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Second Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the
Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the
Conference of Ministers responsible for
Economic and Social Development and Planning

Abuja, Nigeria
1-3 May 2000

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Second Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up
Committee of the Conference of Ministers
responsible for Economic and Social
Development and Planning

Abuja, Nigeria
4-5 May 2000

**THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (UNTFAD)**

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) was established on 26 February 1977 by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers resolution 288 (XIII). The main objective of the Trust Fund is to finance operational activities of ECA, which are not funded by the regular budget, although derived from the approved work programme of ECA or its subregional offices, the Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs). Contributions to the fund are made by ECA member States as well as Africa's development partners, including governments of non-African countries and private foundations. The resources made available to the Commission through the Trust Fund have served to finance ECA projects either totally or in part, mostly as seed money to start off activities, which eventually generate substantially more additional resources to launch major projects and programmes.

2. Since the creation of UNTFAD, pledging conferences have been organized every two years, in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and Planning. To date, a total amount of \$US 17,085,592 has been contributed to the Fund. Eighty seven per cent of this sum has been paid, leaving current arrears of \$US 2,238,489 to be made available. The pledges of contribution to the Fund can be divided into two phases, namely; the period 1977-1995 when the pledging conference to UNTFAD was held in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers and from 1996-1999 when the Conference was held in New York.

Table 1: Pledges for the period 1977-1995

Year	Amount pledged	Number of countries/institutions
1977	4,443,447	24
1979	1,814,663	19
1981	1,620,595	21
1983	2,151,589	15
1985	835,030	13
1987	306,429	9
1989	572,365	20
1991	285,677	12
1993	934,135	12
1995	732,450	13
Total	13,696,380	158

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RESOLUTION 808 (XXX) of 3 May 1995

3. In resolution 808 (XXX) on strengthening of the operational capacity of ECA adopted on 3 May 1995, the Commission had requested that the biennial Pledging Conference for UNTFAD be merged with the annual General Pledging Conference of the United Nations in New York. It was hoped that would increase the number of pledging countries and institutions and give ECA the

opportunity to have a pledging conference every year. Instead the number of pledging countries and the amount pledged have decreased (see table 2).

Table 2: Pledges made in New York from 1996 to 1999

Year	Amount pledged	Number of countries/institutions
1996	\$US 34,996.26	4
1997	\$US 3,484.32	1
1998	\$US 3,300.33	1
1999	<u>\$US 5,000.00</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	\$US 46,780.91	7

4. In addition to the pledges taking place in New York, ECA initiated the process of mobilizing resources for UNTFAD through direct negotiations with some traditional partners such as Japan, Korea, and France. More countries and institutions were making direct contribution to UNTFAD.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The foregoing briefing review shows that the use of the New York Conference has not fulfilled the expectations of the Commission. Consequently, it is recommended to transfer the Pledging Conference back to ECA. The next Pledging Conference for UNTFAD would be held in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning to be held in May 2001. Thereafter, it will be held biennially in conjunction with the Conference of Ministers, as it was the practice in the past.