

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



4 8 2 5  
Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.14/FMAB/6/Add.4  
2 August 1963

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Conference of Finance Ministers  
on the Establishment of an African  
Development Bank  
Khartoum, 31 July - 9 August 1963

LOCATION OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

(Prepared by the Ivory Coast)

KHAR-63-150

## CANDIDATURE OF ABIDJAN

What, in our view, are the criteria that should determine the choice of the location of our organization? First of all, geographical position, next accessibility from the point of view of transport and telecommunications, and lastly the best facilities for the premises.

I do not need to dwell, before this assembly, on the central position of Abidjan, both as between Western and Eastern Africa and as between Northern and Southern Africa. So much is this so that Abidjan, from the point of view of air transport, has become a real turn-table which the Air Afrique company, formed by 10 Republics, has chosen for its headquarters.

This advantageous geographical position entails an excellent transport potential in all fields, particularly sea and air transport: the ultra-modern port of Abidjan can accommodate the largest liners in the world in its deep-water berths, while its new airfield receives every day about 20 aircraft linking the capital of the Ivory Coast with the major cities in Africa and the world.

Bankers and business men, which, judging by the arguments of some of my colleagues here, we are forced to become, will be glad to learn that Abidjan has permanent links with all the major financial and economic centres throughout the world. They will also be aware that Abidjan is the seat of a central Bank, three Specialized banks, four consumer credit banking institutions, one development bank and five commercial banks.

There is also every facility for the recruitment of staff: education in the Ivory Coast ranges from Primary school to University with all kinds of vocational and technical schools in between. Whether the need is for administrators or typists, a very wide choice is offered on the spot.

Indeed, how could it be otherwise, in a town with a population of about 250,000, which is well known throughout Africa for the quality of its town planning. The hotel problem, one of the most difficult to solve in Africa, no longer arises in Abidjan, which, with its first-class hotels and its new International "Palace", offers its visitors more than 1,200 air-conditioned

rooms or apartments. There are also ample housing facilities outside the hotels.

As to the medical problem, which seems to have been of some concern to the secretariat, I can assure you, my dear colleagues, that Abidjan and the Ivory Coast, with their traditional and modern resources, particularly with respect to tourist activities and more generally with the hospitable welcome extended by the residents, are not likely to make it possible for the staff and officials of the African Development Bank to be ill very often.

However, if the case should arise, you must know, my dear colleagues, that there are three large modern hospitals, a Pasteur Institute, several private clinics and pharmacies, etc..... capable of treating and curing those whose state of health might require it.

Apart from all these material considerations, of which I am sure that most of my friends gathered in this room are aware, I will simply remind you in conclusion that, although we have had several years of inter-African politics with all that this involves in the way of meetings and organizations set up, this is the first time - I stress, the first time - that H.E. President Houphouet-Boigny has asked for the location of an Inter-African or international organization to be in the Ivory Coast.

This means that, if the location of our Bank were to be at Abidjan, my country would give of its best so that you might one day be proud and happy in your choice.

Délégation of the Ivory Coast