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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA SECOND PLEDGING CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENT PLENIPOTENTIARIES

(Rabat, 28 March 1979)

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Opening of the Conference

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Second pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries was held in Rabat, Morocco, on 28 March 1979. The Conference was opened by Mr. Abdelkmal Raghaye, Minister of Finance of Morocco, who also acted as Chairman of the Conference.

Attendance

2. The Conference was attended by Plenipotentiaries representing the following member States of the Commission: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, the Central African Empire, the Comores, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Zaire and Zambia.

3. The following African intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Conference: the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

B. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening statement

4. The following documents were before the Second Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries :

- (i) Report of the Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries (E/CN.14/696/Rev.1);
- (ii) ECA Operational Programme 1979-1981 (E/CN.14/709);
- (iii) ECA Operational Programme 1979-1981 (E/CN.14/709/Add.1);
- (iv) United Nations Trust Fund for African Development: States of Contributions as at 1 March 1979.
- (v) Progress Report on Pledges and Contributions received for United Nations Trust Funds for African Development (UNTFAD) (E/CN.14/721);
- (vi) Progress Report on the utilization of pledging contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)- (E/CN.14/721/Add.1) and

- (vii) UNTFAD Progress Report on pledges and contributions received for United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (E/CN.14/721)-(E/CN.14/721/Add.2).

5. In his opening statement, the Chairman of the Conference recalled the discussions which has already taken place on the matter during the meeting of the Fifth ECA Conference of Ministers and stated that there was therefore no need for the matter to be discussed again. He also recalled that the Fifth ECA Conference of Ministers had also adopted a resolution on the matter in which note had been taken of previous contributions. Furthermore, while the matter was being discussed by the Fifth ECA Conference of Ministers, it had also been suggested that a procedure should be laid down to ensure that projects were identified and followed up and an objective criterion established on contributions to be expected from member States and organizations, that took into account their ability to pay. He urged both member States and organizations to contribute generously.

6. Before the actual pledging began, the leader of the delegation of Kenya explained that the list of pledges made so far had shown that his government owed the sum of \$US 19,000 which in fact had already been paid and he requested that the record be put straight. The leader of the delegation of Zaire also noted that his country had paid the sum of \$US 160,000 whereas the progress report of the Commission on the First Pledging Conference showed that only the sum of \$US 87,222 had been paid. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary should look into these and other apparent discrepancies and communicate the results to the countries concerned.

Pledging of contributions by Plenipotentiaries of African Government and Institutions

7. In making their pledges, several participants expressed their support for the Commission and its activities, and belief in the rapid economic development of the region by the year 2000, through the collective efforts of African countries.

8. The leader of the Moroccan delegation pledged the sum of \$US 500 000 and expressed the hope that this pledge might be increased if the economic situation of his country improved.

9. The leader of the delegation of the Niger pledged the sum of \$US 10,000 to be paid as soon as he returned home.

10. The leader of the delegation of Senegal pledged the sum of \$US 50,000 to be paid in three instalments over the year 1979, 1980 and 1981.

11. The leader of the delegation of Mali pledged the sum of \$US 25,000.

12. The leader of the delegation of Mauritius pledged the sum of \$US 10,000 each year for 1979 and 1980.

13. The leader of the Liberian delegation pledged the sum of \$US 20,000 for the period 1979/1980.

14. The leader of the delegation of Gabon pledged the sum of \$US 70,000 to be paid in one instalment; this was a provisional pledge which could be increased if the economic conditions of his country improved.

15. The leader of the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that although its country was wealthy because of its oil resources, many social and economic activities were still to be undertaken in the development of his country. Apart from the sum of \$US 100,000 previously pledged and paid by his country, he would make a further pledge of \$US 100,000 for 1980 and another \$US 100,000 for 1981.

16. The leader of the delegation of the United Republic of Cameroon pledged the sum of \$US 40,000 for the biennium 1979-1981.

17. The leader of the delegation of Kenya pledged the sum of \$US 60,000 for the year 1979.

18. The leader of the delegation of Togo pledged the sum of \$US 20,000.

19. The leader of the Egyptian delegation stated that because of the economic difficulties which now faced his country, he had been instructed to pledge the sum of 50,000 Egyptian pounds. In addition, arrangements would be made for the provision of training scholarships for nationals of member States of the Commission tenable in Egypt; the details of these scholarships would be settled between Egypt and the Commission.

20. The leader of the delegation of Guinea-Bissau explained that his country, which was one of the least developed countries of the region, was facing great economic difficulties and could not make any pledge now but was ready to do so in the future. He reminded the Conference that his country, had within its limited resources, made a modest pledge in respect of the First Pledging Conference.

21. The leader of the delegation of Rwanda stated that although his country was now faced with the gravest economic difficulties since it became independent, he would pledge the sum of \$US 15,000 for 1980-1981.

22. The leader of the Zambian delegation stated that his country was providing housing and office facilities for staff of the Lusaka-based MULPOC and that the value of these facilities was likely to appreciate to the sum of \$US 200,000. His country would pledge housing and office facilities for the staff of the Lusaka MULPOC up to the value of \$US 170,000 but would accept a reasonable increase over this value.

23. The leader of the delegation of Botswana stated that, following the First Pledging Conference, a pledge of \$US 10,000 had been communicated to the Executive Secretary of the Commission but no reply had been received about how the pledge was to be paid, however, this had now been settled and that this pledge and a further pledge of \$US 10,000 which he was now making, would be paid during April 1979.

24. The leader of the Nigerian delegation stated that the progress report of the Commission on the First Pledging Conference showed the disappointing state of affairs, that out of the sum of \$US 4,221,241 pledged, only the sum of \$US 2,141,821 had so far been paid. He urged African Governments to try harder to honour their pledges. Nigeria had pledged at the First Pledging Conference the sum of \$US 1,594,896 to be paid over the three years 1977 to 1979 and arrangements were being made for the payment of the last instalment, the sum of \$US 585, 301, for the year 1979.

25. The leader of the delegation of Guinea stated that his country was attending the Pledging Conference for the first time. Unfortunately when he left home to attend the Pledging Conference the authorities who would decide on the pledge that he should make were not available. He was, however, awaiting instructions on how much would be pledged and would communicate this later to the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

26. The leader of the delegation of the Sudan apologized for the absence of his Minister of Planning who was coming with instructions on the pledge that would be made. He emphasized that his country was ready to make a pledge but could not do so now. He explained that his country's approved budget contained an allocation of the sum of \$US 50,000 in respect of the pledge made during the First Pledging Conference and, with the overcoming of the procedural difficulties which had delayed the payments of that sum, that pledge would be honoured shortly.

27. The leader of the delegation of Sierra Leone apologized for the absence of her Minister of Economic Planning who had had to leave on urgent official business. She pledged the sum of \$US 20,000.

28. The leader of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania recalled that his country had, at the First Pledging Conference, pledged the sum of \$US 750,000 to be paid in three equal instalments over three years. So far, \$US 500,000 had been paid in respect of the first two years and the final instalment of the sum of \$US 250,000 would be paid during the coming financial year.

29. The leader of the delegation of Zaire drew attention to the economic problems facing his country. He stated that there was a discrepancy in the progress report of the Commission on the First Pledging Conference as to the amount paid by his country and what has actually been paid. He explained that at the First Pledging Conference his country had pledged the sum of \$US 160,000 for 1977 to 1981 and subsequently, a further pledge of 135 000 Zaires had been made. Both these pledges had been paid and would like to know from the Commission if the payments had been received.

30. The leader of the Guanian delegation apologized for the inability of his Minister of Economic Planning to attend the Second Pledging Conference. He was sure that if he had been able to come, he would have been pleased to announce a pledge. However, steps would be taken to communicate the pledge of his country to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, which would not be less than \$US 50,000, as soon as possible.

31. The leader of the Lesotho delegation pledged the sum of US\$ 7,000.

32. The Observer from the African Development Bank pledged on behalf of the President of the Bank, who unfortunately had not yet arrived in Rabat, the sum of \$US 250,000 to be paid in three instalments over three years beginning from 1979, for the implementation of the Data Bank project of the Commission and other specific studies to be undertaken by the Commission and agreed with the Bank. The pledge of the Bank had been made in its belief in co-operation between African institutions and in its desire to assist the Commission to expand the institutional framework for the development of the region.

33. A summary of the pledges made at the Second Pledging Conference appears in the Annex to the present report.

34. The Chairman thanked the delegates who had made pledges and asked them to make arrangements so that their pledges were honoured as soon as practicable. To those who had been unable to make any pledges because they had not received the necessary instructions, he said that they should take steps to see that pledges were communicated to the Executive Secretary of the Commission quickly and payment made promptly. He was sure that all African countries wished to make pledges and hoped that those who could not make any pledges now because of the economic difficulties facing them, would be able to pledge in the future when they were in a position to do so. He asked the Executive Secretary of the Commission during his travels within Africa, to explain the financial problems of the Commission to African leaders in order to facilitate the flow of pledges and their prompt payment.

Signing of grant agreements by Plenipotentiaries and the Executive Secretary of the Commission

35. Separate agreements between African Governments and the United Nations, relating to the pledges made during the course of the Second Pledging Conference, were signed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission and Plenipotentiaries acting on behalf of the following African Governments : Botswana, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zaire. An agreement was signed between the representatives of the African Development Bank and the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Adoption of the report of the Conference

36. The Second Pledging Conference adopted the present report on 28 March 1979.

Closure of the Conference

37. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared the Second Pledging Conference closed.

Annex

Summary of Pledges

SUMMARY OF PLEDGES MADE AT THE SECOND PLEDGING CONFERENCE HELD
HELD ON 28 MARCH 1979 in RABAT (MOROCCO)

For the period 1979-1981

	<u>Amount in \$US</u>
1. Botswana	20,000
2. Egypt	71,428
3. Gabon	70,000
4. Kenya	60,000
5. Lesotho	7,000
6. Liberia	20,000
7. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	200,000
8. Mali	25,000
9. Mauritius	20,000
10. Morocco	500,000
11. Niger	10,000
12. Rwanda	15,000
13. Senegal	50,000
14. Sierra Leone	20,000
15. Togo	20,000
16. United Republic of Cameroon	40,000
17. Zaire (135 000 zaires)	87,663
18. Zambia	170,000 ^{a/}
19. African Development Bank	250,000

^{a/} In kind covering the cost of accommodation towards the
Eastern and Southern African MULPOC based in Lusaka.

Rabat, 28 March 1979