



## ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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### MISSION REPORT

**Staff Member:** A.P. Traore  
Senior Economic Affairs Officer

**Division:** Regional Cooperation and Integration Division

**Purpose of Mission:** To negotiate with the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Morocco, the modalities of organization of the joint ECA/MIGA Symposium on Investment in the Africa Mining Sector

**Venue of Mission:** Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco

**Mission Date:** 2-4 July 1998

**Activity Citation:** International Cooperation and Inter-Agency Coordination and Liaison

**JOINT MIGA/ECA SYMPOSIUM ON INVESTMENT  
AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE AFRICAN MINING SECTOR**

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**Report of the Preparatory mission to Morocco**

**(Rabat, 2-4 July 1998)**

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**I. BACKGROUND**

Since the inception of the symposium on the Investment and business opportunities in the African mining sector by the MIGA (World Bank Group) in 1994, this event has so far been organised only in North America (US and Canada).

In 1997, in line with the new orientations of ECA based, among others, on the promotion and establishment of effective partnership, the delegation of the Commission to the symposium suggested that the Fifth Session of the symposium be organised in Africa in 1998.

This proposal was accepted and the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Morocco agreed to host the session.

However, in the process of the preparation of the symposium, the MIGA encountered some difficulties to reach a clear agreement with the Government of Morocco.

**II. OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the mission for the Secretariat, in its capacity as co-organiser of the symposium, was to meet with the representatives of the Ministry in charge of the mining sector in order to sort out the problem. It was undertaken in response to the requests of both the Government of Morocco and MIGA.

### **III. PREPARATION OF THE MISSION**

The preparation of the mission included :

- a) direct discussions with MIGA officers (including Mrs Karin Millet and Ms Maryanne Sharp) on the occasion of my mission to Washington to attend the course on New issues in the Economic Growth organised by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, from 8 to 12 June 1998;
- b) discussions with the Chief of the RCID on the strategy for the implementation of the project;
- c) exchange of correspondences and cables with both the headquarters of MIGA in Washington DC, USA and the Ministry of Energy and Mines in Rabat, Morocco.

### **IV. ACCOUNT OF THE MISSION**

The organisation of the mission in Rabat consisted in:

- i) meetings with the Committee put in place by the Minister of Energy and Mines (list attached) for the preparation of the symposium;
- ii) preparing, in consultation with MIGA on the phone, a document defining the responsibilities and roles of each of the three partners including the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Morocco, MIGA and ECA;
- iii) submitting the above document to the Committee for consideration and adoption;
- iv) discussion with the Director of Geology, Mr. Mohammed Boutaleb of the modalities for implementing the agreement such as securing the dates of the meeting with the Palais des Congrès, participation of Moroccan's high officials to the opening session, finalisation of the contract and the Programme of the meeting;
- v) Contacts with the Direction of Mines in order to collect updated information and data on the mining sector of Morocco.

### **V. OUTCOME OF THE MISSION**

The major finding of the mission is attached to the present report. It consists in a formal agreement signed by both Mr. Boutaleb and myself on the conditions of preparing the symposium.

The meeting will be held in Marrakech from 16 to 18 November 1998 with the following breakdown:

- 16-17 November 1998 : substantive sessions of the symposium
- 18 November 1998 : field technical visits

A high Moroccan official will chair the opening session of the symposium: either the "Prince héritier" or at least the Prime Minister.

## **VI. REMARKS AND CONCLUSION**

The mission discovered that there was a great misunderstanding between MIGA and the officials in the Ministry of Energy and Mines. In particular, the mission undertaken by the consultant appointed by MIGA as well as the contacts established with the Bahia Travel Agency was perceived negatively by the Ministry's officials due to apparent insufficient concertation and co-ordination with them.

Consequently, in spite of the establishment of a Committee for the organisation of the symposium within the Ministry, there was no effective progress in the process of the preparation of the meeting. The misunderstanding was such that the MIGA was about to cancel the organisation of the event in Morocco.

However, the mission of ECA contributed to establishing a new confidence and enhances the process of the preparation of the symposium. This was translated into a memorandum of understanding signed by the Government's representative. The said agreement clearly presented the event as a tripartite meeting to the satisfaction of the Government of Morocco.

In line with this agreement, it is expected that ECA, MIGA and the Ministry of Energy and Mines will henceforth work closely with the view to ensuring a great success to the meeting.

## **VII. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

ECA will take necessary actions in compliance with the content of the agreement established during the mission. In particular, it will :

- a) play an active role in mobilising the South Saharan African participation to the conference, and participating in the preparation of the circular and the programme of the symposium;
- b) pay its contributions amounting to US\$ 25,000;
- c) assist and provide advisory services to the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Morocco in the preparation of the meeting;
- d) Play a co-ordinating role between the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Morocco and the MIGA.

**PREPARATORY MISSION TO MOROCCO FOR  
THE JOINT MIGA/ECA SYMPOSIUM ON INVESTMENT  
AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES  
IN THE AFRICAN MINING SECTOR  
(2-4 JULY 1998)**

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**LIST OF PEOPLE MET DURING THE MISSION**

1. Mr. Mohammed BOUTALEB,  
Director of Geology
  
2. Mr. Ali AMRAOUI,  
Counsellor in the Cabinet of the  
Ministry of Energy and Mines
  
3. Mr. Mohammed Aziz CHAFCHAOUNI,  
Counsellor of the  
Ministry of Energy and Mines
  
4. Mr. Ajid ABDELALI  
Representative of the Mining Survey  
In the Committee for the preparation  
of the Symposium
  
5. Mr. Mohammed EL HAKKAOUI  
Chief, Division for Mining Development  
Ministry of Energy and Mines

**SYMPOSIUM CONJOINT GOUVERNEMENT DU MAROC/MIGA/CEA  
SUR LA PROMOTION DES INVESTISSEMENTS MINIERES EN AFRIQUE**  
(Marrakech, 16-18 novembre 1998)

**I. PRINCIPES GENERAUX POUR LES LOCATIONS AU PALAIS DES CONGRES**

**i. Location ferme :**

- (a) Salles nécessaires pour les réunions et les réceptions
- (b) nombre minimum de chambres pour l'équipe MIGA/CEA

**ii. Durée des locations :**

A déterminer en concertation avec MIGA et CEA. Mais, d'une façon générale :

- (a) Salle Ambassadeur pour plénière : 2 jours
- (b) Salle Reda 1 pour usage de l'équipe MIGA/CEA : 5 jours
- (c) 3 Salles Reda pour les rencontres de concertation : 3 jours
- (d) Salle Caesar restaurant : dîner 16 novembre
- (e) Asni-Ménara : réception 17 novembre
- (f) Chambres pour l'hébergement du personnel de l'équipe MIGA/CEA : minimum 7 nuitées  
(préciser en concertation entre Ministère/MIGA/CEA)
- (g) Stands expositions
- (h) 1 salle VIP

**iii. Obtention de l'accord sur ces principes :**

Ministère assurer les négociations directes avec le Palais des congrès, en concertation avec MIGA

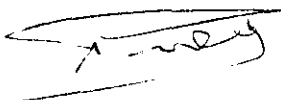
**iv. Signature dépôt de garantie et paiement**

- (a) MIGA : signature du contrat par MIGA à travers le Ministère
- (b) MIGA/CEA : dépôt de garantie dans un compte indiqué par le Palais des congrès avec remise de la copie des preuves de l'opération au Ministère

**II. ROLES RESPECTIFS ET PRESTATIONS DES TROIS PARTENAIRES**

**i. Ministère : Assurer**

- (a) la sensibilisation et la mobilisation des participants et sponsors au niveau du Maroc et du Maghreb Arabe - Uni :
- (b) l'intermédiation avec les prestataires
- (c) assistance à l'aéroport de Casablanca
- (d) l'accueil et le transport des participants de l'aéroport de Marrakech aux hôtels et des hôtels à l'aéroport :
- (e) le transport des participants des hôtels au palais des congrès et retour dans les hôtels :
- (f) la préparation technique des excursions et la mise à disposition des accompagnateurs et, autant que possible leur sponsorship :
- (g) la mise à disposition de la bureautique (équipement et matériel) :
- (h) une assistance dans les travaux de secrétariat :
- (i) les charges du dîner du 17 Novembre :
- (j) la mise à disposition des participants de portes documents et des badges.



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ii. CEA :

- (a) contribuer au budget général de la Conférence à hauteur minimum de 25.000 dollars en dehors des charges de la mission préparatoire et de la participation de son équipe;
- (b) assurer la sensibilisation et la participation maximum des gouvernements, sociétés minières, chambres des mines et institutions sous-régionales et régionales africaines ;
- (c) assister le ministère dans les travaux préparatoires de la conférence ;
- (d) participer à l'organisation et au « servicing » de la conférence ;
- (e) arrêter, en collaboration avec MIGA et le ministère, la liste des intervenants ;
- (f) contribuer à la préparation et à la diffusion du rapport final du symposium ;
- (g) assurer, en collaboration avec MIGA et le Ministère de l'Energie et de Mines du Maroc, les actions de suivi .

iii. MIGA :

- (a) couvrir les charges de location et, d'une façon générale, les dépenses autres que celles assurées par le Ministère et la CEA. ;
- (b) préparer, en collaboration avec le Ministère, la circulaire d'annonce et les documents publicitaires concernant le symposium ;
- (c) préparer, en collaboration avec le Ministère et la CEA, le programme de la Conférence ;
- (d) assurer la sensibilisation et la mobilisation des sociétés et des participants, en collaboration avec MIGA et le Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines du Maroc.
- (e) contribuer et participer, en collaboration avec le ministère, à la préparation du symposium et de ses activités annexes y comprise l'exposition ;
- (f) Assurer, en collaboration avec la CEA et le Ministère, la coordination des diverses activités du symposium pendant le déroulement de l'événement ;
- (g) participer à l'organisation et au « servicing » de la conférence ;
- (h) préparer et diffuser, en collaboration avec la CEA et le Ministère, le rapport de la Conférence ;
- (i) assurer, en collaboration avec la CEA et le Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines, les actions de suivi .