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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
SILVER JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

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and ninth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers of the Commission

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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA

Executive Summary*

Submitted jointly by ECA, OAU and UNIDO

* The present summary constitutes the main document for consideration.

INTRODUCTION

1. The present summary report which covers selected activities of the ECA, OAU and UNIDO secretariats in implementation of the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. However, pivotal activities at the country level could not be covered for lack of sufficient information from the countries concerned. As discussed elsewhere, 1/ guidelines have been prepared for the organization of National Co-ordinating Committees and Operational Focal Points 2/ which, if utilized properly, would be instrumental also in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Decade at the national level. These guidelines are also intended to assist member States in initiating short- and medium-term measures for the implementation of the Decade.

I. POLICY DECISIONS

2. In accordance with resolution 1 (vi) paragraph C.5(a) of the sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry, the proposals for the formulation and implementation of the programme for the Decade were adopted in resolution 442(XVII) by the ECA Conference of Ministers as well as by the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO, at its meeting in Vienna from 11 to 28 May 1982. The proposals are also expected to be adopted by the 19th regular session of Assembly of Heads of State and Government when it resumes and have been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

A. Subsectoral and related industrial activities

3. Within the context of the subsectoral and subregional approach which links up national and collective self-reliance strategies adopted in recent years, a comprehensive set of activities was carried out in respect of priority industrial subsectors. Studies were carried out which were subsequently considered at the following meetings and workshops organized during the period November 1981 to December 1982: (i) the second Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on the Establishment of Iron and Steel Industry in the Eastern and Southern African subregion; (ii) the first meeting of the Eastern and Southern African Steel Development Committee; (iii) the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Chemicals for Eastern and Southern Africa; (iv) the UNIDO/ECA/FAO/OAU-sponsored first Regional Consultation on Agricultural Machinery Industry in Africa; (v) a workshop organized by the FAO/ECA Advisory Group on Food and Agricultural Industries (AGFI), one on small-scale palm oil processing and a Regional Composite Flour Workshop; and (vi) a seminar in the area of fuel wood.

4. In addition, investment-oriented studies were prepared including two model prefeasibility studies on the formulation of pesticides and pharmaceuticals, four studies on building materials and a number of studies by ECA and UNIDO in the fields of food, building materials, metallurgical, engineering, chemical and forest industry subsectors in response to requests by individual countries. These included the establishment of methods in industrial production of snack food, edible oil, animal food as well as in raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry,

1/ "Guidelines for initiating priority actions at the national and subregional levels (1982-1984) for the implementation of IDDA". ECA/FCIA.7/INR/WP/3.

2/ See part B, para. 3(a) of resolution 1(vi) of the sixth Conference of African Ministers of Industry on the formulation and implementation of a programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

rehabilitation of existing agro-industries in a number of countries; assistance in the development of new processing capacity in leather industry and products; the manufacture of building materials and construction such as clay bricks, tiles, lime, glass, sands and dimensional stones; a feasibility study on the establishment of a joint building materials research centre in West Africa; a study tour in India; assistance to member countries in foundry industry, training of nationals in various industries; promotion of TCDC in metallurgical industries among African countries and with other developing regions; assistance in engineering design and manufacture of machinery; assistance in the fields of chemical, forest, small-scale and textile industry subsectors, etc. In-plant training was given to African experts in building materials production and construction in India and to Angolan nationals in metallurgical industry in Brazil. As regards publicity, UNIDO, ECA and OAU organized in 1982 a workshop for a cross-section of African and non-African media reporting on Africa on the role of the mass media in the promotion of the Decade programme. The concepts and ideas to popularize and promote the Decade were included in no less than 86 items published in the UNIDO Newsletter ranging from announcements of meetings to requests for expertise and resources.

5. Furthermore, field missions to individual and groups of countries were undertaken to offer technical assistance at their request. They include (i) a metal and engineering mission to four West African countries in preparation for meetings in 1983, (ii) a mission on metallurgical coal in selected African countries, (iii) a number of missions to 10 African countries on repair and maintenance in the engineering subsector, (iv) missions on assistance for the manufacture of food processing and agricultural machinery and equipment, (v) a number of missions undertaken by the FAO/ECA Advisory Group on Food and Agricultural Industries (AGFI) and the FAO/ECA Forest Industry Advisory Group (FIAG) in different countries and (vi) assistance to member States in promoting and upgrading small-scale industries through the co-operative sector and industrial estates and the introduction of industrial extension services and rehabilitation of long-neglected rural industries.

B. Development of manpower capabilities for industrialization

6. Some of the activities undertaken to develop and strengthen manpower capabilities in the context of the Decade include the organization of a workshop for public and private African businessmen to examine their urgent needs and constraints with a view to strengthening their capacity at the national level and through the creation of a Federation of African Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 1983 in Morocco. Following an assessment for strengthening manpower requirements for basic industry carried out in 1980, two workshops were organized in 1981 in Zambia and Nigeria. These were followed by the organization of additional training workshops in the field of procurement and supply management in Burundi, Lesotho and the United Republic of Tanzania in 1982; while the possible contribution of African universities in the implementation of the Decade programme was discussed in February 1982.

7. A first consultation on the training of industrial manpower was held in Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany, in December 1982, during which participants underlined the specific importance of co-operation in the context of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the national, subregional and Inter-regional levels.

C. Natural resources and energy

8. The following mineral resources have been identified as of priority owing to the demand for them in the production of priority industrial products during the Decade: iron ore, bauxite, copper, tin, lead, zinc, manganese and fossil fuels. Activities have been initiated in these fields in collaboration with the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre in Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania, and technical assistance to member States has been given in the creation of national energy committees. In support of activities in these areas, new institutions have been set up including the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy which was established in May 1982 or are in the process of being established such as Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre in Brazzaville, the Congo, and an East African Geothermal Institute.

9. Other energy development activities included assistance to the United Republic of Tanzania and the Upper Volta in the adaptation of biogas technology from India, projects related to new and renewable sources of energy using agricultural residues for the production of solid and gaseous fuels in the Sudan and the improvement of charcoal production in Somalia and non-conventional sources of energy projects in Benin, the Comoros, the Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania. Assistance to the petroleum development centre in Angola continued with a view to increasing the number of Angolan nationals to 50 per cent of all personnel in the petroleum industry by 1985, thus reducing the dependence on foreign personnel.

D. Technology

10. The African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM) and the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR) continued to make contributions to industrial manpower and technological development. Moreover, the African Regional Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology, inter alia, set up an industrial subcommittee in 1981 which will focus on technological needs during the Decade. Technological assistance was also given to member States in setting up national science and technology development commissions which include the definition of the role of the technological transfers in industrial development.

11. The Technology Group within UNIDO contributed to the formulation of national technology policies, plans and programmes; and held two national seminars, one on advanced technologies in Egypt and the other in Senegal on industrial technology. The Group assisted (i) Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Sudan in the formulation of appropriate regulatory mechanisms for the evaluation, screening and selection of foreign technology and the dissemination of indigenous technology, (ii) Egypt in the negotiation of a joint venture for a turnkey plant manufacturing glass containers for the pharmaceutical industry, and (iii) Kenya in a joint venture with Brazil on small-scale alcohol distillation plant. Other co-operative arrangements involved Sweden, Kenya and Egypt in metalworking and light industry sectors and the Netherlands and the Sudan in the food processing sector. Other assistance rendered included the development of documentation and information services designed to collect, process, store, retrieve and disseminate industrial and technical information.

E. Financial institutions and development

12. Activities undertaken in this area focused on further efforts, including consultations with the African Development Bank to establish the African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF) and carry out preparatory actions towards the creation of an African Monetary Fund in collaboration with the African Centre for Monetary Studies, the African Development Bank and the West African Clearing House. Owing to the significance of transnational corporations in the international flow of financial resources, two studies were undertaken, one on the code of conduct and the other on food and infant feeding industries.

13. The Investment Co-operation Programme of UNIDO promoted 13 projects in sub-Saharan Africa at a total investment cost of \$144 million; it has a current portfolio for East and West Africa amounting to an investment potential of \$4 billion; it has organized seven country presentation meetings in Africa in 1982 and has trained 12 officials from Africa attached to the various investment promotion offices in the promotion of investment projects related to their own countries.

F. Intra-African trade and co-operation

14. Three major initiatives in this area need to be highlighted by virtue of the large contribution they are expected to make to the Decade. The first of these is the preparation and adoption of protocols and draft treaty for the enlargement of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) by ECA, UDEAC, and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes which includes a strong protocol on industry with the objectives of the Decade fully reflected together with tentative programmes for the community.

15. The second and third are the current studies aimed at integrating economic groupings in the West African subregion and the assistance given to the Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa through their Committee on Industrial Co-operation in the preparation of the industrial programme of work for 1983 and other sectors by ECA which had been designated by member States as the interim secretariat of the PTA during 1982.

16. UNIDO assistance was provided in the field of export development in Kenya and in export-oriented investment promotion activities in Nigeria. It is currently engaged in providing preparatory assistance to the Industrial and Technological Promotion Fair organized by the Mano River Union and in a study on lack of exportable products in Africa in co-operation with UNCTAD/GATT (ITC).

II. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE SECRETARIATS

17. The establishment of national Operational Focal Points for harnessing and co-ordinating national efforts for the Decade and for facilitating inter-country co-operation and information flow to the three secretariats as well as any financial pledges and contributions to the Decade in the context of the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development to be held during the session of the Commission in 1983 would no doubt improve the resource capacity for the implementation of the Decade programme.