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UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the
United Nations Industrial Development Organization as
a Specialized Agency

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, held at Lima from 12 to 26 March 1975, adopted the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation (see A/10112, chap. IV), paragraph 69 of which recommended that UNIDO should be converted into a specialized agency of the United Nations. The General Assembly, by section IV, paragraph 9, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, endorsed this recommendation and established an intergovernmental committee of the whole to draw up a constitution for UNIDO as a specialized agency for submission to a conference of plenipotentiaries to be convened by the Secretary-General.
2. The Committee to Draw Up a Constitution for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency held four sessions between January and November 1976 (see A/31/405, annex), and a fifth session from 7 March to 2 April 1977 (see A/32/182, annex I) following the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 31/161 of 21 December 1976 extending the mandate of the Committee to enable it to complete its work. In the course of these sessions the Committee formulated, subject to indicated reservations and disagreements relating to certain passages, the text of a draft constitution for UNIDO (Ibid., appendix 1), as well as texts of several resolutions to be adopted together with that Constitution (Ibid., appendix 2) and the text of a draft resolution on transitional arrangements to be proposed for adoption by the Assembly (Ibid., appendix 3). Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2113 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977, the Assembly, by its resolution 32/167 of 19 December 1977, decided to convene the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency at United Nations Headquarters for a period of three weeks, beginning on 20 February 1978.

3. The United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency met at United Nations Headquarters from 21 February to 11 March 1978. At the conclusion of its session it adopted a report (A/CONF.90/12).

4. At its final plenary meeting, held on 11 March 1978, the Conference adopted the following recommendation addressed to the General Assembly:

"The United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency,

Having given careful and detailed consideration to the draft instruments prepared by the Intergovernmental Committee of the Whole to Draw up a Constitution for UNIDO as a Specialized Agency,

Being unable to reach agreement and thus to complete its work within the allotted time,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to bring its report to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-third session;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly that it consider the report and take such action as it deems appropriate."

5. Subsequently, the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session, held from 16 to 27 May 1978, discussed the subject of the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency and adopted the following conclusion for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session:

"The Board noted with regret that the United Nations Conference on the Establishment of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as a Specialized Agency, held in New York from 20 February to 10 March 1978, failed to conclude its work. Recalling that the conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency was recommended at the Second General Conference of UNIDO over three years ago and that the objective had been unanimously endorsed at the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1975, the Board emphasized that action to realize the objective should be expedited, taking into account the urgency of converting UNIDO into a specialized agency as a means of enhancing its administrative independence and operational efficiency and effectiveness." 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/33/16), para. 213.