

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.14/ECO/5
1 May 1969

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Meeting of the Executive Committee
Addis Ababa, 30 June - 5 July, 1969

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE INDUSTRY AND HOUSING DIVISION

INDUSTRY AND HOUSING DIVISION

A. INDUSTRY SECTION

General

1. In the field of industrial development, emphasis is to be placed on implementation during the United Nations Second Development Decade. Implementation of viable industrial projects necessitates more consultations and deeper feasibility studies prior to execution, combined with preparedness on the part of governments concerned to undertake a major role in the execution stage [resolution 203(IX)]. It is with this intention that industrial development has been and is being approached.
2. Work on the completion of sectoral and inter-industry studies, prerequisites for project implementation, is still continuing and efforts are being made to establish conditions conducive to bringing certain selected projects nearer to implementation. Also, work on the petrochemical paper for UNIDO is in progress.
3. A good part of the Division's time was used in preparing for and servicing the ninth session. A number of consultations and negotiations were undertaken with delegations and observers as well as with international organizations such as UNIDO, OAU and the ADB throughout the session period. Country requests for assistance and co-operation and co-ordination with international organizations were the main topics of the discussions.
4. At the request of the Imperial Ethiopian Government, the Division commented on studies on chemicals and building materials and has assured the Government authorities of co-operation by providing them with particulars of the Division's staff who could be called upon for assistance in the implementation of industrial projects.

Report on work being done

North Africa

5. Pending the finalization of the inter-industry harmonization exercise by Professor Bos and his team at the end of 1970, thirty sectoral studies were edited and processed for consideration by a meeting of experts to be convened by the Maghreb Permanent Consultative Committee. The Industry Section also expects to present to the meeting (when a definite date is given) a first assessment of the overall industrial co-operation prospects in the Maghreb countries.

East Africa

6. A member of the staff participated on the faculty of the UNIDO/IDEP course on industrialization, held in Nairobi in February-March 1969, for participants from English-speaking countries.

7. The services of several staff members, in varying measures, were made available to the CDPFP/ECA team in charge of drawing up a macro-economic perspective of the countries of Eastern Africa, for the second Development Decade. Interim recommendations were submitted to a Foreign Ministers' meeting held in February 1969, and a more detailed draft, for consideration by the team, was made available in April 1969.

8. A staff member has been to Eastern Africa in connexion with the updating of the Eastern African sectoral and inter-industry studies prepared in 1964-1965. Work has already been in progress in respect of the macro-economic projection framework.

9. At the request of UNCTAD, a staff member is presently in the field collecting information for a survey of selected industrial sectors. The purpose of the survey is to provide developing countries with an assessment of the future potential demand for selected manufactured and semi-manufactured products and the extent to which exports of such products could participate in the markets of developed countries.

Central Africa

10. Professor Lacroix, who is responsible for the inter-industry study for Central Africa, visited the secretariat in March. He held discussions with staff members collectively and individually. From such discussions, it emerged that a more pragmatic approach to the preparation of the study was needed. It therefore became necessary to formulate a programme for the industrial development of Central Africa based on a classification of the particular requirements of the following: national and multinational (e.g., the Democratic Republic of the Congo and UDEAC) as well as sub-regional.

West Africa

11. A staff member visited six West African countries in connexion with the CDPFP team for West Africa. He collected up-to-date information on industrial development in the sub-region. He is presently compiling a report on the need for sub-regional and multinational co-operation; problems to be tackled in the process; and tentative suggestions for a phased programme for achieving sub-regional co-operation.

Mini- and multinational projects

12. The Division is in the process of drawing up a format to be used for presentation of mini-projects to interested governments, in order to provide concise, standard information on sector projects prepared by the Division as well as by bilateral consultants and international organizations.

13. As soon as an interested country, or countries, gives a positive response to a mini-project, or projects, submitted by the secretariat, the secretariat will mobilize a team of high-level experts to go in the field to evaluate the project. The teams will consist of experts from bilateral sources as well as international organizations, whose fields of competence

are related to the project. A positive recommendation made by such a team will be the criterion for establishing the viability of any project. On acceptance of the team's recommendation by the country or countries concerned, the secretariat will then take steps to bring the country into contact with interested investors. The Division is actively engaged at present in identifying potential investors in various industrial sectors.

14. Preparation of mini-projects has already begun. The Division is presently discussing the possibility of the implementation of such projects with a number of member States. The establishment of fibre-board manufacturing projects in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya are examples of such activities. The expert teams needed for these particular projects are being organized.

B. SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES SECTION

General

15. In its resolution 200(IX), the Commission commended the initiative taken by the secretariat in organizing the small-scale industries exhibition during the ninth session; in demonstrating the significance of small industries to the economies of African countries; in publishing a brochure on small-scale industries and a guide to sources of machinery. The secretariat is required to take measures for the preparation of feasibility studies or "model schemes" for small-scale industries adapted to conditions specific to the African continent.

Report on work being done

16. The secretariat is currently engaged in the compilation of a master list of model schemes based on the industry profiles published by the Governments of the United States of America, India and Japan. Selected items from the list will be modified in size, financial investment and availability of raw materials, to suit African conditions, and made available to member States. Specialist organizations such as the Tropical Products Institute (London), the Intermediate Technology Development Group (London), Volunteers for International Technical Assistance (New York), have been approached and their assistance sought in the preparation of model schemes either on payment of modest consultancy charges or on a voluntary basis.

17. The project reports submitted by the enamel and knitwear experts, whose services were obtained from the Government of India on bilateral terms, have been received. After an on-the-spot study they have recommended the establishment of enamel and knitwear industries in some West African countries. Their reports are under examination.

18. At the request of the secretariat early last year, the Federal Republic of Germany made available the services of an expert (Dr. H. Massow) to study and report on the suitability of establishing an "Advisory Centre for Small-scale Industries" in the East African sub-region. After a tour of East African countries and visiting the Pilot Small-scale Advisory Centre at Niamey (Niger), he submitted his recommendations last month. The report is under study.

19. The Pilot Advisory Centre on Small-scale Industries in Niamey (Niger), continued to render useful service in the West African sub-region. The feasibility studies prepared by the centre are under consideration by the governments concerned. One such study has resulted in the establishment of a plastic tubular film extruder plant in Togo.

Mission and purpose

20. The small-scale industries adviser visited the industrial estate in Nairobi (Kenya) and some small-industry units in Kampala, with a view to examining possibilities of encouraging West African entrepreneurs to start similar industries. Efforts in this direction are being pursued.

Recommendation

21. Resolution 200(IX) invites member States to pay special attention to national programmes for the establishment of small-scale industries. Member States may be urged to create separate "cells" in their industry departments for this purpose, if they have not already done so.

C. HOUSING, BUILDING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING SECTION

General

22. The present pattern of major current commitments and associated problems [resolution 209(IX)] in the field of housing, building and physical planning requires special emphasis to be placed by governments of member States on:

- (a) Planning for housing development and executing related land use control and infrastructural development;
- (b) Promoting the use of local resources in the production of standard building materials and components related to the programming and design for house-building;
- (c) Establishing and developing financial institutions providing credit in the housing field and providing guarantees for mortgage loans where individual ownership of land is impracticable;

- (d) Organizing special courses for national building contractors along the lines of ECA seminars;
- (e) Providing low cost housing, developed sites for aided self-help construction and promoting co-operative housing societies;

The secretariat is required to take all necessary measures in collaboration with specialized agencies to assist member States to accelerate improvement of the housing situation; to mobilize financial and technical resources from the industrialized countries and appropriate financial organization; to promote training at all levels in the establishment and development of financial institutions and in the building industry, including co-operative housing and aided self-help techniques; and to provide advisory services to member States in carrying out all the above work.

Report on work being done

23. A regional meeting on technical and social problems of urbanization with emphasis on financing of housing was held in Addis Ababa from 8-23 January 1969. This meeting dealt in depth with urbanization and different aspects of housing finance. The final report was issued as document E/CN.14/450. Follow-up action is being taken on the recommendations of the meeting, particularly on establishing and developing housing credit institutions and training of personnel engaged in the savings and loans movement throughout the continent.

24. An advisory document entitled "Modular Co-ordination in Housing" (TAO/GLOBAL/4) has been distributed to all member States of the Commission. This document deals with the modular co-ordination for components, etc. in the construction industry and is a result of careful collaboration and agreement within the United Nations in co-operation with international institutions.

25. A further advisory document entitled "The Keeping of Documents in Small and Medium Size Building Information Centres" prepared in the secretariat has been sent to all member States. This document should enable the authorities in all building centres to improve the dissemination of active information amongst the differing technical professions engaged in housing, building and physical planning.

North Africa

26. The governments of member States in the North African sub-region have been notified of the forthcoming working group of experts on house-building costs scheduled to take place in Tangier from 1-12 September 1969 and two high level technical experts from each country are expected to be nominated.

East Africa

27. A survey with a view to amortization of capital on government housing has been proposed between IBRD, the Commission and the Governments of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

28. A survey of the savings banks movement in Zambia has been carried out jointly between the secretariat and the International Savings Banks Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands, and recommendations have been made.

Central Africa

29. A training course in the techniques of aided self-help and co-operative housing has been scheduled to take place during August/September 1969 in Democratic Republic of the Congo for the benefit of member States in the Central African sub-region and the agreement of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to act as host country for this training course is expected. Four participants drawn from housing and community development work will be invited from each country.

30. A survey of the savings banks movement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon has been carried out jointly by the secretariat and the International Savings Banks Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands and recommendations have been made.

West Africa

31. Within the limits of secretariat resources, the Governments of Dahomey, Togo, Ghana, Niger, and Liberia have been notified of a training course for African building contractors scheduled to take place in these countries, on an itinerant basis, during July and August 1969. The governments have been invited to nominate participants from the existing cadre of African building contractors and other sources of potential contractors.

32. An investigation into resources of local raw materials and the potential capacity of the building materials industry has been started in Dahomey and Togo.

33. A survey of the savings banks movement has been carried out in Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal by the secretariat and the International Savings Banks Institute, Amsterdam, Holland and recommendations have been made. The mission made contact with the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Southern Africa

34. Follow-up action has been taken to ascertain the wishes of the Governments of Swaziland and Lesotho in regard to implementation of the recommendations made in the mission reports on housing policy, programming and administration, prepared by the secretariat for these governments during 1968.

Mini - and multinational projects

35. In connexion with the proposal for the establishment of an international housing finance corporation, the Commission has issued an invitation to the African Development Bank to form a small working group which will consider the working of the Bank and national institutions in the context of the overall operations of the proposed international housing finance corporation. The working group is intended also to consider specific regional problems affecting mortgage operations in member States.

36. To encourage the establishment and operations of housing co-operative societies, a request has been made to the International Co-operative Housing Development Association (Stockholm, Sweden) to assist in a pilot project whereby a survey will be undertaken and one or two co-operative housing societies established and put into operation in an African country. The results of this pilot project will be documented and made available as a manual of reference for all other member States.

37. In appraising the pattern of staffing projection in the Industry Section the following factors should be kept in view:

(i) In relation to the existing work load (1969-1970 work programme) the existing staff resources are inadequate, and the requirements of work have been met only through various ad hoc arrangements from bilateral sources on the one hand and general overloading of staff members on the other.

(ii) The composition of the work programme adopted at the ninth session is expected to undergo major changes, reflective both of the shift in strategy and of the progress already achieved. Schematically, the situation can be viewed as follows:

Main area of work in the Industry Section (including the Small-industries Group)	1975-1980 average annual work load as a multiple of 1969-1970 average work load (according to the work programme adopted at the ninth session)
I. Training courses, work-shops, etc.	2.0
II. Industrial promotion and project implementation	5.0
III. Surveys and studies	1.5
IV. Small industries	2.0
V. Technical assistance activities (not included elsewhere)	3.0 (mostly through regional advisers)
VI. Publications, and other miscellaneous activities	Not separately assessed

Without implying any formalistic weighing of the above items, it is fair to summarize that the average annual work load, as foreseen during 1975-1980, will be up to three times as high as the annual load spelled out in the work programme for 1969 and 1970 adopted at the ninth session.

(iii) Recourse to overloading and bilateral arrangements will continue to be fully exploited in the future years as well.

Housing, Building and Physical Planning Section

38. Resource personnel expected to join during 1969, which will total two P-4 and two P-2/1, will have to suffice for 1969. In addition, one consultant (Sociologist) has been provided for to carry out a survey over two months of traditional savings societies in selected countries in the West African sub-region.

39. The present programming arrangements allow for an increase of one substantive staff member (P-3), but this is not due to take effect before 1971. However, a major project is due to be organized for 1970. This is a regional meeting on rural housing, the main objective of which will be to improve present conditions in design, use of materials, etc.

40. Requirements of staff include not only the substantive staff member (P-3) (not due before 1971) but also an additional staff member P-2/1 qualified in property valuation and estate management. If an additional P-2/1 post was made available from 1 January 1970 recruitment could be made during 1969 and preparations for the regional meeting started at the beginning of 1970.

41. A P-3 post due to be added with effect from 1 January 1971 should be filled by an economist with experience in dealing with economic aspects of housing either on an international basis or through experience in large scale national housing projects in one or more countries. The biggest difficulty facing African countries is integration of housing policy and programming into national development plans. This difficulty is largely due to the lack of statistical data on existing housing stock. This situation may be rectified to a great extent by the population and housing censuses due to take place in 1970 and for which specific questions on housing have been interpolated into the questionnaire to be used by the census enumerators. Thus the housing economist (P-3) will be required not later than 1 January 1971 to take into account the results of the housing aspects of the censuses and to advise and assist member States in drawing up realistic housing programmes based on population growth, etc., so that these programmes can be given their due allocation of resources in national development plans.

42. An additional post (P-2/1) will also be required for the recruitment of a candidate, qualified in economics or banking, to

advise and assist in the programme for the establishment and development of housing credit institutions, and training of African personnel in the housing credit movement, and to assist in the establishment of sub-regional training centres using, in the first place, the facilities offered by existing housing credit institutions. Member States have already been requested to give their reactions to these three stages of action so that a programme based on priorities and needs can be formulated during the remainder of 1969 and the first half of 1970 depending on how quickly reactions from member States are received by the secretariat.

43. The above personnel should give the necessary spread over the technical professions concerned in housing and should be adequate, as far as can be seen, for the requirements of the Housing, Building, and Physical Planning Section.

Staffing Projections^{a/} for the Industry Section
(including the Small Industries Group) up to 1975

<u>Year</u>	<u>D-1</u>	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3</u>	<u>P-2/P-1</u>	<u>Total</u>
Early 1969 (on board)	2 ^{b/}	3	3	5	1	14
1970-1971	2	4	5	5	2	18
1972-1973	2	4	5	6	6	23
1974-1975	2	5	5	8	8	28

^{a/} Excluding regional advisers, bilateral experts, consultants, etc.

^{b/} One incumbent left at the end of March 1969.

Staffing Projections^{a/} for the Housing
Building and Physical Planning Section up to 1975

<u>Year</u>	<u>P-5</u>	<u>P-4</u>	<u>P-3</u>	<u>P-2/P-1</u>
1969	1	2 ^{b/}	-	2 ^{b/}
1970/1971	1	2	1	4
1972/1973	1	2	1	4
1974/1975	1	2	1	4

^{a/} Not including three regional advisers.

^{b/} Presently on board or under recruitment to join 1969.