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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA
Executive Summary

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA
(Executive Summary)

Introduction

1. The progress report on IDDA is prepared jointly and submitted by the secretariats of ECA, OAU and UNIDO. It summarizes the activities of the three secretariats undertaken in accordance with the priorities for the Decade within the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action. The three secretariats have a joint committee to facilitate co-operation among themselves and with other international and regional organizations.

Intersecretariat co-operation

2. At the outset of 1984, the joint activities of the three secretariats were governed to a large extent by the organization of the seventh Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts of the Whole, as well as the preparation of proposals for the African common position on issues discussed at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO.

3. Particular attention was also paid to following up the four subregional meetings on the promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation and preparing a programme for promotion of projects identified for multinational implementation. Work continued throughout 1984 on further refinement of these programmes at sub-regional level. Assistance was provided to main intergovernmental organizations in each subregion and briefs on selected projects and on modalities of implementing them were prepared and forwarded to the countries concerned for further action.

4. A programme of future assistance to African countries was submitted to UNIDO IV as well as the implementation of the programme financed from the \$1 million allocated by the General Assembly to UNIDO from overall savings in the United Nations regular budget. Plans have been laid to utilize further allocations made to both ECA and UNIDO secretariats by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. The allocation to ECA is to enable it and its MULPOCs to assist member States at the subregional level in their consultations, negotiations and investment promotion of multi-country projects. The annual work programme at the OAU will also reflect the emphasis pertaining to the Decade.

Subsectoral programmes

5. The ECA and UNIDO secretariats have, individually or jointly, initiated or undertaken activities in support of the member States to implement selected projects in various industrial subsectors. In so doing, emphasis was placed on meeting the priorities established for the Decade, in particular on the need to contribute to the strengthening or establishment of core industries at national and subregional levels. The subsectors covered include : agro- and agro-based industries (food processing, leather and leather products, textiles); forest-based industries (wood processing); building materials and construction industries; chemical industry (pharmaceuticals and fertilizers); metallurgical industry; and engineering industry. A directory on project profiles on opportunities for development of small-scale industries was revised and expanded to cover additional new products.

Factor inputs

6. Both UNIDO and FCA have undertaken activities related to development of energy, including the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in various African countries. Assistance given in respect of mineral resources and other industrial factor inputs covered a wide range of requirements.

7. FCA, OAU, UNIDO, UNCTAD^{1/} and UNESST^{2/} jointly organized a meeting on the identification and application of relevant new technologies for the implementation of the programme for the Decade. Particular attention was given to the development of manpower capabilities and managerial skills in the region. A number of extensive training programmes were carried out in a broad spectrum of fields ranging from small-scale industry through quality control to development banking. Training activities directed towards women in industry as well as studies in that field were undertaken.

8. Work continued on complementary technical co-operation activities in the field of industrial enterprise management. The national experiences gained in both the private and public sectors will be applied to other countries in the region while training courses offered by such institutes as IDEP will have an increasingly important role to play.

9. In the field of industrial planning, the secretariats issued guidelines and criteria and provided assistance to the countries on establishment of a strong and integrated industrial sector, efficient and capable of contributing to rapid and sustained economic development. Emphasis has been placed on promoting industrial co-operation as a means of overcoming the constraints arising out of limited resources and markets.

10. Activities in the field of investment promotion were practically expanded in the course of the year, with no less than three investment promotion meetings envisaged for the region within a twelve month period. Discussions were also held with the African Development Bank on the implementation of Decade-related projects, while a draft agreement for the management of the African Industrial Development Fund (AIDF) was drawn up and will be presented to the Boards of Governors of ADB and AIDF respectively for their approval.

11. So as to complement the technical assistance provided in project preparation, attention was also given in particular to upgrading local skills in the application of advanced project identification, preparation and evaluation methods. Steps were also taken to assist in improving the work of intergovernmental organizations such as the PTA for Eastern and Southern Africa, CEPCL and UDEAC as well as the Federation of African Chambers of Commerce.

^{1/} UNCTAD (United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development)

^{2/} UNESST (United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development)

12. Publications and extensive promotional work which help to popularize the Decade were undertaken during the period under review. The promotional work ranges from the preparation of special supplements through workshops for specific target groups to the making of films. In addition, industrial policy and research studies, such as a new statistical series, studies on resources-based development in selected African countries and a number of industrial development reviews were prepared in relation to the Decade.

13. Within the efforts to promote economic co-operation among developing countries, the lead secretariats endeavoured to co-operate with other agencies and organizations in Decade-related projects. Further to such United Nations agencies as FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, WHO and the World Bank, joint activities are envisaged with AIDC, AIHTP, ARCFDEM, OIC and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

14. It must be noted that despite extensive range of projects and the financial mechanisms used to fund the IDDA programmes and projects, the amount to support the role of the secretariats in assisting the member States still falls short of the regions' requirements.