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Implementation of the Industrial Development
Decade for Africa

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the action taken by UNIDO to contribute to the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The report was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980.

ANNEX

Report of the Executive Director of the United
Nations Industrial Development Organization

1. The present report was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 35/66 B of 5 December 1980, in which the Assembly proclaimed the 1980s the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and, inter alia, (a) supported the establishment of a co-ordination unit within UNIDO for the Decade; and (b) requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to initiate appropriate contacts with the organs of the United Nations system in order to contribute to the success of the Decade and to report on the action taken, through the Industrial Development Board, at its fifteenth session, and the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1981, to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

2. The report that follows is submitted on the sole responsibility of the Executive Director of UNIDO. It has been agreed between himself and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that future reports on the subject will be joint reports prepared on behalf of UNIDO and ECA.

3. The Executive Director of UNIDO submitted to the Industrial Development Board (IDB) at its fifteenth session a report entitled "Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990: UNIDO activities related to the preparation of a programme for the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action" (ID/B/261/Add.6). The report, which is submitted to the General Assembly in the appendix to the present report, presents a discussion, in the light of recent and pertinent General Assembly resolutions, of the mandates and activities of a special task force set up within UNIDO on the Decade. The activities include the formulation of a programme to assist African countries in reaching the targets established in the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/14, annex).

4. After consideration of the report at its fifteenth session, IDB adopted a resolution on the subject, a/ the operative part of which read as follows:

"1. Declares the Industrial Development Decade for Africa to be one of the most important programmes of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

"2. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to provide adequate resources, including human resources, for the co-ordination unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/36/16), annex I, resolution 53 (XV).

"3. Calls upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to intensify contacts with the African States, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, and other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in order to contribute actively to the success of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and to report on the action taken to the Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session;

"4. Requests the General Assembly to allocate adequate financial resources to assist in the rapid industrialization of Africa, within the scope of the Lagos Plan of Action (A/S-11/14, annex), with particular reference to the least developed countries, as from the 1982-1983 biennium."

APPENDIX

Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990: UNIDO
activities related to the preparation of a programme for the
implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action a/ b/

Report of the Executive Director

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a/ Previously issued as document ID/B/261/Add.6.

b/ The Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa was adopted on 29 April 1980 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session devoted to economic matters.

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with (a) General Assembly resolution 35/66 B of 15 December 1980, paragraph 4, and (b) the Permanent Committee and Industrial Development Board conclusions of 17 October 1980 c/ referring to paragraph 6 of Board resolution 51 (XIV) of 19 May 1980.
2. It will be recalled that the Board at its fourteenth session recommended that the General Assembly at its eleventh special session should take the necessary decisions with regard to proclaiming the 1980s as the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (resolution 51 (XIV), para. 2). The Board also requested the Executive Director to report to the Permanent Committee at its fourteenth session in autumn 1980 on the launching of the Decade and to submit his proposals for UNIDO's contribution to fulfilling the Decade's objective, including as appropriate the establishment of a sub-programme component and adequate financial provisions as requested (ibid., para. 6).
3. In October 1980, the Permanent Committee had before it, inter alia, a note on developments related to the launching of the Decade, d/ as well as proposals submitted by the Executive Director for a revised UNIDO work programme for 1981 and consequential proposals of the Secretary-General, each with a separate section on the Decade. e/
4. In its conclusions, the Committee noted that although Board resolution 51 (XIV) had been considered by the Assembly at its special session in August/September 1980, no formal resolution had been passed on the Decade. It therefore requested the Executive Director to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to that situation in order that the Assembly might pass the relevant resolution at its thirty-fifth session. The Committee also recommended that the report envisaged in Board resolution 51 (XIV), paragraph 6, should now be submitted to the Board at its fifteenth session. f/
5. The above conclusions were adopted by the Board at its second special session. g/
6. On 15 December 1980, the General Assembly - recalling Board resolution 51 (XIV) and noting, inter alia, the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its second

c/ ID/B/249, para. 126; A/35/16, vol. III, para. 15.

d/ ID/B/C.3/102.

e/ ID/B/C.3/99, paras. 54-63; ID/B/C.3/99/Add.1, annex, paras. 11-12.

f/ A/35/16, vol. III, annex, paras. 125-126 (ID/B/249, paras. 125-126).

g/ A/35/16, vol. III, para. 15.

extraordinary session h/ and by the Council of Ministers of that organization at its thirty-fifth ordinary session i/ to take appropriate measures to implement the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa j/ - adopted resolution 35/66 B, proclaiming the 1980s as the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

7. In that resolution, the Assembly called upon UNIDO and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in close co-operation with the OAU, to formulate proposals to implement the programme for the Decade and to monitor its progress. It further supported the establishment of a co-ordination unit or group within UNIDO for the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to provide the appropriate resources. The Assembly also requested the Executive Director of UNIDO and the Executive Secretary of ECA to initiate contacts with other bodies of the United Nations system in order to contribute to the success of the Decade and to report on action taken - through the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981 - to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

8. In the Secretary-General's statement on administrative and financial implications of the draft of what was later to become resolution 33/66 B, the assessment of the manpower needed was given as follows:

"The Secretary-General estimates that two Professional posts (one P-5 and one P-3) and one General Service post would be required to form the nucleus of the co-ordination unit. The head of the unit (P-5) would be responsible for the co-ordination of all UNIDO activities in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Decade, in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa. He would also be the Chairman of a task force on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The next Professional post (P-3) would be required to assist the head of the unit in carrying out the functions of the unit. The two Professional staff would require secretarial assistance to be provided by the General Service post." k/

9. By resolution 35/226 A on the revised budget for the biennium 1980-1981, the Assembly approved an increase under section 17 (UNIDO) of \$5,252,100. Of that sum, \$93,900 were additional appropriations called for under resolution 35/66 B, paragraph 3, to enable the Organization to perform its role in the preparation and implementation of the Decade (see para. 8 above).

10. The General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session also adopted resolution 35/64, on special measures for the economic and social development of Africa in the 1980s. In that resolution, the Assembly expressed its grave concern at the

h/ Lagos, 28-29 April 1980.

i/ Freetown, 18-28 June 1980.

j/ A/34/552, annex I, resolution CM/Res.722 (XXXIII).

k/ A/C.5/35/66, para. 5.

critical condition of the economies of most African countries, but recognized the useful contribution that the effective execution of the Lagos Plan of Action could make to the rapid over-all social and economic development of those countries. The resolution also, inter alia, invited the various organs of the United Nations, in consultation with the OAU and the ECA, to indicate in a comprehensive manner in their next annual reports to the Economic and Social Council the contributions they could make to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action.

I. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY UNIDO

11. In 1980, the Executive Director established a Task Force on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The purpose of the Task Force was to formulate an integrated programme of action - to be initiated by UNIDO in co-operation with ECA and OAU and other United Nations bodies - to assist African countries on the design and implementation of industrial policies and programmes to attain the targets established in the Lagos Plan of Action, i.e. at least a 1 per cent share of world industrial production by 1985 and 1.4 per cent by 1990. These targets being consonant with the Lima target, the Task Force was requested to deal with both their technical and financial implications for the Decade. Towards this end, it was to assist:

(a) In formulating an integrated programme of action-oriented studies and research into Africa's industrial development problems, to be undertaken at country, subregional, regional and sectoral levels;

(b) In formulating guidelines for UNIDO technical assistance activities in Africa and defining a special programme of action to assist the African countries in industrial planning and investment at the national, subregional, regional and sectoral levels;

(c) In assisting the African countries to establish facilities for the exchange and dissemination of industrial and technological information within Africa and with the international community;

(d) In promoting industrial and technological co-operation among developing countries within and without Africa, with due regard to the needs of the African least developed countries;

(e) In assisting African countries in mobilizing funds for investment in industry at appropriate, and if possible at concessionary, terms;

(f) In assisting in harmonizing the contributions of UNIDO to the co-operative and co-ordinated efforts of the United Nations development system and intergovernmental African institutions. (In this context, particularly close links would be maintained with the secretariats of the ECA and the OAU.)

(g) In making recommendations for further mobilizing the activities of UNIDO's operational units in order to achieve the effective and timely implementation of agreed programmes and projects for the Decade;

(h) In monitoring the progress of Decade-related activities, and in submitting reports to the Executive Director twice a year in this connexion.

12. The Task Force has undertaken a critical analysis of UNIDO's past and current technical assistance activities in Africa, with a view to drawing up an action-oriented programme for the Decade. In order to obtain a more clearly conceived design for the technical assistance programme and the possible re-orientation of UNIDO's future activities, it was considered necessary to translate the industrial aspects of the Lagos Plan of Action into an operational programme of action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. At a later stage, when the programme has been thoroughly discussed by the organizations concerned, as well as by senior African planners, and has been approved by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, which is co-sponsored by the ECA, the OAU and UNIDO, and endorsed by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU, an intensive programme of project development will be undertaken in Africa at the national, subregional and regional levels. The projects will be determined by the African countries themselves, in accordance with their own development plans and priorities as related to the Lagos Plan of Action.

13. On 18 and 19 March 1981, the Executive Director convened in Vienna a high-level expert working group on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, at which representatives of the ECA, the OAU and UNIDO discussed the preparation of an outline for a joint programme to assist the African countries in the implementation of the Decade.

14. The Executive Director has also contacted the heads of organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, requesting their ideas and contributions with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 35/64 and 35/66 B.

15. The Board will be informed of further developments in due course.

II. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

16. The Industrial Development Board is requested to take note of the present report.
