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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First Meeting of the Eastern and Southern  
African Steel Development Committee

First Meeting of the Intergovernmental  
Committee on Engineering Industries  
in Eastern and Southern Africa

8-12 November 1982, Kwekwe/Gweru, Zimbabwe

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSIONS AND RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Substantive issues

1. Iron and steel

The meeting is expected to discuss issues and follow-up actions emanating from the Second Inter-governmental Meeting of Experts on the Establishment of Iron and Steel Industry in Eastern and Southern African Subregion and decisions made thereto by the Fifth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka MULPOC. Recommendation resulting from the discussions would include those related to:

- (a) First stage: supply/purchase arrangement for ZISCO pig iron, billets etc. to feed national rerolling mills;
- (b) Second stage: expansion and development of electric-arc furnace steel making based on sponge iron from a subregional production unit(s); and
- (c) Third stage: integrating rerolling/electric-arc furnace facilities to iron making in member States where demand justifies iron making.

2. Engineering

The meeting is expected to discuss issues related to the integrated development of the engineering industry in the subregion. Based on experience gained from the iron and steel and chemical committee meetings and in order to reduce the time required for member States to make collective decisions, the Committee may wish to concentrate on the following issues and related recommendations:

(a) Short-term option

- (i) rationalization (rehabilitation, up-grading and expansion) of existing engineering support facilities including those in rail and dock yards and large industrial establishments with a view to converting them into engineering core industries;
- (ii) optimum utilization of existing facilities, particularly those producing agricultural tools, implements and machinery and transport equipment for the benefit of all member States of the Subregion;
- (iii) exchange of design of field tested agricultural tools, implements and equipment;

(b) Long-term option

- (i) policies, strategies, priorities and standardization related to the integrated development of the engineering industry;
- (ii) Specialization in the production of spare parts and components, particularly for agricultural and transport equipment and industrial machinery and equipment for food and agricultural processing industries and mining; and
- (iii) the manufacture of machine tools for making capital goods.

II. The role of the Committee (for each steel and engineering industries)

The effectiveness of promoting subregional co-operation in the development of these subsectors depend on the commitment on the part of Governments. In view of the need to facilitate speedy implementation of decision taken by the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka MULPOC and bearing in mind the difficulties experienced so far, each Committee may wish to discuss its role and make proposals to the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka MULPOC related to:

1. commitment of Government authorities concerned with the development of the subsector, such commitment to be manifested by:

- (a) inscribing activities related to the Committee in the job descriptions of the posts occupied by the Committee members in the Government machinery;

- (b) providing the Committee members with the necessary mandates and adequate resources to enable them to take over and carry out the activities of the Committee with backstopping from ECA, UNIDO and other relevant international organizations;
2. commitment and dedication of the members of the Committee who, as focal points at the national level, should serve as bridges between the national authorities and multinational institutions, existing and to be created; and
  3. determining the tasks to be assigned to each Committee member in the interval between the Committee meetings.