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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)**

Fourteenth meeting of the Conference
of African Ministers of Industry

Dakar, Senegal
22-23 October 1999

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-14) jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 22 and 23 October 1999. It was preceded by the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa which reviewed the progress made by African countries in their industrialization process in the context of globalization and made recommendations to the Ministers for adoption.

2. The meeting was formally opened by His Excellency Mr. Amadou Lamine Loum, the Prime Minister of Senegal. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, the Director-General of UNIDO, the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAU and the outgoing Chairman of CAMI.13 also made opening statements.

A. PARTICIPATION

3. Representatives of the following member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville) Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

4. The following regional and subregional organizations and intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), the African Development Bank (ADB), the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), *Organisation des commerçants, agriculteurs, artisans et industriels du Sénégal*, (Senegalese Organization of Traders, Agriculturalists, Artisans and Industrialists, OCAAIS) African Regional Centre for Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) and CNPG.

B. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

5. In his opening statement, the Prime Minister of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Mamadou Lamine Loum, said that the Government and people of Senegal were gratified to welcome the African ministers to Dakar, Africa's gateway to the world.

6. The Prime Minister observed that Africa was endowed with considerable natural and mineral resources. However, in terms of manufacturing value-added, its share in global production and distribution remained modest, amounting to barely 1% in 1998. Despite being the leading world producer of cocoa, coffee, tea, horticultural products, tropical wood products, gold and many other commodities, and despite having embarked upon structural reforms over the past two decades with

the objective of creating an enabling environment for competitive economies, Africa still lagged behind the rest of the world in industrial production. He noted that an excessive burden of external debt had weakened Africa's capacity to develop the necessary infrastructure for economic growth in the energy, transport and communications sectors as well as in human resources development. Although African governments had resolved since independence to develop various sectors of their economies including trade and industry, those efforts had yielded only modest results.

7. African governments, recognizing the importance of the private sector as an engine of growth, were committed to promoting private-sector development through appropriate consultative mechanisms at the country level between government and the private sector, with the support of UNIDO and within the framework of the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI).

8. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal stated that economic growth would, in future, increasingly depend on the sectors in which individual economies were able to gain competitive advantage. With the advent of the Internet and the globalization of markets, investment would follow wherever a technological advantage was perceived. He reminded the ministers of the WTO Ministerial meeting scheduled to be held at the end of November 1999, in Seattle, United States of America, and urged them to ensure that African interests in the domain of industrial development were highlighted and safeguarded at that forum.

9. The Prime Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Carlos Magariños, for the new impetus given to that organization and the high priority accorded to technical cooperation between UNIDO and the continent of Africa.

10. In her opening remarks, Ms. Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Senegal for hosting the Conference and to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal for presiding at its official opening. She observed that the Conference was being held at the close of the second and on the eve of the third millennium, and called upon African peoples, governments and leaders to address the challenges and grasp the opportunities that lay before them to integrate African economies into the global economy.

11. The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the structure of African economies had remained unchanged after four decades of independence. African agriculture had remained a subsistence sector incapable of producing any surplus that could lead to the development of agro-industries which, in turn, might contribute to poverty reduction by generating employment and incomes to the benefit of African populations. Industrial transformation had not occurred to any significant extent. Rather, the past 15 years had been characterized by deindustrialization in some cases. Moreover, national policies of African countries had not given due attention to the private sector. Only recently had the private sector been recognized as an engine of growth. Other constraints and obstacles that had impeded the industrialization of African economies included the lack of an appropriate environment, underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of capital and low entrepreneurial capacities.

12. The Deputy Executive Secretary also observed that the human resource factor was paramount in the development of any society. However, Africa lacked a critical mass of entrepreneurs needed to make the necessary linkages between agriculture and industry. To accelerate the economic development of the region, it was important for governments to help

entrepreneurs in their efforts to mobilize domestic resources to finance their development, and to make proper use of the resources received from external sources. In that regard, an important tool for industrial development in Africa remained the banking system, an instrument for mobilizing domestic and external resources and for directing credit towards the major productive sectors of the economy. She said that the success of the South-East Asian economies was due in part to the efficiency of their national financial systems, political stability, massive importation of technology and a national consensus on policy and economic choices.

13. Noting that globalization presented opportunities as well as challenges, the Deputy Executive Secretary advised African countries not to regard themselves as marginalized, but to strive to carve a niche for themselves in the global economy by mobilizing their entrepreneurial capabilities. In order to cope with globalization, Africa should promote good governance, create a stable macroeconomic environment conducive to investment and growth, develop and strengthen the private sector, establish a development-oriented financial system, develop institutional, scientific and technological capacities, and above all, develop industrial enterprise through the establishment of training institutions and programmes. She also stressed the importance of economic cooperation and industrial integration through subregional economic communities such as ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, ECCAS and UMA, which were important mechanisms for the development of a regional market for existing and future industries in Africa.

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary observed that Africa's industrial development would be helped by the right decisions made by Africa's policy-makers, with the support of Africa's development partners; and that CAMI.14 provided an opportunity for appropriate decisions to be made concerning industrialization in Africa.

15. The Director-General of UNIDO expressed his gratitude to the government and people of Senegal for hosting CAMI.14 and to ECA and OAU for playing the lead role in the organization of the Conference. He recalled the changes made within UNIDO and the various measures undertaken, which had resulted in cost saving to member States, elimination of hundreds of small projects and the introduction of an integrated-programme approach.

16. Those changes had resulted in renewed partnership with member States, increased donor confidence in UNIDO activities and a more direct involvement on the part of stakeholders in the formulation of country programmes.

17. The Director-General indicated that by December 1999, UNIDO would have almost 50 integrated programmes in all developing regions and economies in transition, with the lion's share of the programmes being located in Africa, and in particular, African LDCs. Member States were invited to play their part in the funds mobilization effort and in ensuring that the programmes achieved the necessary results. African countries must begin to lay the foundations for the next century in order to position themselves to face the challenges that would emerge in the new millennium. On the atmosphere of excitement occasioned by globalization, he stressed that Africa must not lose sight of the fact that the search for new markets and profits should be tempered by a sense of social responsibility and a new commitment on the part of the multilateral development system to ensuring equity, global ethics and inclusion of all in the development process. In that connection, he emphasized that as the determinants of competitiveness changed rapidly, the process of industrialization in general, and private-sector-led industrial growth in particular, should be underpinned not by natural resources endowment but by the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

18. The Director-General indicated that since the Lima Conference, poverty had deepened in Africa. The challenge for Africa was therefore how to manage globalization - - or, in other words, how to reap the benefits while minimizing the adversities. African countries must establish alternative partnerships that would constitute a new compact directed towards advocacy on the relevance of industrial development in poverty alleviation and sustained economic development. That kind of advocacy must be based on more thorough and rigorous economic analysis and effective articulation of the theoretical and empirical evidence on the correlations and interactions among the key determinants of economic transformation.

19. Economic reforms and some degree of openness or liberalization were prerequisites for sustained industrial expansion and structural transformation. All of those actions at the micro level required unequivocal commitment on the part of African leaders to supporting the private sector, taking the necessary steps to promote domestic savings and investment, and minimizing the risks and uncertainties besetting the commercial milieu in Africa. The Director-General drew the attention of the Conference to the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle, USA and stressed the need for a more comprehensive strategy to boost competitiveness in global markets, rather than merely focusing on cost and price criteria. Consequently, Africa must advocate for increased technical assistance to strengthen domestic production capacities, remove supply-side constraints and enhance market access. In order to ensure that African countries integrated more effectively into the global trading system, UNIDO had established a new strategic partnership with the WTO and invested some of UNIDO's technical assistance resources for industry-related trade issues within the WTO Integrated Framework for Least Developed Countries.

20. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Veejay Makhan, in his statement, paid tribute to Senegal's role in the definition, construction and consolidation of African unity. He stressed that industry in the developing countries and emerging economies alike was undergoing profound changes structurally and in terms of production strategies and that globalization presented a major challenge to the African economies and was continuing to widen even further the industrialization and technology gap.

21. The Assistant Secretary-General noted that there were three major challenges facing Africa. The first was the development challenge in the context of the advent of globalization. Africa should, in his view, be an active protagonist in the process of global integration if it was to avoid being marginalized or even excluded from the mechanisms of the modern economy. The second challenge was that of political and social cohesion; in that regard, he stressed political stability, good governance and the rule of law. The third challenge was that of unity and integration as factors promoting development and the enlargement of economic areas and markets. In order to meet those challenges, Africa needed to take the following steps: foster renewed unity, resolve its foreign debt problem, reverse the trend of capital flight, build an effective physical and institutional infrastructure, boost international competitiveness on the economic front, develop and strengthen the local private sector, expand the financial sector and develop national and regional stock markets. He stressed that rapid economic growth was the primary means of boosting employment and income levels and raising the standard of living of the African people. Accordingly, African countries should undertake a far-reaching process of socio-economic transformation.

22. The Assistant Secretary-General emphatically recalled that, after 13 sessions of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, Africa continued to contribute no more than an insignificant percentage of world industrial output and, in economic terms, was lagging behind the rest of the world despite its vast natural resources. He challenged some of the economic and

industrial development policies devised and formulated for African countries in circles outside the continent. He strongly recommended a review of the industrialization policies, programmes and projects of African countries in the interests of the African peoples. In that connection, he invited African governments to urgently take steps to formulate coherent and appropriate industrial development policies, and facilitate implementation by alleviating the constraints besetting investments with technological potential, and involve all partners and stakeholders, with an emphasis on the private sector.

23. A thorough evaluation of the activities of regional and international organizations was necessary, in order to gauge the extent to which they addressed the actual needs of the continent. Ideally, those organizations would develop and propose innovative approaches and viable strategies to contribute more effectively to the process of economic and industrial integration in Africa.

24. Finally, it was noteworthy that industrialization in Africa was viewed by the OAU as a foremost priority area, because the success of industrial policies in Africa would undoubtedly contribute to the desired economic development and integration; integration was the key—indeed, the springboard—to realizing Africa's potential as a world-class economic zone.

25. His Excellency Mr. Peter Wiafe Pepera, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana, delivered the message of Dr. John Abu, Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana, Chairman of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.13) who could not officiate personally at the fourteenth meeting of CAMI. On his behalf and on behalf of the Bureau of CAMI.13, he thanked the Government of Senegal for hosting CAMI.14. He also expressed his gratitude for the support he had enjoyed from fellow African Ministers of Industry over the previous two years, and to the Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Secretariat for their support to the Bureau of CAMI.13.

26. The Minister noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of the Group of Patrons of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, which was an indication of African leaders' commitment to the industrialization of the Continent. Industry being the keystone of any economy, every effort should be made to develop and strengthen cooperation and coordination between the industrial sector and other sectors of the economy.

27. The Minister hailed the important role UNIDO was playing in Africa, and particularly in the context of the integrated development programmes, which were based on the recipient country's own policies and plans. He underscored the enduring competitiveness necessitated by globalization, and the need to institutionalize government/private sector consultation at the highest levels of decision-making. He indicated that poverty could be reduced if efforts were made to diversify the production base of African economies, particularly through the expansion of manufacturing and other industrial activities. He stressed the importance of technology and skills transfer to cope with the new global paradigm of "knowledge and skills," as a source of comparative advantage. The Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Secretariat was urged to focus on those issues. The Minister brought to the attention of the participants the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be held in Seattle, USA, and urged the African countries that would be participating in it to be proactive in the decisions to be taken and strongly advocate for industrial development.

Election of the Bureau (agenda item 2)

28. The following Bureau was unanimously elected by the Conference:

President	:	Senegal
First Vice-President	:	Libya
Second Vice-President	:	Malawi
Third Vice-President	:	Angola
Ex-Officio Member	:	Côte d'Ivoire
Rapporteur	:	Madagascar

29. After his nomination as Chairman of CAMI.14, His Excellency Mr. Magued Diouf, Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry of the Republic of Senegal, made a brief statement in which he expressed his sincere gratitude for the honour and confidence placed in his country by conferring upon it the presidency of the Bureau of the fourteenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry. In an appeal to the consciences of all, he said that Africa should not only establish the basis for industrialization but should do so within the context of the globalization of trade in goods and services, failing which it might be completely marginalized in the international trade arena.

30. He further stated that, with the introduction of advanced technologies in production processes and with the increased importance of national networks of scientific and technological innovation in the development of new high-quality products, the gap between Africa and the rest of the world could further widen.

31. The Minister concluded that one of the main tasks before CAMI.14 would be to rally all the stakeholders in industry, government and the private sector, together with development partners, behind a unified vision, with a view to ensuring Africa's success in upgrading its industrial sector to achieve global competitiveness.

Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work (agenda item 3)

32. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Bureau of CAMI-13
5. Consideration of the report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa
6. Consideration of the report of the Conference on industrial partnership and investment in Africa
7. Date and venue of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-15)

8. Any other business
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting
10. Closure of the meeting

Report of the Chairperson of the Bureau of CAMI.13 (agenda item 4)

33. The Chairman of the Bureau of CAMI.13 presented his report to the meeting. He highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by CAMI.13 and gave an outline of the state of the industrial sector in Africa during his tenure of office.

34. The Hon. Minister recalled that CAMI.13, jointly organized by UNIDO, ECA and OAU, was held in Accra, Ghana from 26-28 May 1997. The Conference had been attended by representatives of 45 member States, United Nations bodies, subregional and regional organizations, and NGOs.

35. The Bureau of CAMI.13 consisted of Ghana, which had succeeded Botswana in the chairmanship; Gabon, Eritrea and Algeria as first, second and third vice-chairman, respectively; and Lesotho as rapporteur.

36. The Honourable Minister thanked the Government and people of Senegal for hosting the meetings and expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended to the participants. He then briefed the meeting on activities that had taken place, as follows:

Promotion of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI)

37. The Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI) was adopted by CAMI. 13 in May 1997 in Accra, Ghana and endorsed by the OAU Heads of State and Government in June, 1997 within the framework of the OAU Harare Declaration AHG/Dec.I.4 (XXXIII). The Harare Declaration was subsequently (December 1997) reiterated by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 52/207.

38. The First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the AAI, which was followed by a one-day symposium on the implications of the Asian crisis for Africa's industrial and trade prospects, was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 15-18 September 1998. It made the following recommendations:

- ◆ Each country should establish an industrial partnership council (IPC) as a mechanism for promoting public-private sector partnership and consultation;
- ◆ Each country should evolve an industrial vision and plan of action based on its specific needs and comparative advantages;

- ◆ An effective strategy should be defined at the national and international levels to promote and disseminate information on the AAI;
- ◆ To ensure effective resource mobilization for the AAI donors and key financial institutions should be informed about the Alliance, its goals and its Plan of Action;
- ◆ Innovative activities should be organized during the Africa Industrialization Day (20 November) to create awareness about Industrial development and the programmes of the AAI; and
- ◆ A conference of donors should be convened towards financing the various specific strategies and programmes envisaged in the context of the AAI.

39. At the First Meeting of the Patrons Group for Africa's Industrialization, held in Algiers, Algeria, on 13 July 1999, the Heads of State pledged to intensify the implementation of the AAI.

40. The Second Meeting of the Bureau of CAMI-13, held in Accra, Ghana on 3 September 1999 made recommendations relating to the orientation of Africa's industrialization, including in particular: recognition of efforts by UNIDO to implement the Plan of Action of the AAI, advocacy for the AAI at various international fora, the need for an effective organizational structure for the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, (CIPIA), invitation of the Chairman of the African Group in Vienna to CAMI-14 and CIPIA as special guest, and the need to define a suitable follow-up mechanism to CAMI.

Transformation of UNIDO

41. The involvement and participation of African Ministers of Industry and the African Group in Vienna, in the seventh session of the UNIDO General Conference culminated in the emergence, in December 1997, of a transformed UNIDO with a work plan defining its future role and functions. Broadly, the plan focuses on two main areas: strengthening industrial capacities through the promotion of investment, industrial policy advice, institutional capacity building and quality standardization and cleaner and sustainable industrial development through support programmes for environmentally sustainable industrial development.

Private Sector Representation on the Steering Committee

42. The incoming chairman of CAMI-14 was invited to endeavour to secure private sector representation in the Steering Committee in order to be able to contribute to the work of the committee and boost its role as an engine of growth in Africa's socio-economic development.

Africa Industrialization Day (AID)

43. The 1998 AID coincided with the Industrial Development Board meeting of UNIDO, in Vienna, Austria. The event, which falls on 20 November, gave the United Nations system and African countries an opportunity to rededicate themselves to supporting industrialization programmes in Africa.

The role of Côte d'Ivoire in the formative phase of the Steering Committee and Patrons Group

44. The role played by H.E. Henri Konan Bedie, President of Côte d'Ivoire, and by the Minister of Industrial Development and Small Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire, in the formative phase of the Patrons' Group of the AAI and its Steering Committee should be commended.

The way forward

45. The Hon. Minister proposed that the issue of continuation or otherwise of CAMI should be seriously addressed, with due attention being given to the key role of industry in socio-economic development in Africa. Accordingly, the industrial sector should be among the priority areas in the programme of work of OAU, ECA and UNIDO. The Hon. Minister called for effective cooperation between African Ministers of industry, the private sector, the Joint Secretariat and other collaborators to promote the Alliance so as to accelerate economic growth in Africa. He described the lethargic performance of African economies and concluded by noting that where other countries and regions had succeeded – by, among other things, converting comparative advantages into entrepreneurial competitiveness, removing infrastructural bottlenecks, promoting sub-regional integration and industrial cooperation, harnessing science and technology to accelerate productivity, improving information and communication technology, Africa too could succeed.

46. During the discussions on the issue of continuation or otherwise of CAMI, covered in the presentation of the President of CAMI-13, the meeting requested the Bureau of CAMI-14 to clarify the matter with ECA and report to the next meeting of CAMI, in Cameroon.

Consideration of the report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa (agenda item 5)

47. The Rapporteur of the fourteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole presented the report, recommendations and resolutions of the Committee. He reviewed the main items considered by the Committee, namely: (i) the report of the Joint ECA/UNIDO/OAU Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.13) and of the seventh session of the General Conference of UNIDO; (ii) the technical reports on the strategy for revitalizing private sector development in Africa, on the impact of globalization on industrial development in Africa and on the challenge of poverty reduction and sustainability in Africa as reflected in the ECA Economic Report; (iii) the African common position for the eighth session of the General Conference of UNIDO; and, (iv) the African Common Position on Globalization.

48. Regarding the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, the Director of the Africa Bureau in UNIDO enumerated the essential issues calling for the attention of the ministers as: the problem of worsening poverty, which called for effective countermeasures, the question of current industrial development trends, the role of the private sector in industrialization, and the strengthening of partnerships between the State and the private sector with a view to mobilizing industrial investment.

49. The Conference then considered the report of the experts, expressing a number of comments on its substance. The Ministers stressed the urgent need to adopt policy measures to strengthen the private sector. Despite its vast potential, Africa was sinking ever deeper into poverty

because it was continuing to export its raw materials without processing them. Africa needed to increase its share in world industrial output. Consequently, it was essential for Africa to accelerate economic development, particularly by engaging the active participation of all citizens. In order to achieve that objective, the technical and financial management of micro-enterprises and SMEs would have to be strengthened and the mobilization of local resources increased. The creation of an environment favourable to investment in Africa required the development of roads and communications infrastructure, and the creation of industrial zones; that would facilitate the establishment of business communities, improve the calibre of human resources, help combat corruption and strengthen management capacities.

50. Cancellation of the external debt would enable the funds thus freed to be allocated to the financing of socio-economic infrastructures.

51. The Ministers expressed their support for resolution 2 (XIV), «African common position on globalization», which was consistent with the Algiers resolution adopted by African ministers of trade in their preparations for the multinational trade negotiations scheduled to take place in Seattle, United States of America.

52. The Conference invited the international community to take into consideration, in its support to Africa, the adverse effects of the slave trade and two world wars.

53. The Conference adopted the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa, as well as the resolutions in annexure.

Consideration of the Report of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa (agenda item 6)

54. The Assistant Director-General for Africa and LDCs (UNIDO) presented a report on the activities undertaken during the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa (CIPIA). He indicated that the Conference had been formally opened on the afternoon of 20 October under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal. Statements had also been made by the Director-General of UNIDO and the Assistant Secretary-General of OAU. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA had read the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He informed the meeting that the Conference had consisted of three interrelated components, namely business meetings between African private - sector representatives and foreign entrepreneurs to discuss industrial partnerships; a forum on resource mobilization for technical cooperation programmes; and a series of panel discussions on various issues.

55. In all, 422 participants had taken part in CIPIA, including 130 from the private sector, 120 from government and governmental bodies, 130 NGOs, and others representing IGOs and universities. The following key industrial development issues were discussed in panel meetings:

- ◆ Forging partnerships for Africa's industrial development;
- ◆ Industrial project financing;
- ◆ Privatization and industrial partnerships in Africa;
- ◆ Financing of SMEs in Africa;

- ◆ Investment, environment, policies and incentives in Africa;
- ◆ Regional economic integration and investment promotion;
- ◆ Private sector capacity-building and promotion of entrepreneurship;
- ◆ Private financing of infrastructures; and
- ◆ Globalization and industrial development in Africa.

56. The representative of UNIDO also reported on the activities undertaken under His Excellency Mr. T. Ahoua Ndoli, Minister of Industry of Côte d'Ivoire and Chairman of the Steering Committee. He said that the Chairman of the Steering Committee had convened a meeting attended by Mr. Carlos Alfredo Magarinos, Director-General of UNIDO, and Ministers and Representatives from Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Senegal and the Sudan. That meeting had underscored the need for timely implementation of the decisions made by the Patrons' Group, and in particular with regard to:

- ◆ Finalizing the composition of the AAI Steering Committee so as to include private-sector representatives in each of the 17 countries and representatives from the African Business Round Table. Accordingly, the names of such representatives should be communicated to the UNIDO Secretariat as soon as possible in connection with the forthcoming UNIDO General Conference;
- ◆ Establishing an "Industrial partnership council" in each member country;
- ◆ Strengthening advocacy by UNIDO, ECA, OAU, ADB and other partners to promote industrialization in Africa;
- ◆ Mobilizing funds for the implementation of the AAI Plan of Action implementation;
- ◆ Organizing two round tables to strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa, on the promotion of agro-industries, and the development of SMEs/SMIs.

57. The closing session of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa was presided over by H.E. Mr. Magued Diouf, Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry of Senegal, with the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the AAI, the Director-General of UNIDO, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAU, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, and the President of CNES in attendance.

58. The Assistant Director-General of UNIDO highlighted the fact that about 70 private companies had taken part in CIPIA. In that regard, new approaches and mechanisms needed to be developed to foster industrialization in Africa, along the lines of the Africa-Asia Investment Promotion Centre in Malaysia, a project financed by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNIDO. Further, he appealed to partners in the industrialized countries to assist in capacity-building for African partners.

59. The Chairman of the Steering Committee of the AAI said that the organization of CIPIA constituted an important step in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the AAI. He thanked the Government of Senegal and the Joint Secretariat for organizing the Conference, and more particularly for taking care to include a number of critical issues in the various panel discussions. He congratulated the Director General of UNIDO for having allocated US\$20 million dollars for the launching of national integrated programmes in 15 African countries, more than half of them LDCs.

60. The Chairman of the Conference thanked the Joint Secretariat and all organizers for having put together the Conference at such short notice. New ideas had emerged from the various panel discussions, on the basis of which follow-up measures could usefully be set in motion. He stressed the need for African countries to urgently implement the AAI Plan of Action, launch the third round of reforms, and give particular attention to the development of the service sector.

Dates and venue of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry
(agenda item 7)

61. Under this agenda item, the representative of Cameroon made a statement inviting the Conference of African Ministers of Industry to hold its fifteenth session in Cameroon. The invitation was unanimously accepted by the meeting. The Bureau of CAMI.14 and the Joint Secretariat of ECA/OAU/UNIDO would subsequently approach the government of Cameroon to agree on the dates.

Any other business (agenda item 8)

62. Under this agenda item, no other matter was raised.

Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 9)

63. The Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry was adopted unanimously after consideration by the Ministers. The meeting requested the Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Secretariat to take into account all the amendments in the finalization of the Report to be sent to all member countries and organizations that had participated in the deliberations of CAMI-14.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 10)

64. The closing session started with a vote of thanks (Annex IV) by the Honourable Minister from Guinea, Mr. Madikaba Camara, to H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and the Government and the people of Senegal, for hosting both the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa and the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry. The Honourable Minister hailed, in particular, the warm hospitality and the excellent preparations and measures taken by the Government of Senegal to ensure the success of the meeting.

65. The Representative of ECA assured the Ministers of the unconditional support of the Commission to the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, despite its decision not to participate in the organization of CAMI after the year 2002. The private sector and partnerships in sustainable

development constituted a priority area for ECA, and the Commission would endeavour to ensure the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions of CAMI-14. She thanked the Government and the people of Senegal for their hospitality to the ECA team throughout their sojourn in Dakar.

66. The Representative of UNIDO stressed the importance of industry as an engine of sustainable development and indicated that the themes covered during the meeting, and the recommendations and resolutions adopted, had come at the right time, in that African countries now had the opportunity to take the necessary measures to ward off marginalization of their continent in a globalizing world at the dawn of the 21st century. He thanked H.E. President Abdou Diouf and the people of Senegal for their hospitality and the efforts made to ensure the success of the Conference on Industrial Partnership and Investment in Africa and CAMI-14.

67. The Representative of OAU underscored the importance of industry in the development process and informed the meeting that industrialization remained a priority area in the programme of the Organization. Dialogue between partners in development was very important for the success of Africa's industrialization. He thanked the Government and people of Senegal for the hospitality and efforts made to host CAMI-14.

68. The Honourable Minister from Sudan drew the attention of his colleagues and all participants to the importance of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry as a forum for dialogue and the exchange of ideas on economic growth and industrialization in Africa. In the same vein, he requested the Joint Secretariat and the international community to extend their support to African industry. He further informed the meeting that his country was willing to host the sixteenth meeting of CAMI.

69. In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, Mr. Maguef Diouf, Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry of Senegal, said that Senegal had been pleased and gratified to host CAMI-14 in Dakar and hailed the high level of debate as being indicative of the importance African countries attached to industrial development. The Conference presented an opportunity for considering the crucial issues relating to Africa's economic and industrial development and for seeking solutions to the problems connected with poverty as well as globalization. The Minister invited African countries to formulate policies and strategies designed to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions of the meeting.

70. Finally, the Minister urged the regional and international organizations such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank to act as veritable of Africa in its development efforts. He thanked all participants for their valuable contribution to the debates of the meeting and for their support to the Bureau, and the Joint Secretariat of ECA/OAU/UNIDO as well as the technical staff for the formidable efforts they had made to make CAMI an outstanding success.

71. The Minister officially closed the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, on 23 October 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

**REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS
OF THE WHOLE ON INDUSTRIALIZATION IN AFRICA**

Dakar (Senegal), 18 and 19 October 1999

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa, jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 18 and 19 October 1999, to prepare the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.14).

2. The meeting was formally declared opened by His Excellency, Mr. Magued Diouf, Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry of Senegal. The representatives of the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Director-General of UNIDO and the Secretary-General of OAU also made opening statements.

A. PARTICIPATION

3. Representatives of the following member States participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

4. In addition, the following regional and subregional organizations and intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: the African Development Bank (ADB), African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and the *Organisation des commerçants, agriculteurs, artisans et industriels du Sénégal* (Senegalese Organization of Traders, Agriculturalists, Artisans and Industrialists, OCAAIS).

Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

5. In opening the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa, His Excellency Mr. Magued Diouf, Minister of Energy, Mines and Industry of the Republic of Senegal, welcomed the delegations and recalled the various important steps that had been taken by African countries since the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.10) held at Dakar in 1991, namely: the adoption of the programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II) by CAMI-10; the adoption of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community by the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Abuja in 1991; and the adoption of the New Agenda for Development in Africa in the 1990s, by the United Nations General Assembly.

6. The Minister made reference to the globalization-related challenges facing African States, and, in particular, emphasized that the new information and communication technologies would constitute the main engine of economic growth and of improved competitiveness and standards of living. He also emphasized the importance of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, which was to be held in parallel with the meeting of experts and the Conference of Ministers of Industry, within the framework of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. The Minister underscored the crucial role of direct investment in Africa and of domestic resources in economic growth and the development of Africa.

7. The Minister acknowledged the presence of subregional, regional and international institutions at the meeting of experts and thanked the Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Secretariat for its invaluable assistance in the holding of the fourteenth session of CAMI. He challenged the experts to propose to the ministers concrete recommendations for accelerating industrial development in Africa.

8. The Minister expressed the wish that the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole would be a success entirely.

9. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Director of the Development Management Division of the Commission welcomed the participants to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa and expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of Senegal for the excellent facilities and the warm hospitality accorded to the participants since their arrival in Dakar.

10. The Representative of ECA noted that the Uruguay Round agreements had led to intensified competitiveness as a central feature of international trade. In order to avoid further marginalization, Africa needed to become more productive and more competitive, and to make the best possible use of the trade opportunities offered by market liberalization and globalization. To that end, African countries should accelerate industrial development by formulating and implementing policies and strategies designed to boost the private sector, build and sustain private/public sector partnership, enhance community participation, harmonize production processes and institutional structures, develop technological and entrepreneurial capabilities, mobilize financial resources and develop industrial information systems at the national, subregional and regional levels.

11. The representative of ECA concluded by stating that sustained growth and economic transformation required, among other factors, steady and adequate flows of domestic financial resources and new investment in the form of foreign direct investment (FDI), as well as official development assistance from Africa's development partners.

12. The Assistant Director-General of UNIDO for African Affairs referred in his opening statement to the significant reforms undertaken by UNIDO following the adoption by member States of the Business Plan in December 1997. He pointed out that the Business Plan gave utmost priority to technical cooperation programmes in Africa and in the least developed countries (LDCs). The requirements of the Business Plan coincided to a large extent with those of the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI). On the basis of that convergence, UNIDO had since July 1998 undertaken, in collaboration with 15 African countries, the formulation of integrated technical cooperation programmes. Eleven other programmes were in the process of formulation.

UNIDO had also allocated US\$13 million from its own resources for those programmes and had been able to mobilize US\$20 million from donors. He expressed the hope that the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa (CIPIA) would further contribute to the mobilization of more resources for those programmes.

13. Referring to the recent economic liberalization and macroeconomic stabilization policies adopted by African countries, he cautioned against the assumption that such policies would automatically lead to private sector development and bring about industrial development in Africa. He emphasized that private-sector-led industrial development would require effective partnerships with, and support from, the public sector. It would also require concrete measures at the micro level that could stimulate capacity-building at the enterprise level and underpin solid groundwork for the establishment of partnerships between the local private sector and foreign investors. A major aim of the CIPIA, which was being convened as part of the Conference of Ministers, had been to contribute to that process, and he expressed the hope that it would result in the promotion of durable partnerships – in both the public and private sectors – for Africa's industrialization.

14. The OAU representative welcomed the participants and, on behalf of the Secretary-General of OAU, thanked the Senegalese Government and people for having offered to host the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa as well as the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI.14).

15. The OAU representative recalled that the first phase of the implementation of the African Economic Community, which consisted in strengthening the institutional and operational framework of the regional communities, had been completed. That had enabled Africa to embark on the second phase, namely that of trade liberalization, the gradual harmonization of customs duties, the strengthening of sectoral integration and the co-ordination and harmonization of various activities among existing and future economic communities.

16. The OAU representative underscored the problems of lack of political will among member States, internal conflicts and an external environment adverse to Africa, all of which imposed serious constraints on regional development and cooperation and accentuated the marginalization of the continent.

17. A range of activities had been embarked upon under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission in support of industrial development and integration. A meeting of African energy experts, for instance, was due to take place in Cairo, Egypt, in mid-December 1999 for the purpose of examining proposals for the establishment of the African Energy Commission (AFREC). He also recalled the meeting of the Patrons Group of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, held in Algiers, Algeria, in conjunction with the OAU summit conference. During that meeting, the Patrons Group had adopted a final communiqué in which member States undertook, *inter alia*, to set up national industrial partnership councils (IPCs) at the national level.

18. The OAU representative drew the participants' attention to the conclusions of the meeting held at Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 8 and 9 September 1999. The conclusions related, *inter alia*, to the establishment of the African Union.

19. Concerning the challenge of poverty in Africa and the urgency of mobilizing funds for investment, it was imperative to formulate effective financing and investment policies in order to halt and reverse the current trend of capital flight from Africa. It was also essential to create a favourable environment for the private sector in general and industrial development in particular.

20. The OAU representative invited Africans to deploy every effort to achieve greater solidarity, understanding and unity within a wider community of peoples, transcending cultural, ideological, ethnic and national differences.

Election of the Bureau (agenda item 2a)

21. The Committee unanimously elected the following Bureau:

President	:	Senegal
First Vice President	:	Libya
Second Vice President	:	Malawi
Third Vice President	:	Rwanda
Rapporteur	:	Madagascar

22. After the election of the Bureau, the outgoing Chairman of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa delivered a statement underscoring the fact that, since the last CAMI meeting in Accra in May 1997 (CAMI.13), various key issues, such as globalization, competition, privatization and enhanced information technology, had come to the fore in the global trade and investment milieu.

23. He decried Africa's declining share of world trade and its limited share of flows from foreign direct investment (FDI).

24. The outgoing Chairman acknowledged the potential importance of industrialization in averting Africa's marginalization and its role in all aspects of development, ranging from the production of food, clothing and shelter, to employment generation, health and rural development. Therefore, he looked forward to industrialization being fully recognized as being vital to development in Africa during the experts meeting, CIPIA and the CAMI ministerial meetings.

25. Finally, in handing over the chairmanship to the Government of Senegal, he paid tribute to the Joint OAU/ECA/UNIDO Secretariat and the Government of Senegal for their support and commitment to industrialization in Africa.

Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work (agenda item 3)

26. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Election of the Bureau;

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
4. Report of the Joint ECA/UNIDO/OAU Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-13) and the seventh session of the General Conference of UNIDO;
5. Consideration of technical reports:
 - (a) Strategy for revitalizing private sector development in Africa;
 - (b) Impact of globalization on industrial development in Africa;
 - (c) Economic Report on Africa 1999: The challenge of poverty reduction and sustainability in Africa.
6. Progress report on the implementation of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC; the Abuja Treaty) ;
7. Advance briefing on the Conference of industrial partnerships and investment in Africa;
8. African common position for the Eighth General Conference of UNIDO;
9. African Common Position on Globalization;
10. Date and venue of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-15);
11. Any other business;
12. Adoption of the Report;
13. Closure of the meeting.

Report of the Joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Secretariat on the implementation of the decisions and resolutions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the seventh session of the General Conference of UNIDO (agenda item 4)

27. The representative of UNIDO presented the Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 52/208 and the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA-II)". The document focused on the following areas:

- ◆ Current trends in economic and industrial development in Africa, and

- ◆ Main challenges facing the industrial sector in Africa in the context of globalization.

28. In addition, a set of a structural adjustment measures and complementary stabilization policies highlighted the weakness of the industrial sector of the majority of the African countries. Nevertheless, no coherent strategies specifically applicable to the industrial sector had been articulated.

29. One of the foremost challenges facing the manufacturing sector in Africa related to the transformation of traditional comparative advantages into gains in competitiveness. It was therefore imperative to take the following measures in particular:

- ◆ Increased accessibility of scientific and technological information;
- ◆ Elimination of bottlenecks due to infrastructural inadequacies resulting in increased transport costs for primary commodities as well as finished goods;
- ◆ Restoration of linkages between large enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing the latter with the necessary resources to facilitate their transformation into true partners vis-à-vis the large enterprises;
- ◆ Introduction of new financial instruments and mechanisms more suitable for the financing of SMEs;
- ◆ Review of the parameters for the adoption by African enterprises of the requisite environmental standards for acceptable production for export; and
- ◆ Optimum utilization of human resources through appropriate training policies and a more systematic use of modern technologies in order to substantially increase the productivity of labour and improve the quality of manufactured products.

30. During the discussion which followed the presentation of the document, participants emphasized the need to relate the recommendations in the report to the various resolutions adopted at CAMl.13.

31. Concerning the African Common Position, it was stressed that, with respect to leadership positions in international organizations, the resolution pertaining to presenting and supporting a single African candidate to such positions should be implemented as a matter of absolute necessity.

Report on the strategy for revitalizing private sector development in Africa (agenda item 5a)

32. Introducing document E/ECA/CAMl.14/ICE/99/3, the representative of ECA stated that the study was focused on the formulation of strategies for poverty reduction through sustainable and equitable growth driven by the private sector.

33. Analysing the economic situation in Africa, he pointed out that despite the political will of African leaders and the efforts deployed, the structure of the African economy as a whole had not changed in qualitative or quantitative terms. It was broadly characterized by a very weak production structure based on by inappropriate technologies, a preponderance of subsistence economic activity and trading, economic fragmentation, excessive dependence of national economies on external markets and imported production factors, inadequate institutional capacities and continuous degradation of the physical environment.

34. Over a ten-year period, almost all African countries had adopted a series of institutional and economic reforms designed to liberalize, the economy, improve the incentives structure for economic agents and assigning a greater role to the private sector in development. Those efforts were beginning to bear fruit but were accompanied by painful social measures. The liberalization of domestic markets had generally encouraged the expansion of the private sector. The newly privatized or corporatized enterprises had been impelled to streamline their production methods, thus generating greater efficiencies.

35. In order to avoid marginalization within the context of globalization, Africa needed to formulate and apply appropriate strategies harnessing the private sector as the engine of growth and industrialization. In order to be competitive, Africa had to overcome several obstacles, including: the lack of a conducive environment for private sector development; the low level of development of physical infrastructures and of economic and industrial activities; weak institutional structures; inadequate funding; and the weakness of local entrepreneurship. The nature and magnitude of those obstacles varied from country to country.

36. He drew the attention of participants to the successful experiences undergone in the development of the private sector in the countries of South East Asia, which could provide a model for African countries in elaborating their own strategies for revitalizing the sector.

37. In the debate, participants stressed the need to further develop mechanisms for co-ordination and co-operation between the public and private sectors designed to achieve:

- ◆ Greater involvement of the private sector in the formulation and implementation of economic policy;
- ◆ Regular exchanges of views between the two partners with the aim of facilitating the resolution of problems affecting the private sector; and,
- ◆ dynamic co-operation between the public and private sectors in the development process, based on the search for a greater convergence of interests and on effective sharing of rules and responsibilities according to the respective capabilities of each party.

38. It was noted that foreign direct investment in Africa was concentrated mainly in the petroleum and mining sectors and to a far lesser extent in manufacturing. The participants encouraged African businessmen to invest in the industrial sector, in general, and in the agro-industrial sector, in particular, and to strengthen their marketing capabilities. Africans should take

risks by investing in industrial production rather than confining themselves to low-value-added investments. Greater production in the agricultural sector would help to attract investors towards the various subsectors of agro-industrial processing, both upstream and downstream.

39. Taking up the subject of the experience of South East Asian countries, one participant suggested that the Secretariat might indicate examples of success in Africa, which could serve as models. He was informed, in response, that such examples were contained in the report on current trends, approaches and strategies for private-sector development in Africa, made available to the meeting in document E/ECA/CAMI.14/ICE/99/8.

40. The participants recommended that the African countries pay particular attention to strengthening the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and to co-operation between the public and private sectors. Accordingly, it was considered appropriate to deploy the strategies set out below:

- ◆ Adoption by Governments of measures aimed at promoting competitive entrepreneurship through sound macroeconomic policies, an effective judiciary and creation of an institutional environment conducive to the success of business enterprises;
- ◆ Creation of national, regional and international networks designed to assist the private sector in gaining access to markets, technology and other opportunities;
- ◆ Sufficient focus on local research and technology in order to consolidate the achievements of industrialization; and,
- ◆ Improvement of Africa's image.

Impact of globalization on industrial development in Africa (agenda item 5b)

41. The representative of UNIDO presented the paper entitled "Africa Industry 2000: Managing Globalization". In his presentation on the challenge of globalization, the UNIDO representative stressed that reversing the marginalization of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) required strong industrial growth. A new approach to industrialization was called for, entailing diversification of SSA manufacturing, as well as enhanced regionalization and more active participation in the globalization process through trade and investment. At the same time, it was stressed that investment – a key to industrial growth – was both inadequate and inappropriate, a fact that had further contributed to SSA marginalization. Of particular concern was the decline in public investment in certain sectors, such as physical infrastructure, which had contributed to the weak performance of private sector investment.

42. As a major new economic player South Africa had the potential to contribute to the growth of the southern African economies. To that end, South African companies had to diversify their economic activities in Africa more extensively.

43. A new awareness of competitiveness had emerged with governments playing an important role in enhancing competitiveness through (i) improving infrastructure to reduce transaction costs,

(ii) enhancing governance, (iii) promoting science and technology, (iv) creating comparative and competitive advantages by means of industrial policy, (v) strengthening the private sector, (vi) creating an enabling environment for private sector development, and (vii) facilitating the catalytic role of FDI in building competitiveness.

44. The representative of UNIDO stressed that it was more difficult to emulate Asia's success today owing to stronger competition and the diminished importance of low labour costs. Furthermore, the emergence of the big five (China, India, Brazil, Indonesia and Russia) as competitors relying on labour-intensive exports, as well as the difference in prior conditions in the pre-industrial take-off period in Asia compared with the current position in SSA, made emulation of the Asian experience more difficult.

45. On the issue of how Africa could manage globalization, it was stressed that the key factor was clearly competitiveness. Countries that were more competitive grew faster in a globalized economy. However, globalization was narrowing the policy options and effectiveness of traditional industrial policies. Trade liberalization exposed African markets to stronger domestic and export market competition. A new policy response was called for.

46. In that context, the role of government would need to focus on fostering: (i) competitiveness; (ii) training and skill development; (iii) foreign direct investment; (iv) industrial governance; (v) enabling environment; (vi) domestic competition; and (vii) public private sector dialogue and cooperation.

47. In spite of the difficulties of replicating Asia's success, some elements of the Asian industrial policy experience remained valid. The policy and the critical mass-holistic approach were complementary and were both called for. A dynamic industrial strategy was essential. Competitiveness required constant upgrading and technological advances.

48. In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- ◆ High profit rates in SSA were associated, inter alia, with investments in low-risk ventures;
- ◆ Tangible results of FDI in Africa included transfer of technology, skills, market access and participation in the global value added chain;
- ◆ The need was stressed for identifying the critical factors for industrial progress and their quantitative requirements for industrial policy formulation; and,
- ◆ It was important to identify the links between poverty reduction and the requirements for manufacturing growth in order to achieve the targets of development;

Economic Report on Africa in 1999: the challenge of poverty reduction and sustainability in Africa (agenda item 5c)

49. Introducing the agenda item, the representative of ECA said that the challenge of poverty reduction was not a new item on Africa's policy agenda. African leaders had been preoccupied with the problem since independence. However, and in spite of all efforts, poverty had been growing in both intensity and breadth, so much so that what was once a regional issue had turned into a global concern.

50. The need to reduce poverty in Africa has been highlighted in a number international forums, including the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995, and the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in October 1998 in Tokyo, Japan. More recently, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had deliberated on the issue and taken it up as a major developmental challenge.

51. Although both African governments and their development partners had committed themselves to reduce poverty by half by 2015, the issue of what it took to realize that noble objective had not been examined. It was that issue that UNECA's Economic Report on Africa 1999 focused on.

52. On the basis of the available data, the Report estimated the level of poverty in Africa at 44 per cent of the total population. The problem was less pronounced in North Africa, where only 22 per cent of the total population lived in absolute poverty, while the comparable figure for SSA was 51 per cent.

53. In order to reduce that level of poverty by half by 2015, the Report estimated a required rate of GDP growth of 7 per cent per annum over the target period. The required rates of growth at subregional levels were 6 per cent for North Africa, 8 per cent for West and Eastern Africa, 7 per cent for Central Africa and 6 per cent for Southern Africa.

54. The ECA representative further pointed out that, in order to realize that rate of growth, Africa needed to increase the volume of investment from an average of 15 per cent of GDP to 33 per cent per annum. The required volume of investment at the subregional level was 21 per cent of GDP for North Africa, 37 per cent for West Africa, 49 per cent for Central Africa, 46 per cent for Eastern Africa and 38 per cent of GDP for Southern Africa.

55. Exploring the issue of financing, the ECA representative informed participants that domestic saving could cover 15 per cent of the total regional investment required, which left a gap of 18 per cent of GDP. At the subregional levels those gaps amounted to 5 per cent of GDP for North Africa, 29 per cent for West Africa, 34 per cent for Central Africa, 38 per cent for Eastern Africa and 18 per cent of GDP for Southern Africa.

56. On the issue of how those gaps were to be closed, the ECA representative explored two possible external sources - namely those relating to official development assistance (ODA) flows and FDI. With respect to ODA flows, the participants were informed that the historical volume averaged 9 per cent of GDP. Reflecting on the future ODA, the participants were informed that the prospects

for increased flows were not bright and that it was more likely to decline because of "aid fatigue" on the part of donors, as well as increased competition from countries such as the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Even if the future flows of ODA remained at their historic average of 9 per cent, that still left a gap of 9 per cent of GDP to be bridged.

57. Another possible source of finance explored by the representative of ECA was FDI. In that regard, he pointed out that the share of FDI flows to Africa was not only small but was declining. Participants were informed that, in addition to being small in size, the flow was also inequitably distributed, favouring the mineral-rich countries.

58. Concerning other sources of financing the gap between available and required resources, the ECA representative informed participants that there were two possible avenues - reversing capital flight and increasing domestic savings. With respect to capital flight, the participants were further informed that Africa provided two types of capital to the rest of the world - human and financial capital. Both resources were required for the region's development, and ways and means were needed to reverse those flows. But in the short to medium term, those resources were unlikely to be available to African countries.

59. With respect to domestic savings, participants were informed that such an option was unlikely to be available, given that the level of income was too low to permit the mobilization of a higher volume of saving.

60. In exploring other sources of financing, the ECA representative suggested that Africa had to rely on its own resources and that, among the immediate options available, two were worth looking at seriously: creating a policy and institutional environment conducive to assisting the private sector in assuming greater developmental responsibility; and improving the productivity of existing resources.

61. Participants thanked the representative of ECA for his presentation, which gave them deeper insight into the problem of poverty. However, a question was raised as to why he had limited his focus to foreign direct investment and ODA, excluding other forms of external resource flows, such as export credit, which might yield different results. It was also pointed out that the debt problem had not been explored in the analysis or in the presentation.

62. In reply to those observations, the representative of ECA noted that flows such as export credit were of a short-term nature and that what Africa needed was long-term flows. With respect to other sources of financing, for example private sector credit, he pointed out that very few African countries had access to such sources, hence the importance attached to ODA. With respect to external debt, the ECA representative pointed out that the financing requirements did not include debt-related flows, which would have further exacerbated the situation. The point made in the Economic Report was that, even if the external debt were cancelled in its entirety, Africa would still need foreign aid in order to increase investment and reduce poverty.

Progress report on the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (the Abuja Treaty) (agenda item 6)

63. The Committee examined the document entitled "Progress report on the Implementation of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the Africa Economic Community" which was introduced by OAU. The paper reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty since CAMI.13. The document indicated, among other things, activities undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), the decisions and recommendations adopted by the seventeenth ordinary session of the Council of OAU and the creation of the Patrons Group and the Steering Committee for the Alliance for the Africa's Industrialization.

64. The representative of OAU/AEC noted that the first five-year phase of the implementation of the Treaty establishing the AEC, focused on accelerating African continental integration, had passed. That stage, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in order to make them effective pillars of the AEC, would be followed by the subsequent stage focused on trade liberalization, harmonization of customs procedures and integration of sectoral policies. He observed that since CAMI.13, the Economic and Social Commission of the AEC had met on three occasions, the last meeting having been held in June 1999, and that its decisions and recommendations had been adopted by the third ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government in Algiers, Algeria, held from 12 to 14 July 1999.

65. He stressed that the Conference of Heads of State and Government had given directives on a number of issues as follows:

- (i) Cooperation between the AEC and RECs: the AEC and the RECs should take appropriate measures to strengthen their cooperation and coordinate their activities in line with the relevant articles of the Treaty and/or the Protocol on the Relations between the AEC and the RECs;
- (ii) Consultative Forum of African Parliamentarians: the General Secretariat of the AEC should take appropriate steps to convene a meeting of African Parliamentarians; and
- (iii) Free movement of persons: the Assembly urged member States to comply with the second AEC Summit decision that "officials of RECs and the AEC Community, holders of official travel documents of these institutions should be exempted from visa requirements during travels within member States".

66. On issues relating to Industrial Development and Energy, the OAU/AEC representative explained that the Assembly had directed that:

- (i) Priority should be accorded to the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization and, in particular, the programmes on advocacy and resource mobilization;
- (ii) Priority should also be accorded to the harmonization and coordination of industrial development policies at regional level in the first instance, and at the continental level in the second instance, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and competition; and

- (iii) The General Secretariat should take appropriate steps to organize a meeting of African energy experts before the end of 1999, in order to review the proposals for the establishment of an African energy commission, and to submit proposals to ECOSOC on the best approach to the creation of such a commission.

67. In response to issues raised by some delegates on the strengthening of RECs and whether that had been achieved, the representative of OAU/AEC explained the process of strengthening the capacities of the RECs would continue into the second phase, as they were at different stages of development.

68. Considering the report to be informative, the meeting took note with appreciation of the decisions and regulations adopted by the OAU/AEC decision-making organs.

Advance briefing on the Conference on Industrial Partnership and Investment
(agenda item 7)

69. The holding of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa was the follow-up to resolution 3 (XIII) of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry: "Mobilization of funds for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. The Director-General of UNIDO had been requested to organize, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of ECA and Secretary-General of OAU, a meeting of donors for which the lead agency would be the African Development Bank (ADB). The ADB would work in close collaboration with the World Bank, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with a view to financing of programmes elaborated within the framework of the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization.

70. The concept of the donors' meeting was then expanded into a conference on industrial partnerships and investment in Africa, which was approved by the First Meeting of the Patrons Group of Heads of State of the Alliance, organized in conjunction with the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Summit of OAU Heads of State, held at Algiers in July 1999. The Committee welcomed the action and personal contribution of their Excellencies, the Presidents of Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire for the holding of the Conference of Ministers and the Patrons' meeting.

71. The Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment would be held in Dakar on 20 and 21 October and would be attended by representatives of government, the private sector and bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as of regional and subregional co-operation and financing institutions. A forum would also be organized at the conference for the purpose of discussing problems relating to the industrialization of Africa, and meetings would also take place for the discussion of business opportunities with a view to establishing partnerships. Finally, countries with integrated programmes formulated with the assistance of UNIDO would give detailed presentations of those programmes for the benefit of partners present at the meeting.

African Common Position for the eighth General Conference of UNIDO, Vienna, December 1999 (agenda item 8)

72. The document entitled "African Common Position for the eighth General Conference of UNIDO" was presented by the representative of the OAU/African Economic Community. He informed the meeting that the eighth General Conference of UNIDO would be held on the eve of the 21st century, when Africa would be facing an international situation dominated by globalization, technologies, communication and information systems, integration of international financial and trading markets, and changing systems and methods of production.

73. He highlighted programmes that had been initiated by the Joint Secretariat of the OAU/ECA/UNIDO such as the industrial development decade (IDDA) and the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI). He then indicated that Africa needed strong international partnerships, such as it already had with UNIDO, to achieve industrialization.

74. The representative of the OAU/AEC dwelt on four issues on which Africa should take a common position:

- (i) Priority to be given to Africa's industrial development – the meeting supported the proposal, emphasising that the Solemn Declaration should go further than other programmes and focus on resource mobilization;
- (ii) Reform of UNIDO – the proposal was supported with the proviso that CEMAC would be added under paragraph 12 (iv);
- (iii) Field Representation – the meeting requested that additional information should be provided on the number of UNIDO offices already in place in Africa. It was also agreed that the Least Developed countries should receive priority when these offices are allocated; and,
- (iv) Recruitment of Africans within the UNIDO Secretariat – this item was adopted with an understanding that UNIDO would make use of the available African expertise (consultancies, engineering firms, training, etc.) within the context of the implementation of technical assistance programmes and other development activities.

75. In concluding the agenda item, the Committee endorsed the document and agreed that the comments and concerns raised would be incorporated to constitute a new and revised "African Common Position for the eighth General Conference of UNIDO".

76. Resolution I(XIV) on African Common Position for the eighth General Conference of UNIDO is attached as annex III to this report.

African Common Position on Globalization (agenda item 9)

77. The Nigerian delegation drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that Africa's economy with its weak structure was prone to be a dumping ground for cheap goods. He recalled that the Uruguay Round agreements and WTO had put in place safeguarding measures in favour of

the developing economies. A campaign of sensitization among African countries on the adverse impact of globalization was therefore necessary. He suggested that the issue be brought before the Committee.

78. The Committee decided to set up a working Group composed of Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and UNIDO to draw up an African position for consideration by the meeting.

79. The Resolution 2(XIV) on African Common Position on Globalization is attached as annex IV to this report.

Date and Venue of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-15) (Agenda item 10)

80. The Committee decided that the issue would be discussed at the ministerial level of CAMI-14.

Any other business (Agenda item 11)

81. The delegation of Cameroon raised the issue of the existence of CAMI after 2002. This issue had been removed from the Agenda of CAMI-14 by the second meeting of the Bureau of CAMI.13 and would be submitted to the Bureau of CAMI-14.

82. Recalling the recommendation of CAMI-13 on strengthening of African SMEs as an engine of growth, the Nigerian delegation referred to the outcome of the subregional forum on SMEs enterprises held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 5 to 7 October 1999 which mandated the Honourable Federal Minister of Industry of Nigeria to formally present the Report of the Forum to CAMI-14 meeting. Accordingly, Nigeria would submit the recommendations to the ministerial meeting of CAMI-14.

83. The Committee requested the Secretariat to make available the documents of the experts' and CAMI meetings six weeks before the holding of CAMI.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 12)

84. The Committee considered its report, which it adopted with a few amendments.

Closure of the meeting (agenda item 13)

85. In his closing statement, the Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence it placed in him and the Bureau as well as for the support he received from all participants. He underscored the importance of the themes discussed during the two days and indicated that the decisions of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa are important steps in the search for economic growth and sustainable development of the continent. He stressed the crucial importance in implementing the decisions and recommendations arrived at during the meeting. He then declared the meeting closed.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting issued the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) For African countries to prepare themselves for globalization and a highly competitive world economy, they should develop a vigorous domestic private sector capable of playing a key role in the process of industrialization. In order to succeed in their endeavours, African countries needed to have a decisive influence on a number of development policy instruments, including, in particular, an independent monetary policy and a banking system in which the domestic private sector was overwhelmingly present, thus enabling national development policy to rely primarily on internal funding;

(b) Given that, historically, the countries successful in industrialization had first succeeded in their agricultural development, African countries should invest heavily in establishing a restructured, modern and commercially oriented agricultural sector in order to lay the foundations for a sound economic takeoff;

(c) In order to reverse sub-Saharan Africa's marginalization, robust industrial growth combined with a new approach involving diversification of the region's industrial sector, enhanced regionalization and more active participation in the globalization process through trade, domestic and foreign investment and strategic business alliances was crucial;

(d) In order to facilitate their entry into the mainstream of globalization, African countries should focus on the following objectives: improving conditions for competitiveness; encouraging foreign investment; stimulating macroeconomic growth; adopting coherent industrial policies; incorporating the socio-economic dimension; expanding markets; diversifying trade links; and developing infrastructure;

(e) To promote industrial development, African countries should improve the business environment, particularly by effectively combating corruption.

(f) In order to manage globalization and enhance competitiveness, African countries should mobilize themselves by (i) improving infrastructure with a view to reducing transaction costs, (ii) strengthening industrial management, (iii) promoting technological progress, (iv) strengthening training and skills development, (v) creating comparative and competitive advantages by means of industrial policy, (vi) strengthening the private sector, (vii) creating an enabling environment for private sector development, (viii) facilitating the catalytic role of FDI in building competitiveness, and (ix) fostering public/private sector dialogue and cooperation;

(g) The meeting reiterated its strong support for the new UNIDO as the lead international agency cooperating with developing countries in their efforts to achieve an effective and sustainable industrial development process.

(h) The principal challenges facing the manufacturing sector in Africa are related to the transformation of traditional comparative advantages into gains in competitiveness. It is therefore imperative to take certain number of measures to:

- ◆ Increase accessibility of scientific and technological information;
- ◆ Eliminate bottlenecks due to infrastructural inadequacies resulting in increased transport costs for primary commodities as well as finished goods;
- ◆ Restore links between large enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing the latter with the necessary resources to facilitate their transformation into true partners vis-à-vis the large enterprises;
- ◆ Introduce new financial instruments and mechanisms more suitable for the financing, in particular, of SMEs;
- ◆ Review the parameters for the adoption by African enterprises of the requisite environmental standards for cleaner production; and,
- ◆ Optimize utilization of human resources through appropriate training policies and a more systematic use of modern technologies in order to substantially increase the productivity of labour.

RESOLUTION 1 (XIV)
AFRICAN COMMON POSITION FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANISATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Industry,

Bearing in mind the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which came into force on 12 May 1994,

Concerned about the impact of the globalization and liberalization of the world economy on the fragile economies of the African countries, exacerbated by the growth in external indebtedness, the collapse of commodity prices and the reduction, in real terms, of resource flows to Africa,

Determined to ensure that the industrial sector makes an effective contribution to economic recovery, lasting development and the integration of Africa, which is the least industrialized continent and has the largest number of least developed countries,

Stressing the essential role that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization plays in industrial promotion and cooperation for and among the developing countries,

Aware of the necessity of maintaining, strengthening and increasing the financial resources of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to enable it to continue to respond effectively to the needs of the developing countries in general and the African countries in particular,

1. **Adopts** the African Common Position for the eighth Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. **Expresses** its firm support for the strengthening of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, whose role is crucial in support of the industrialization of Africa, and its profound concern at the threats facing that Organisation, which should, on the contrary, be strengthened and adequately financed;

3. **Requests** the Chairman of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, in close cooperation with the African Group in Vienna and the Organization of African Unity, and in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, to take all appropriate measures with a view to safeguarding the interests of the African countries in the process of negotiations at the eighth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

4. **Invites** all African countries to participate in the eighth General Conference of UNIDO and in particular requests them to defend, actively and effectively, the interests of the African countries;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide the necessary assistance to the African delegations to the eighth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and,

6. **Further requests** the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to communicate the report of the 14th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, including the African Common Position, to all Members of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and to submit it as an official document to the eighth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to be held at Vienna in December 1999.

AFRICAN COMMON POSITION FOR THE EIGHTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO, VIENNA, DECEMBER 1999

1. The eighth General Conference of UNIDO is being held on the eve of the Third Millennium when the African Continent is confronted with a world economic situation characterized by globalization, the unprecedented world-wide emergence of advanced technologies and communication and information systems, the integration of international financial and trading markets, and the transformation of systems and methods of production.

2. In spite of the efforts made, Africa still faces a very serious crisis. The continent has in the field of industrialization, prepared for itself, some institutional programmes and mechanisms capable of laying down a genuine policy of co-operation and creating an environment favourable for investments. Prominent among these are the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization (AAI), as well as the Patrons Group and Steering Committee for the AAI. Africa also needs a strong international partnership to develop along the road to industrialization through the transformation of its vast natural resources.

3. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is one of the international agencies that are well-placed to support the industrialization efforts of African countries. The eighth General Conference of UNIDO should give priority to Africa's industrial development by providing it with human and material resources to that end.

A. General Assessment and Consideration

4. The industrial sector has grown by 3.2% in 1998, which is a decline compared to the 3.8% growth of 1997. One of the reasons for this decline in growth has been the decline of investments flow during the period 1997-1998 from 2.5% to 2%. Another reason is the lack of competitiveness due mainly to low productivity in Africa's industrial sector.

5. Consequently, the eighth General Conference of UNIDO offers an opportunity for African states (public and private sector) and the international community to define, elaborate and conceptualize industrial policies and strategies in response to the challenges, risks and opportunities of the globalizing world:

- (i) For Africa to be able to compete and participate effectively in the globalizing world economy, there has to be a policy reorientation with greater emphasis accorded to industrialization;
- (ii) This new policy orientation is the indispensable strategy of regional integration and cooperation with the objective of building strong internal markets for the promotion of intra-African competition, as a stepping stone for entry into the global arena; and,
- (iii) The promotion of industries, especially the manufacturing industries, geared towards exportation and insurance of their competitiveness in order to realize Africa's economic integration into the emerging global economy.

6. While the above policy is mainly the responsibility of the African Governments and the private and public sectors, the eighth General Conference should strongly request the Director General of UNIDO to support the efforts of the African Governments in this direction and give priority to the implementation of the policy.

7. The policy of the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the international banking system play a big role in the industrialization or de-industrialization of the developing economies in general and of Africa in particular (ex. Rates of interest, exchange rates, debt issue management, lending conditions, etc.) The eighth General Conference of UNIDO should invite the Director General to study and assess the impact of the Bretton Woods institutions on Africa's industrialization profile and make adequate recommendations. The activities of UNIDO with regard to resource mobilization for industrialization should take this issue into account.

B. Priority to be given to Africa's Industrial Development

8. With a view to doubling Africa's share of the global industrial production during the new millennium, the eighth General Conference of UNIDO should adopt a solemn declaration committing itself to give priority to industrial development in Africa during the 21st century, and in particular, through the following measures:

- (i) Take all necessary measures to reverse the current trend characterized by a downslide in direct investment in Africa, by supporting the efforts of African countries to remove all extraneous constraints and obstacles to investment inflows to Africa and more effectively promoting the establishment of partnerships between African and foreign industrial enterprises;
- (ii) Initiate all necessary measures to boost investment and foreign-technology-related development efforts across the continent; and,
- (iii) Take all necessary measures to mobilize financial resources at the level of the international community with a view to enabling UNIDO to promote and implement industrial development programmes and projects in African countries over the next two decades and underscoring the crucial role of recipient countries in the process of mobilization of funds for programmes.

C. Reform of UNIDO

9. UNIDO has undergone a far-reaching and satisfactory transformation, enabling it to play a significant role in the preparation during 1998/1999 of fifteen integrated national programmes within the framework of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation.

10. The continued existence and permanence of UNIDO should no longer be questioned. On the contrary, the role and responsibilities of UNIDO within the framework of Africa's industrial development and the creation of industrial partnerships between Africa and the rest of the world should be recognized, encouraged and strengthened.

11. UNIDO should be provided with adequate financial resources for the implementation of the country programmes prepared within the framework of the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation in accordance with the provisions of item 4, sub paragraph iv.

12. The eighth General Conference of UNIDO should call upon the Director General to:

- (i) Continue to give high priority to technical co-operation programmes in Africa;
- (ii) Prepare programmes for other African countries which have not yet been covered by the integrated national programmes;
- (iii) Intensify, in close co-operation with OAU, ECA and ADB, advocacy for industrial investment in Africa and promote financial support in favour of the integrated national programmes prepared within the framework of the Plan of Action of the AAI, by means of bilateral contacts and visits to donor countries;
- (iv) Prepare, in close co-operation with OAU and the African Regional Economic Communities (SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEMAC, UEMOA, AMU, IGAD etc.) integrated sub regional and regional industrial development programmes and projects within the framework of the African Economic Community and the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization;
- (v) Expand the utilization of the available African expertise (consultancies, engineering firms, training, etc.) within the context of UNIDO interventions.

D. Field Representation

13. African countries have a veritable interest in the ability of UNIDO to contribute effectively to the implementation of their respective industrial policies, programmes and projects.

14. In this connection, the eighth UNIDO General Conference should call on the Director-General to:

- (i) Strengthen the capacity and role of that agency's offices abroad by providing sufficient financial resources for that purpose;

- (ii) Increase the number of UNIDO offices in Africa-currently around 16-by establishing new ones, so that eventually they should be at least 35 country directors for Africa; priority should be given to the LDCs;
- (iii) Make the effective and judicious implementation of industrial policies programmes and projects in Africa a major priority.

E. Recruitment of Africans within the UNIDO Secretariat

15. Africa is the least represented region in terms of the number of staff working within the UNIDO Secretariat. It is also the least represented with regard to appointments to senior positions. The eighth General Conference of UNIDO should call on the Director-General to:

- (i) Increase markedly the number of African staff members within UNIDO through appropriate recruitment; and
- (ii) Increase significantly the recruitment and promotion of African staff to senior positions within UNIDO.

**RESOLUTION 2 (XIV):
AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON GLOBALIZATION**

The Conference of African Ministers of Industry:

Noting that the majority of African countries are signatories of the Uruguay Round Agreement and are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO),

Recognizing that the current multilateral trade system is unbalanced and thus runs the risk of accentuating further the marginalization of Africa, with resultant severe repercussions on poverty, food insecurity and other social conditions,

Aware of the fact that the implementation of WTO rules might have adverse implications on Africa's economic development, particularly in the industrialization of the continent in terms of capacity building for industrial competitiveness,

Requests African countries to promote sustainable industrial growth through expansion, diversification and deepening of the manufacturing sector,

Strongly requests African countries to formulate strategies for the development of the private sector within the context of Africa's regional integration efforts, improvement of the conditions for competitiveness and promotion of foreign direct investment.

Invites African countries to:

(a) **Strongly support** and reinforce current trade negotiations with a view to ensuring a favourable environment for development of African industry;

(b) **Assess** and review the impact of existing international rules, agreements and efforts to industrialize Africa with a view to removing obstacles to accelerate industrial takeoff;

(c) **Solicit** international support for establishing conditions for successful industrialization in terms of infrastructure and services and enhancing political stability;

(d) **Solicit** debt relief from creditors nations and to facilitate utilization of such funds for domestic infrastructural and social development;

(e) **Reiterate** support and re-emphasize the position of the Ministers of Commerce taken at Algiers in September 1999;

- (f) **Promote** strong industrial growth in order to reverse Africa's marginalization in the context of globalization;
- (g) **Enhance** capacity and capability of African industry to compete both in domestic and external markets;
- (h) **Solicit** international support for the efforts of African governments to establish peace, security and good governance in order to attract foreign investment;
- (i) **Consolidate** and develop intra-African integration at the sub-regional and regional levels in different sectors – industry, finance, communications and commerce;
- (j) **Enhance** competitiveness through stimulating macroeconomic growth, improved infrastructure, reduced transaction costs, better industrial governance, promoting technological upgrading; strengthening human capital;
- (k) **Create** an enabling environment for private sector development; facilitate foreign direct investment; promote mutually supportive industrial policies.

Vote of Thanks

Participants attending the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-14) held in Dakar, Senegal from 22 to 23 October 1999,

1. Express their deep gratitude to the government and people of Senegal for hosting the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, thus demonstrating their commitment to African development and cooperation.
2. Deeply appreciate the warm hospitality accorded to all participants since their arrival to Dakar, the land of "Teranga", and the excellent preparations and facilities made available to the Conference.
3. Express the hope that the decisions of CAMI-14 will contribute to the reduction of poverty that continue to increase in Africa and will pave the way for Africa to face the challenge of globalization.
4. Request the Chairman of the Bureau of CAMI-14 to transmit this vote of thanks to H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal.

**14TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY (CAMI.14)
DAKAR, SENEGAL, 22-23 OCTOBER 1999**

**14^{ME} CONFERENCE DES MINISTRES AFRICAINS DE L'INDUSTRIE (CAMI.14)
DAKAR, SENEGAL, 22 - 23 OCTOBRE 1999**

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