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**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

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**Meeting on Identification of Industrial Development Priorities and  
Sub-regional Co-operation in the context of the Second IDDA for  
the Eastern and Southern African Subregion  
(Jointly organized by UNECA and UNIDO)**

**Layashi YAKER,  
United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of  
the Economic Commission for Africa.**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**16 - 19 December 1993**

Mr. Chairman,

Your Excellency, Mr. Girma Yigebru, Vice Minister of Industry

of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia,

Representative of the Organization of African Unity,

The Representative of UNIDO,

Distinguished Participants,

Dear Colleagues of the United Nations System,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you all to the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to participate in the first follow up meeting for the implementation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. I am particularly grateful to H. E. Mr. Girma Yigebru, Vice-Minister of Industry of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia for having kindly accepted to open and to preside over the opening ceremony of the meeting, in spite of his busy schedule. His presence today is not only a clear testimony of the continued support of Ethiopia to the Commission's activities, but also provides the opportunity for the meeting, to benefit from his guidance

May I also extend my thanks to my colleague Mr. Mauricio de Maria y Campos, Director-General of UNIDO for the conviction and

commitment he has shown, since he took office, to improving and strengthening cooperation not only between his organisation and UNECA but also among the three organizations of the joint ECA/OAU/UNIDO Committee on the implementation of the performance for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Indeed, such commitment is demonstrated in the manner in which UNIDO has cooperated in the direct organization with UNECA of this meeting as well as similar meetings for West, Central and North African sub-regions.

Honourable Minister,  
Distinguished participants,

As you will recall, the major thrust of the regional component of the second IDDA programme is regional integration and cooperation as central instrument in accelerating the pace of industrialization. In this regard, the tenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, adopted the Dakar Declaration on Industrialization and Economic Integration in Africa in which African governments committed themselves to implementing policies and measures that will ensure maximum linkages within the industrial sector, and bring about increased vertical and horizontal integration of industrial structures at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. These include, in particular, coordination and harmonization of industrial policies, programmes and

projects among countries and subregions within the context of existing sub-regional economic structures. The Dakar Declaration was further underscored by the Mauritius Declaration which called on all African countries to take concrete policy, institutional and other measures to ensure full implementation of their national and sub-regional programmes for the second IDDA. The Mauritius Declaration particularly stressed the necessity to establish an enabling environment for the development of the private sector and the attraction of substantial investment resources in the priority areas of the programme for the second IDDA.

It is in this context that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, jointly with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as part of their respective 1992/1993 work programmes, organized four meetings as follow-up on the implementation of the sub-regional programme for the second IDDA. Three such meetings were already held in the West, Central and North African subregions. As for the previous ones, the objective of the present meeting is to review the industrial development priorities of the Eastern and Southern African Sub-region, with a view to achieving economies of scale especially in the establishment of basic industries. The meeting's major task is therefore to assess and analyze the sub-regional and country industrial development priorities, with a view to come up with concrete and implementable proposals. I would like to emphasize, however, that the identified priorities can only be

implemented if countries individually or collectively will work out modalities to accord serious consideration to the provision of an enabling environment.

On its part, in order to enhance the sub-regional component of the second IDDA programme, UNECA is presently carrying out promotional activities of ten sub-regional projects in each subregion. To that end, high-level consultants were recruited from member States to assist them define means and ways to implement the sub-regional projects agreed upon during previous meetings. As you may be aware, three of the ten projects are located in Eastern and Southern Africa. I am, hopeful that, at the conclusion of the activities underway, the member States concerned will have acquired the necessary technical advice on their implementation.

Honourable Minister,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is expected to benefit from the experience of participants in sub-regional co-operation. In addition, the two Secretariats have prepared background documentation on identification of industrial development priorities and co-operation in the context of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa for the Eastern and Southern African sub-region. I am, therefore, convinced that this

meeting will contribute in assisting the Eastern and Southern African subregion in concretizing further the areas of industrial development co-operation. As you are aware, such efforts are part and parcel of the over-all perspective of regional integration ascertained in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.