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ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY SESSION
Freetown, Sierra Leone
18 - 28 June, 1980

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

ON

THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA



CM-1067

MICROFICHE

1. Since the declaration of 1978-1988 as the UN Transport and Communications Decade for Africa, the OAU has adopted two resolutions viz. Resolutions CM/Res.675(XXXI), requesting the Secretary-General to make annual reports to the Council of Ministers on the progress of the implementations of the Decade programmes and CM/Res.738(XXXIII) Rev.1, anticipating a successful convening of the Pledging Conference which took place in New York on 20 November, 1979 for the implementation of the Decade programme.

a) Inter Agency Meetings

3. On 12 November 1979, the Executive Secretary of ECA convened an Inter-agency meeting which was attended by OAU, UNECA, UNDP, UNESCO, IBRD, ICAO, UPU, URTNA, ITU, ILO, AFCAC, UNCTAD, FAO and AFRAA. The Executive Secretary of ECA outlined the preparations undertaken for the Pledging Conference which included, inter alia, the completion of Volume II on sectoral studies and projects and the sending of ECA promotional missions for effective participation and commitment at the Pledging Conference. After a brief exchange of views it was decided that the Inter-agency body shall meet again later during the year to review the results of this Pledging Conference.

b) Pre-Pledging Conference

4. The Pre-Pledging Conference was held on 13 November 1979. Most African countries and a number of UN Member States as well as international organizations and funding institutions were present. The meeting was Chaired by the Executive Secretary of ECA who made an opening statement in which he gave a brief historical background of the Transport and Communications Decade and highlighted the Inter-governmental activities undertaken by ECA, other UN Specialized Agencies and African organisations in the preparation of the global strategy and plan of action for the first phase of the Decade. He then stated that the document had been adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning and later endorsed by the Monrovia Summit of the OAU.

5. The Executive Secretary of ECA elaborated in greater detail on the projects approved and the financing required for their implementation during the first phase of the decade. A number of delegations sought clarifications on the attitude of the EEC concerning the timing of the pledging conference. The Representative of Ireland speaking on behalf of the EEC, gave assurances that EEC had no objection to the convening of the pledging conference as scheduled.

c) Pledging Conference

6. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the General Assembly Resolution 33/197 of 29 January 1979, the UN Secretary-General, by a note verbale dated 10 September 1979 convened the United Nations Pledging Conference for the Transport and communications Decade in Africa at the United Nations Headquarters on 20 November 1979. Governments of Member States of the UN, Members of the UN Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency were invited to participate and announce their contributions to the Decade. In addition, a number of international financial and development institutions were invited to participate in the Conference.

7. In opening the Conference, the Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, said that the Decade was proclaimed because Africa's inadequate transport and communications infrastructure was seriously affecting the continent's overall development. The intent of the Decade was to focus international attention on the situation that could only become worse if no actions were taken to correct it.

8. Mr. Paul O. Etiang, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity said the Conference constituted yet another text of international solidarity with Africa. He reaffirmed the role of the OAU in the areas of transport and communications in Africa and pledged the unflinching determination of the OAU to mobilize the requisite political support necessary for the successful implementation of the Decade programme.

9. The Executive Secretary of the ECA, Dr. Adebayo Adedeji said that African countries needed massive assistances from the international community if the objectives of the Decade were to be realized. He stated that the challenge presented by the Transport and Communications Decade was to establish a transport and communications system that would facilitate a balanced development of the African economies while offering an equitable share of opportunities to each country.

10. The target for the Pledging Conference for the Decade was \$8.85 billion. While the Decade was to be implemented in two phases viz. 1980 - 1983 and 1984 - 1988, the total number of projects ready for implementation and awaiting financing during the first phase, 1980 - 1983, are 394 transport and 156 communications projects. These 540 projects plus the cost for studies related to 221 projects already approved, amounts to \$8.85 billion.

11. Continental distribution indicates that regional projects account for 48% of the programme at the cost of \$4.8 billion while national projects account for 52% of the total programme.

A classification of projects by sub-sectors shows the following distribution:

railway projects	36.5%
port projects	25%
road projects	20%
air transport projects	7%
communications projects	6%
maritime transport	4%
inland water transport	1%
multimodal transport	0.5%

12. At the conclusion of the Conference, according to the summary given by the Executive Secretary of the ECA as well as our own record, a total of \$128,088.00 was pledged by 12 countries - all African states. The Executive Secretary of the ECA further stated that a number of governments and organizations indicated that a total of \$6.364 billion had been earmarked.

13. The Conference heard the announcement of pledges by some governments and took note of the fact that other governments and institutions were not in a position to announce their contributions which they proposed to communicate, if any, to the UN Secretary-General at a later date. All developed countries which participated in the conference indicated that their contributions would be through bilateral assistance.

d) Post-Pledging Conference Activities

14. The General Secretariat has been informed by the Economic Commission for Africa that immediately after the Pledging Conference ECA had initiated a system for the collection of information on the progress of the various projects. The information supplied by donors and financial institution revealed that up to the end of April 1980 a sum of \$US 2.3 billion has been earmarked for financing projects in the Decade programme and that interest has been shown in financing other projects costing in the neighbourhood of \$US 850 million.

15. From January to March 1980 ECA also reported to the Conference of Ministers of the MULPOCs on the Decade programme. In these reports it was emphasized that states should accord the project contained in the Decade programme high priority in their development plans and that in bilateral negotiations with donors every effort should be made to seek financing first for the Decade projects.

16. In March 1980 the Executive Secretary of ECA visited Vienna as a guest of the Austrian Government. During the visit he was able to meet high-ranking officials and some Ministers of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden and to discuss with them the targets of the Decade programme and the various ways of financing the projects. It is expected that, as a direct result of these discussions, a group of countries will finance a package of railway projects in East Africa.

17. The ECA also participated in an EEC/ACP Seminar in Mahe, Seychelles in April at which a number of projects in transport and communications for the countries of East Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands were submitted for consideration by the EEC under the regional fund of Lome II.

18. In the near future it is planned to hold a meeting with EEC to consider the financing of other African projects in transport and communications.

e) Conclusion

19. It is gratifying to note that nearly all African countries actively participated in the Pledging Conference at a high level of representation. This constituted a major positive result of the Conference and that African countries strongly showed their determination to ensure the success of the Decade. In fact during the Conference the African countries were the main contributors. Notwithstanding that, for the OAU the results of the Conference were disappointing. On this the African Group, meeting after the Conference, took the same view that the Conference left much to be desired and some lessons to be learned.

20. Consequently it was suggested that a meeting be convened possibly at the Inter-agency level to undertake:

- a) an appraisal of the Pledging Conference
- b) an exploration of new approaches to implement the Decade programme
- c) a review of the "earmarked funds" and hold discussions with "donors" on projects they are interested in
- d) the organizing of recipient countries and persuade them to constantly include Decade projects in their requests for bilateral aid
- e) assistance to recipient countries in projects formulation and negotiation with donors
- f) the organisation of small groups of countries to collectively pursue certain regional and sub-regional projects
- g) the improvement of contacts with "donor" countries and Financial Institutions to ensure the continuous flow of resources for the implementation of the Decade programme and monitor such developments
- h) the submission of periodical report to African political bodies.

f) Supportive Action by OAU

21. The role of the OAU initially would be the mobilization of the political will and other supportive actions required for the implementation of the Decade Programme. Henceforth, in accordance with the Monrovia Declaration of intent and the Lagos Plan of Action, the General Secretariat contemplates the following actions:

- a) Encouragement of the Freedom of Travel within the continent including the waiving of visa requirement for simplification of entry and exit procedures.
- b) Urging Member States to ratify the International Transit Convention.
- c) Explore the possibility of holding a meeting of experts concerned and assist in preparing grounds for bilateral or sub-regional meetings to discuss transit issues.
- d) Encourage and insist on the active involvement of OAU Specialized Agencies in the implementation of the Decade programme.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE
FOR AFRICA (1978 - 1988)

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity meeting at its Thirty-fifth Ordinary Session in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 18 to 28 June 1980.

Having taken note of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa contained in Document CM/1067(XXXV)Rev.1;

Recalling Resolutions CM/Res.675(XXXII) and CM/Res.738(XXXIII) Rev. 1 on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa adopted at Khartoum (July 1978) and Monrovia (July 1979) respectively;

Recalling further Resolution 32/160 of the United Nations General Assembly of December 1977 which approved the recommendation urging the proclamation of Transport and Communications Decade for Africa contained in resolution 291(XIII) of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa;

Mindful of of the poor response in terms of firm pledges on the part of most potential donors at the last Pledging Conference convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York in November 1979;

Considering Resolution EACG/Res.1(II) adopted by the 2nd Extra-Ordinary Summit of OAU Heads of State and Government, devoted to Economic matters, held at Lagos, Nigeria in April 1980,

1. THANKS the Secretary-General of the United Nations for having organized the first Pledging Conference, thus enabling a beginning to be made in mobilizing resources for implementing the programme for the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;
2. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the massive attendance of OAU Member States at the Pledging Conference which amply demonstrated that African states are greatly concerned about the improvement of their transport and communications infrastructures;
3. THANKS all those donors who have so far made firm material and financial pledges to the fulfilment of the Decade programme;
4. APPEALS ONCE AGAIN to African and other international financial institutions, especially the ADB, ADF and BADEA, and developed countries to pledge funds either on a bilateral or multi-lateral basis for the realization of the various projects within the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa;
5. INVITES the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to provide resources for the Special Fund to the implementation of the programme of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;
6. CALLS ON all African States to give due priority, in their national transport and communications plans, to projects contained in the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa as adopted in the Lagos Plan of Action;
7. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the OAU and ECA Secretariats for the work done so far and encourages them to continue with their efforts towards the implementation of the Decade programme.

8. REQUESTS the Secretary-General in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA to explore new approaches towards mobilizing financial and other resources for the implementation of the Decade programme,
9. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA to report back to the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Council of Ministers on the progress of the implementation of the Decade programme and the results of their efforts to mobilize additional resources.



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