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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF AFRICAN PURCHASING AND SUPPLIES  
OFFICERS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN PURCHASING  
AND SUPPLIES ASSOCIATION**

Dakar, 28 May - 1 June 1973

Observations made by the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon

Annex I, page 2, Article III:

Membership

Membership of the Association shall be open to the central government organization or statutory body of the member States of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa which are concerned with purchasing, supplies, stores and materials management and where no such organization or body exists in a State referred to in this Article, a government organization or statutory body concerned with purchasing, supplies, stores and materials management designated for that purpose, by the government of that State.

Observations

"Membership

"Accordingly, the Association accepts only Government organizations or bodies as members. In my view, it should also admit States themselves to membership since some countries have no central body responsible for public purchases. This is true of Cameroon, whose National Contracts Commissions can not be considered as an organization responsible for purchasing, its sole function being to ensure that the procedure for negotiating State contracts is legally in order and in particular that the principle of free competition is respected. Each ministry is authorized to manage the supplies purchased by it.

"This makes it rather difficult to decide what body should belong to the Association; however, if States were admitted to membership, an official representative could easily be designated."