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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Meetings of the Executive Board and of the
Council of the African Regional Centre
for Engineering Design and Manufacturing

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6, 7 and 8 August 1980

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL
CENTRE FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING SINCE THE
INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN OCTOBER 1979 AT
IBADAN

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Administrative follow up

1. After the inaugural meeting of the Executive Board of the Centre held at Ibadan at the end of October 1979, the Commission wrote to all member States on 29 November 1979 requesting them to pay their contributions for 1979 and 1980. On 6 December 1979 a reminder cable was sent to member States urging them to fulfil their financial obligations.
2. As can be seen in the financial part of this short report, contributions from States have not satisfactorily been forthcoming.

Recruitment

3. Following the advertisement of the senior technical posts of the Centre through African Governments media, UNIDO, DTCD (TARS) and national design and engineering institutions in Africa and in other developing regions, the Commission received applications from Nigeria, Benin, Burundi, Egypt, Kenya, Eastern Europe and India.
4. After compilation of biodata of candidates by the Commission, the meeting of the Selection Panel was convened on 16 and 17 March 1980 at Addis Ababa. The following member States to the Selection Panel attended the meeting: Egypt, Nigeria and Kenya. Zaire, the fourth member of the Selection Panel, was absent.
5. During its meeting, the Selection Panel shortlisted applicants for the following senior professional posts of the Centre: the Executive Director, Director of Design and Director of Engineering Development and Testing.
6. In view of the insufficient number of applicants for the posts of Director of Manufacturing and of Technical Advisers, the Selection Panel decided that the post of Director of Manufacturing be re-advertised within the African countries. From their knowledge of the industrial situation in Africa, members of the Panel felt that suitable candidates for this post can be found in the region. The posts of Technical Advisers should be advertised on an international basis, as widely as possible.
7. Following the shortlisting of candidates, eligible applicants were invited for interview at a meeting held at Ibadan on 3 May 1980. The interview meeting retained appointable candidate for the post of the Executive Director and conclusions of the interview are contained in the report and recommendations on recruitment.

Membership of the Centre

8. Since the Executive Board meeting held in October 1979 at Ibadan, four more countries have signed the Constitution of the Centre and thus become members. They are Guinea, Comoro, Upper Volta and Morocco. The actual membership is now 21 countries: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Comoro, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tanzania, Upper Volta, Zaire and Zambia.

Financial contributions

9. As stated in paragraph 1, member States have been approached and urged to pay their respective contributions for 1979 and 1980.

(a) Contributions from member States

10. So far, out of 21 member States, only the following five have paid their 1979 contributions and only one for 1980.

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Niger	US\$ 5,649	US\$73,975
Rwanda	3,930	
Senegal	10,000	
Egypt	59,400	
Nigeria	59,880	
	<u>US\$138,859</u>	<u>US\$73,975</u>

(b) Contribution by the host Government

11. Nigeria has deposited N 400,000 (US\$680,000) in the Centre's account as part of its grant towards the capital development of the Centre. It has also renovated all temporary residences and offices facilities put at the disposal of the Centre in Ibadan.

(c) UNDP contributions

12. Since 15 October 1979 to date, UNDP has contributed US\$114,000 out of its US\$1.2 million commitment for this project during the current programming cycle 1977-1981, thus bringing to US\$222,923 the total UNDP contribution since the inception of the project.

Field mission

13. As follow-up input in the implementation of the Centre, a four-man mission was fielded in February and March 1980 to visit three developed and one developing country with a view to assessing the market for procurement of equipment and machines, design facilities and requirements, and trends for the guidance of the future development of the Centre and also to provide inputs for the preparation of briefs for the design of the Centre's physical facilities and equipment procurement activities. During the period 6 February to 10 March 1980, the mission visited design, machine tools and engineering institutions in the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The mission has submitted a report.

Consultations with the host Government

14. The host Government has been continually apprised by the Executive Secretary on the progress made in the implementation of the Centre, particularly in the recruitment of a nucleus of professional staff for the Centre, i.e. the Executive Director and Directors of other departments.

15. Following a request by the inaugural meeting of the Executive Board held in October 1979 at Ibadan, the Federal Ministry of Industries of Nigeria has appointed an officer to serve as a Liaison Officer between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Centre.

Project Implementation Committee (P.I.C.)

16. In discharge of the responsibilities of the host country, the Federal Ministry of Industries has agreed to the establishment of a Project Implementation Committee on which the host country and the Centre will be represented. The Project Implementation Committee will function as the agent of the host Government for the purpose of the physical development of the site until the offices and factory buildings are completed and handed over to the Centre.

17. The composition of the Project Implementation Committee (P.I.C.) is as follows:

Host Government

The Hon. Federal Minister of Industries
A Senior official of the Ministry
A representative of Oyo State
The Liaison Officer

Centre

The ECA Executive Secretary
Chief of ECA Industry Division
The Executive Director of the Centre

18. The meetings of the Project Implementation Committee (P.I.C.) will be held in Nigeria, normally twice a year, to review the progress of implementation and to take any decisions required to guide further the progress of work on the building up of the Centre.

Project build up on the site

19. In order to expedite the project implementation on the site, the P.I.C. will appoint as soon as possible a firm of consulting engineers to be responsible for project management and engineering. The consulting engineers will undertake in the field the responsibility of implementing the programme for the physical development of the site in accordance with the plans approved by the Project Implementation Committee. As soon as they are appointed, the consulting engineers will prepare an implementation plan for site development for consideration and approval by the P.I.C.