



# World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series

Annual Meetings 1973, Nairobi, Kenya

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**WORLD BANK GROUP**





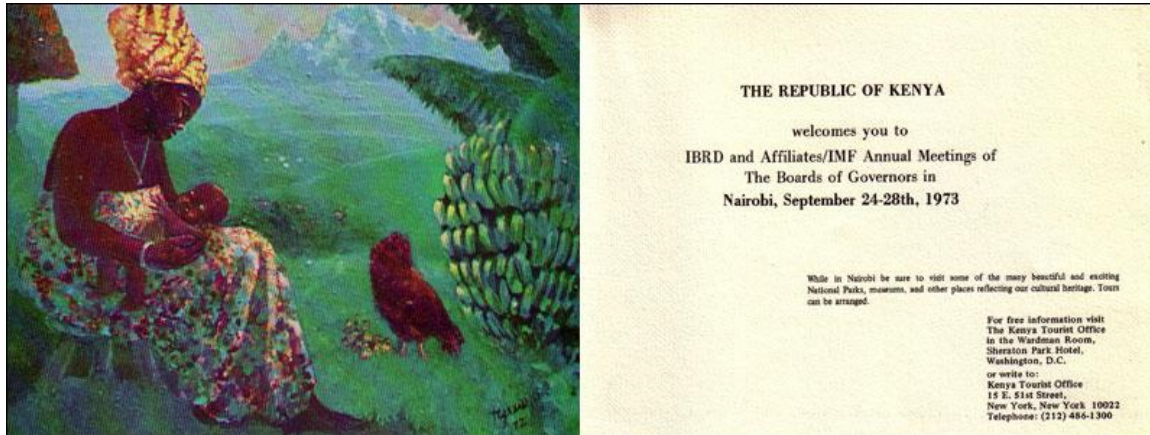
The World Bank Group Archives Exhibit Series contains exhibits originally published on the Archives' external website beginning in 2002. When the Archives' website was transferred to a new platform in 2015, it was decided that older exhibits would be converted to pdf format and made available as a series on the World Bank's external database, [Documents & Reports](#).

These exhibits, authored by World Bank archivists, highlight key events, personalities, and publications in the history of the World Bank. They also bring attention to some of the more fascinating archival records contained in the Archives' holdings.

To view current exhibits, visit the [Exhibits](#) page on the Archives' website.



## Annual Meetings 1973, Nairobi, Kenya



The painting "Peace and Tranquility" was used in a card to welcome the participants of the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF held in Nairobi, Kenya in September 1973. "Peace and Tranquility" was commissioned by Ambassador Kibinge in 1972 to promote the universal theme of joy and peace. The snowcapped Batian, Nelion and Lenana peaks of Mt. Kenya depicted in the painting reflect the cool morning sunshine in a peaceful and green pasture outside a typical rural Kenyan homestead.

This painting was an apt illustration of the 1973 Annual Meetings, which focused on the importance of poverty reduction in the rural areas of the developing world. Almost 3,000 delegates representing 126 countries packed Nairobi's Plenary Hall of the Kenyatta Conference Center to listen to the address of World Bank President Robert McNamara.

In his speech McNamara spoke of the urgent need to pay more attention to



*Left to right: Mr. McNamara, President of the World Bank Group; the Hon. Mwai Kibaki,*



*President Kenyatta (center) arrives at the Kenyatta Conference Center to open the Annual Meetings, Sept. 24, 1973*



the problems of the rural poor in developing countries. “Neither political programs, nor economic plans, nor international assistance – bilateral or multilateral – have given the problem serious and sustained attention. The World Bank is no exception. In more than a quarter of a century of operations, less than \$1 billion out of \$25 billion of lending has been devoted directly to this problem,” he said.

Mr. McNamara also spoke about the Bank’s plan to finance a series of programs aimed at assisting smallholder agriculture. The Bank pledged to increase its lending to agriculture to \$4.4 billion between 1974 and 1978. And McNamara emphasized the importance of land and tenancy reforms to meet the needs of rural communities for adequate public services.

The 1973 Annual Meetings resulted in a pledge of \$22 billion by the World Bank Group for nearly 1,000 projects during the next five years to target the problems of the rural poor in the developing countries.

*Native dancers perform outside the Kenyatta Conference Center, Sept. 24, 1973*

