji, M.P.,
Chairperson, Council of Ministers, LVFO;
Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

For Uganda



Hon. Dr. W. Kisamba-Mugerwa, M.P.,
Vice-Chairman, Council of Ministers, LVFO;
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries.

For Kenya



Hon. Hussein M. Mohamed, EGH, M.P.,
Member, Council of Ministers, LVFO;
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,

LIST OF ANNEXES

1. List of Participants
2. Speech by the Out-going Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Hussein M. Mohammed, EGH, M.P.
3. Speech by the Host Minister, Hon. Dr. W. Kisamba-Mugerwa, M.P.
4. Speech by the In-coming Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Zakia H. Meghji, M.P.
5. Agenda for the Third Regular Session of the Council of Ministers.
6. Programme for the Third Regular Session of the Council of Ministers.
7. A summary of the recommendations of the "*Lake Victoria 2000: A New Beginning*" International Conference held in Jinja, Uganda on 15 – 19th May 2000.
8. The LVFO Audited Financial Report for 1998/99.
9. The LVFO Work Programme for 2000/2001.
10. The LVFO Budget Estimates for 2000/2001 and projections for 2001/2002.