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REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN
ASSOCIATION OF CARTOGRAPHY
Addis Ababa, 23-27 June 1975

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Annex: CONSTITUTION OF THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CARTOGRAPHY

REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CARTOGRAPHY

Introduction

1. The Meeting of Experts on the Establishment of an African Association of Cartography held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 27 June 1975, was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa in pursuance of resolution 2 adopted by the third Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa held at Addis Ababa from 30 October to 10 November 1972. The report of that Conference was approved by the Conference of Ministers of ECA held at Nairobi, Kenya, in February 1975.

Opening of the meeting:

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. John G. Rwambuya, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.
3. In his speech, he said that it had been recognized by ECA, other United Nations agencies and various national Governments of Africa that, if a country was to achieve the integrated development of its natural resources, it must have trained, well qualified and experienced nationals in the fields of natural resources surveys. Indeed, the greatest constraint African countries had faced and were still facing in all fields of development, was the shortage of trained manpower. That shortage was dramatically illustrated in the area of surveying and allied disciplines. In many areas of Africa the speed of surveying and mapping could no longer cope with the intensive development projects being formulated or carried out.
4. Knowledge was increasing daily; new techniques and sophisticated methods were being added to the sum total of man's capability to understand and manage his environment. Africa needed to equip itself with the most modern apparatus and to supply itself with enough trained manpower to make full use of the massive data and information which would be made available by the Earth Resources Technology Satellite Programme.
5. A permanent Association of Cartography for the region should promote the co-ordination and development of cartography in general, foster the establishment of close relationships between members in cartographic matters and of such common services or organs as might be necessary or desirable for the co-ordination, harmonization and development of cartography in the region.
6. Cartographic activities, either for the training of human resources or for the discovery of natural resources, were tools that would assist in the development of natural resources. In 1972 a Regional Centre for Training in Aerial Surveys had been established in Nigeria under the aegis of ECA. It had trained students from various parts of West and Central Africa: Dahomey, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zaire. The third batch of students trained

at the Centre would graduate at the end of June 1975. In March 1975, agreement had been reached to create another regional centre in cartography under the aegis of ECA, the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping with its headquarters in Kenya. That Centre would provide on-the-job training and services in surveying and mapping for the benefit of the contracting countries and other countries of the region which might require them. The Centre was to hold the first meeting of its Governing Council in July 1975. The centres should also play a significant role in subregional economic development. The Centre in Nigeria should play a leading role in the development of human resources in cartography within the newly created Economic Community of West African States. The Centre in Kenya should play a similar role in the Eastern African subregion and work hand in hand with the proposed Mineral Resources Development Centre for Eastern Africa.

7. Although the Association of Cartography was to cover the entire region, its draft Constitution made provision for the establishment of subsidiary organs. It might be desirable for such organs also to include those based on subregional considerations. Subregional subsidiary organs would make speedy and important contributions to existing subregional groupings in the field of the development of natural resources and, indeed, in economic and social development generally.

Attendance

8. The Conference was attended by representatives of Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya Arab Republic, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and United Kingdom.

Election of officers

9. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman	Mr. R. Oluwole Coker Director of Federal Surveys Nigeria
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. Bakkar Maati Chef de service, Direction de la Conservation Foncière et des Travaux Topographiques Morocco
	Mr. Joshua Danielli Director of Surveys and Mapping United Republic of Tanzania
Rapporteur:	Mr. Stephen L. Kyere Deputy Director of Surveys Ghana

Agenda

10. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

Part I

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. Consideration and adoption of the draft Constitution of the African Association of Cartography
6. Nominations to the Council in accordance with paragraph 1 of article VII of the Constitution
7. Election of a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Treasurer of the Association in accordance with paragraph 2 of article VII of the Constitution
8. Appointment of an Honorary Secretary ad interim
9. Convening the first meeting of the Council of the African Association of Cartography
10. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

Part II - First meeting of the Council

1. Opening statement by the Chairman
2. Programme of work of the Association for 1975 and 1976
3. Consideration of the appointment of the secretariat staff and the costs involved
4. Discussion on the headquarters of the secretariat and determination of its functions and estimated annual costs (Treasurer)
5. Finance
6. Rules of procedure (article VII, paragraph 4)
7. Any other business
8. Date and place of the next meeting of the Council
9. Closure of the meeting.

Consideration and adoption of the draft Constitution of the African Association of Cartography

11. The draft Constitution of the African Association of Cartography was discussed item by item, amended and adopted as contained in annex 1.
12. After a lengthy discussion, participants agreed that the Constitution should be applied provisionally when signed by at least nine national cartographic services and should be open for signature at the office of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa from the twenty-seventh day of June 1975 to the twenty-sixth day of December 1975. The Constitution would enter into force six months from the date of its provisional application if accepted or approved on behalf of at least nine principal national cartographic services in Africa.

Nominations to the Council

13. The head of each delegation was deemed to have been nominated to the provisional Council, which was then constituted. It was agreed that each principal national cartographic service authority would later confirm in writing to the secretariat of the Association the name of its nominee to the Council and his functional title.

Election of officers of the Association

14. The following interim officers were appointed:

Chairman: Mr. R. Oluwole Coker
Director of Federal Surveys, Nigeria

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Tahar Majoul
Président Directeur Générale de l'Office de
la Topographie et de la Cartographie
Tunisia

Mr. Serigne Mbaye THIAM
Chef, Service Géographique National
Senegal

Treasurer: Mr. Alpha Cissé
Directeur de l'Institut géographique
Ivory Coast

Appointment of honorary Secretary-General

15. It was agreed that, pending the establishment of the secretariat of the Association, the Economic Commission for Africa should appoint the honorary Secretary-General and its headquarters should serve as the secretariat of the Association.

Appointment of unofficial members of the interim Executive Committee

16. The Council decided to accept the ECA subregional groupings and on that basis elected the following members to the interim Executive Committee.

North Africa: Mr. Mahadi Mohammed Parah
Deputy Director General, Sudan

West Africa: Mr. Stephen E. Gadegbeku
Director of Surveys, Ghana

Central Africa: Mr. Loung Jean-Felix
Professeur à l'Université
Chef de la Division des Etudes géographiques
à l'ONAREST, Cameroon

East Africa: Mr. Paul Bakashabaruhanga
Commissioner of Lands and Surveys, Uganda

Opening statement by the Chairman

17. Mr. Coker thanked members for the honour conferred on him by his election as interim Chairman, which was also an honour conferred on his country Nigeria. He said that although there had been several cartographic organizations, for the first time there was one to deal specifically with Africa. He hoped that the organization would foster the development of surveying and mapping in Africa and would play a dominant role in strengthening the weak cartographic services in Africa. He appealed for the co-operation of members for the future progress of the Association.

Programme of work of the AssociationConsideration of the appointment of the secretariat staff and the costs involved

18. It was decided that consideration of those items should be deferred until a later meeting of the Council.

Receipt and consideration of offers from members to host the headquarters of the Association

19. It was reported that offers to host the Association's headquarters had been received from the following Governments: Algeria, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Tunisia. The representatives of Ivory Coast and Tunisia withdrew their offers after noting that there were other candidates. The offers from the Governments of Algeria and Morocco were then read to the Council. It was observed that the offer from Algeria was not detailed enough and that from Morocco required further clarification. The Council then decided that as the provisional Secretariat of the Association the Economic Commission for Africa should re-examine in detail the offers to host the Headquarters of the Association and report to the next Council meeting on the matter.

Discussion on the secretariat headquarters and determination of its functions and estimated annual costs

Finance

Rules of procedure

20. It was decided that consideration of those items should be postponed until a later meeting.

Any other business

21. The Council, after considering the composition of the interim Executive Committee, decided that in addition to any other qualifications which might be stipulated, the Secretary-General should come from the English-speaking part of East Africa.

Date and place of next meeting of the Council

22. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should take place at Nairobi, Kenya, in February 1976 provided the Constitution had come into force. The actual date would be decided after consultations between ECA and the representative of Kenya.

Adoption of the report of the meeting

23. The final report of the meeting was adopted.

Closure of the meeting

24. The Chairman, in closing the meeting, thanked members for their co-operation. He was particularly impressed by the amiable way in which the discussions had taken place and by the fact that all decisions had been unanimous. He also thanked all those who had assisted in providing the secretarial services for the meeting. He stressed the considerable amount of work undertaken by ECA in arranging the meeting and making available its services particularly those of a cartographic and legal nature.

ANNEX

CONSTITUTION
OF THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CARTOGRAPHYPreamble

The National Cartographic Services on whose behalf this constitution is signed:

Mindful of the fact that the development of the natural resources and economic planning of their countries depend on adequate and proper surveying and mapping;

Recognizing the fact that many African States require to be adequately and properly surveyed and mapped;

Realizing that these can best be achieved by co-operation among African countries through the establishment of an African Association of Cartography;

Hereby agree as follows:

Article IEstablishment

There is hereby established an association to be known as the African Association of Cartography (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"), which shall operate and be governed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Article IIOrgans of the Association

The Association shall have the following organs:

- (a) the Council;
- (b) the Executive Committee and
- (c) the Secretariat.

Article IIIWorking languages

The official languages of the Association shall be Arabic, English and French.

Article IV

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to promote and encourage the co-ordination and development of cartography in the territories of its members;
- (b) to foster the establishment of close relationship between its members in matters relating to cartography and of such common services or organs as may be necessary or desirable for the co-ordination, harmonization and development of cartography in the territories of its members;
- (c) to organize conferences, seminars, exhibitions and other meetings relating to cartography;
- (d) to promote and encourage the exchange of personnel, ideas and experience among its members on all aspects of cartography; and
- (e) to promote and encourage the establishment of training institutions in cartography in the territories of its members.

Article V

Membership and associate membership of the Association

1. Membership of the Association shall be open to the principal national cartographic service within the territories of the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
2. Admission to associate membership of the Association shall be on such conditions as the Council may determine or modify and shall be open to:
 - (a) institutions or bodies of professional cartographers within the territories of member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; and
 - (b) such other institutions or bodies of professional cartographers as the Council may determine.

Article VI

Officers of the Association

There shall be the following officers of the Association:

the Chairman,
two Vice-Chairmen,
the Treasurer, and
the Secretary-General

Article VIIThe Council - composition and functions

1. The Council shall consist of persons appointed or nominated for that purpose by the members of the Association. Each member of the Association shall designate one representative to the Council.
2. The Council shall elect from amongst its members the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and the Treasurer of the Association. The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Treasurer shall each hold office for a term of two years and may be eligible for re-election for a further term of two years: Provided that no person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of Chairman, a Vice-Chairman or Treasurer of the Association for more than two consecutive terms.
3. (a) The Council shall meet at least once a year as directed by the Chairman who shall also preside over the meetings of the Council. The Council may hold extraordinary meetings on the request of the Chairman of the Association or of two thirds of its members.

(b) When the Chairman is for any reason unable to perform his functions under this Article, a Vice-Chairman chosen by the Council shall perform the functions of the Chairman.

(c) Each member of the Association shall have one vote.
4. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure for all its meetings including rules relating to the time, place and notice of meetings, quorum, voting and the participation of representatives of associate members of the Association.
- 5.1. The Council shall:
 - (a) determine the general principles and policies governing the activities of the Association;
 - (b) review and approve the programme of activities and budget and accounts of the Association;
 - (c) approve the annual contributions to be paid by members and associate members of the Association;
 - (d) establish the Secretariat and appoint its Secretary-General;
 - (e) select the headquarters of the Association;
 - (f) establish such other subsidiary organs as it may deem necessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the Association and prescribe for such bodies rules for the conduct of their activities;

(g) approve rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Association including the entering into contracts by the Association and the establishment of relationships between the Association and cartographic services, institutions and associations, international organizations and governments desirous of assisting the Association or its members in achieving the objectives of the Association;

(h) determine the conditions for the admission of associate members of the Association; and

(i) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Association.

5.2. Representatives of associate members of the Association may be invited to attend and participate at meetings of the Council without the right to vote.

5.3. At the end of each of its meetings the Council shall adopt a Report which shall be circulated to all the members and as appropriate, to the associate members of the Association, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

5.4. The Council may delegate any of its powers and functions provided for in this Article to the Executive Committee.

Article VIII

Executive Committee - composition and functions

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Treasurer of the Association and one member of the Council from each of the sub-regions as defined by the Council. The representatives of the sub-regions shall be elected by the Council.

2. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions and the Chairman of the Association shall preside at meetings of the Executive Committee.

3. The Executive Committee shall determine its own Rules of Procedure including that for convening its meetings for the conduct of business thereat and at other times.

4. Subject to the directions of the Council, the Executive Committee shall:

(a) direct, review, control and co-ordinate the financial, technical and other activities of the Association and its organs;

(b) submit for the approval of the Council the programme of activities, budget and accounts of the Association;

(c) propose for the approval of the Council, the annual contribution to be paid by members and associate members of the Association, rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Association and the establishment of relationships between the Association and States and organizations with which it co-operates;

(d) determine the representation of the Association at meetings to which the Association is invited;

(e) appoint the staff of the Secretariat other than the Secretary-General; and

(f) perform such functions as may be delegated to it by the Council.

5. The Executive Committee may delegate some of its powers provided for under sub-paragraph (e) of paragraph 4 of this Article to the Secretary-General.

Article IX

The Secretariat - functions

1. The Secretariat shall:

(a) subject to the general direction of the Executive Committee, be entrusted with the administration of the Association;

(b) keep up-to-date with current developments in cartographic techniques and other matters that may be of interest to the Association, and keep the members of the Association informed of such developments;

(c) propose to the Executive Committee the programme of activities, budget and accounts of the Association;

(d) submit to the Executive Committee proposals on the annual subscription to be paid by the members and associate members of the Association;

(e) prepare and submit through the Executive Committee, an annual report on the activities of the Association to the Council;

(f) submit to the Executive Committee draft rules governing the financial, administrative and other activities of the Association;

(g) provide secretarial services for the Council, the Executive Committee and subsidiary organs of the Association established by it, and convene their meetings in accordance with this Constitution; and

(h) perform any other functions that may be delegated to it by the Council or the Executive Committee.

2. The Secretary-General who shall be the head of the Secretariat, shall be responsible for the discharge of his functions to the Council and shall attend in an advisory capacity all meetings of the Council, the Executive Committee and the subsidiary organs of the Association.

3. The Secretary-General or any person acting for the time being as Secretary-General, shall act on behalf of the Association for the purpose enumerated in Article X of this Constitution.

Article X

Status of the Association

1. The Association shall have capacity to enter into contracts, sue and be sued, and acquire and dispose of immovable or movable property.

2. The Association shall enter into an agreement with the government of the country where its headquarters is situated concerning the provision of premises, facilities, services, privileges and immunities for the purposes and efficient operation of the Association.

Article XI

Relations with States and organizations

1. The Association shall seek and maintain active co-operation with States, inter-governmental organizations and with cartographic services, institutions and associations which are desirous of assisting the Association or its members in achieving the objectives of the Association, and such States and organizations may be invited to attend meetings of the Council or of the subsidiary organs established by the Council without the right to vote.

2. The Council shall determine the principles that shall govern the relationship between the Association and the States and organizations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article XII

Special relationship with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity shall assist the Association in the implementation of this Constitution and in its activities.

2. The Association shall establish and maintain close and continuous working relationship with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

Article XIIIWithdrawal and suspension of membership

1. Any member of the Association may withdraw from the Association at any time after the expiration of one year from the date on which it became a member of the Association by giving written notice of its withdrawal to the Secretary-General of the Association who shall forthwith inform all members of the Association and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa of the receipt of such notice of withdrawal.

2. Withdrawal shall become effective one year from the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the Association of the notice of withdrawal:

Provided that any member of the Association withdrawing from the Association shall nevertheless remain liable for the fulfilment of its financial obligations to the Association including the payment of assessed contributions in respect of the entire year in which the notice of withdrawal takes effect.

3. (a) the Council may by a two-thirds majority of the votes of the members of the Association suspend a member of the Association who has, in spite of written reminders, failed to meet its financial obligations towards the Association for three consecutive years, fails to fulfil any other obligations under this Constitution or fails to comply with the decisions of the Council. The same majority shall be required for a decision of the Council to revoke the suspension imposed on a member of the Association.

(b) the suspension of a member of the Association shall not relieve that member from the fulfilment of its financial obligations incurred prior to its suspension unless otherwise decided by the Council.

(c) the suspension or the revocation of a suspension with respect to a member of the Association shall be communicated by the Secretary-General of the Association to all other members of the Association and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Article XIVAmendment of the Constitution

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Council.

2. No amendment to this Constitution shall be considered by the Council unless it shall have been notified to all the members of the Council three months prior to such consideration.

Article XV

Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by agreement of all the members of the Association and upon such agreement, the Council shall appoint a Committee for the liquidation of the Association.

Article XVI

Settlement of disputes

1. Any dispute that may arise concerning the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Constitution which cannot be settled by the members of the Association concerned shall be submitted to the Council.

2. If the Council cannot reach a decision on the dispute or if the decision of the Council is not accepted by the members of the Association concerned, either party to the dispute may request that the matter be submitted to arbitration by an Arbitral Tribunal composed of three members who shall be nominated as follows:

(a) each party shall nominate one arbitrator;

(b) the third arbitrator, who shall be the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal, shall be chosen by agreement between the arbitrators nominated by the parties. If the nomination of the members of the Arbitral Tribunal is not made within a period of three months from the date of the request for arbitration, either of the parties to the dispute may request the Chairman of the Association to make the necessary nominations except that in cases where the Association is a party to the dispute the nominations shall be made by the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

3. The decision of the Arbitral Tribunal shall be binding on the parties to the dispute.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article shall be without prejudice to the choice of any other mode of settlement that the parties concerned may jointly decide upon in keeping with the spirit of this Constitution.

Article XVII

Final provisions

1. This Constitution of which the Arabic, English and French texts are equally authentic shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

2. This Constitution shall be applied provisionally when signed on behalf of at least nine of the cartographic services referred to in Article V of this

Constitution and shall be open for signature at the office of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa from the twenty seventh day of June 1975 to the twenty sixth day of December 1975.

3. This Constitution shall enter into force six months from the date of its provisional application if ratified, accepted or approved on behalf of at least nine of the cartographic services referred to in Article V of this Constitution.
4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.
5. A principal national cartographic service desirous of becoming a member of the Association after the coming into force of this Constitution may do so by depositing with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa its instrument of accession to this Constitution.
6. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa shall transmit certified copies of this Constitution and information concerning ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to this Constitution to members and associate members of the Association, all member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective governments have signed this Constitution on the dates appearing under their signatures, on behalf of their respective cartographic services.