



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

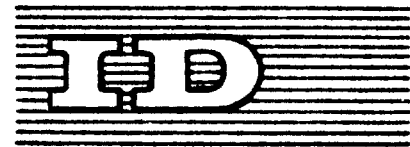
CONTACT

Please contact publications@unido.org for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at www.unido.org



D03277



Distr.
LIMITED

ID/WG.79/24
11 June 1971

Original : ENGLISH

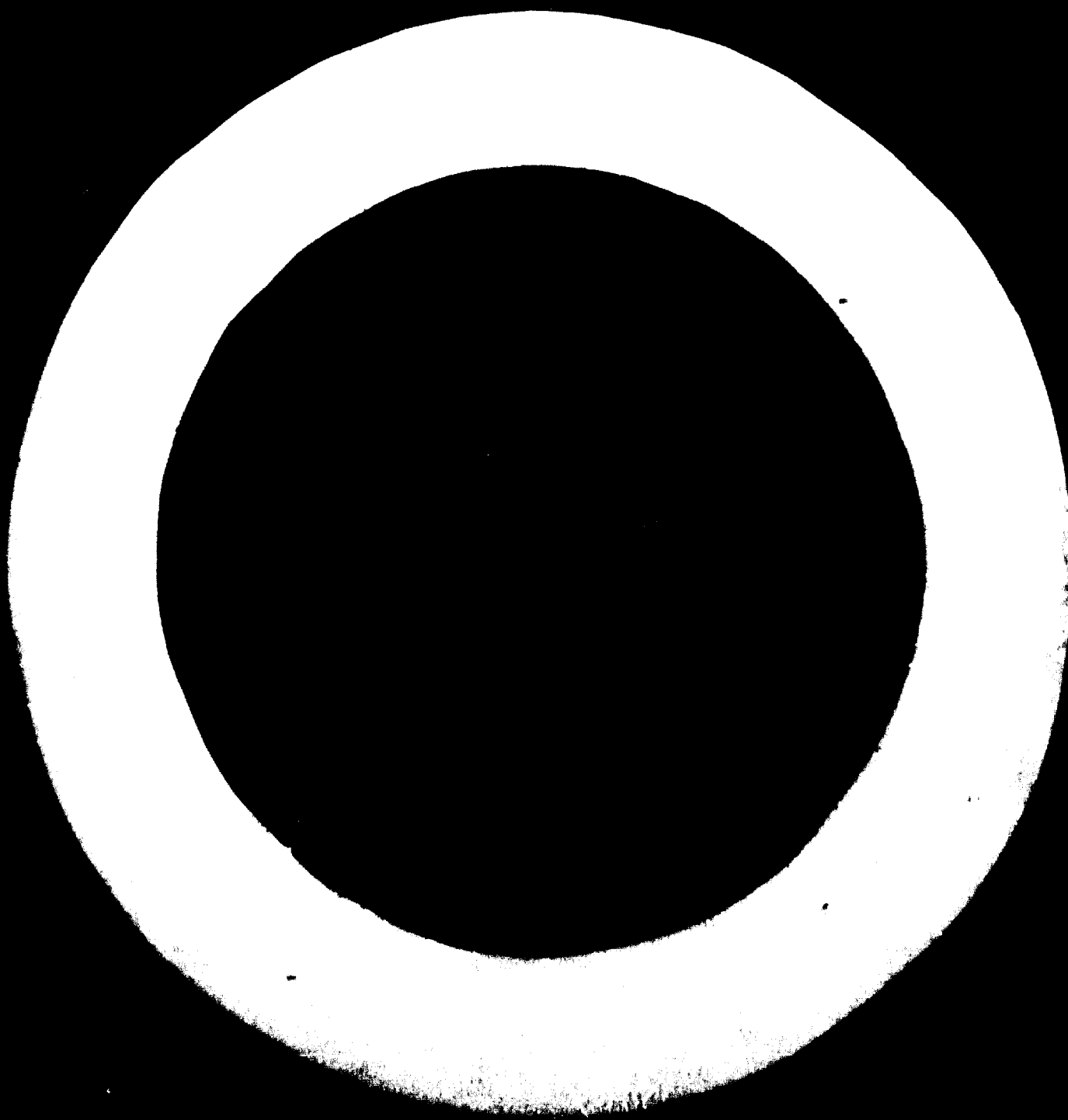
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

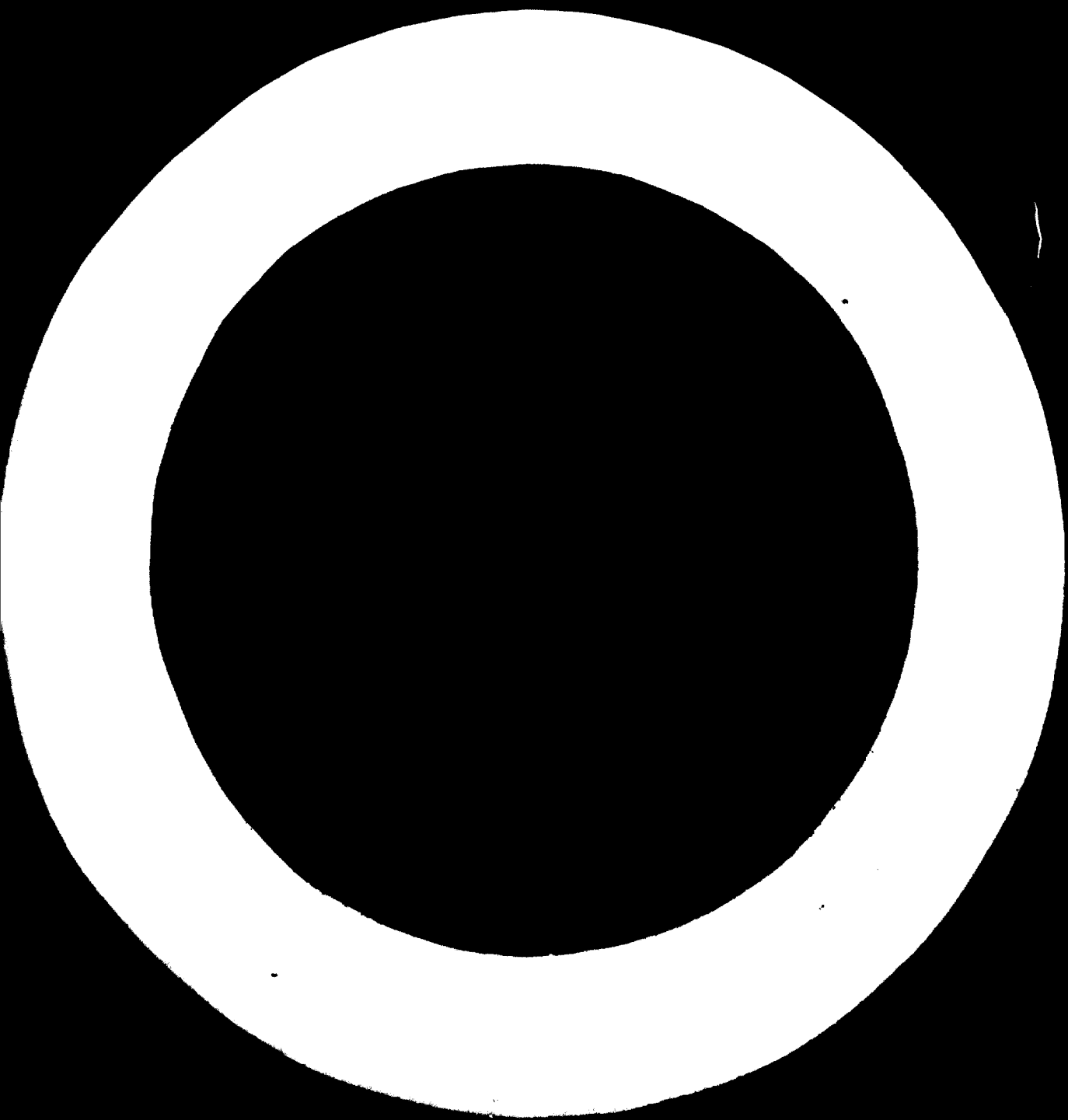
Seminar on the Development of the
Leather and Leather Products Industries
in Developing Countries
Regional Project for Africa

Vienna, Austria, 22 February - 5 March 1971

STATEMENT
ON THE SITUATION OF THE HIDES AND SKINS,
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES IN
N I G E R I A ^{1/}
presented by
I. ENTONU

^{1/} This document has been reproduced without formal editing.





Before the advent of the Colonial Government, Nigerian traditional tanners manufactured leathers with local tanning materials for local consumption and the surplus leathers were exported through the Sahara on camel backs to Morocco, from where they reached Europe.

In the early forties hides and skins improvement was an exclusive function of the veterinarians and interested exporting firms. In the late forties and early fifties specialist officers were employed to take charge of hides and skins improvement as a unit within the Veterinary Department.

In 1961 the then Northern Nigerian Government asked the United Nations for technical assistance in the field of hides, skins and leather development and training. This request was granted, with the FAO of the United Nations as the executing agency. In 1963 a plan of operation was drawn up and signed by the United Nations and the Federal Government as a bilateral project. In 1964, a project manager was appointed by FAO and a counterpart project manager was appointed by the Federal Government and the project became operational.

Zaria was chosen as the project main centre with Sokoto and Maiduguri as the two sub-centres. The activities of the main centre at Zaria comprise research and training with facilities for leather chemical analysis and the physical testing of leathers. There are also lecture rooms and an experimental tannery for student practical leather manufacture. A sulphonation plant has been installed for the sulphation of ground-nut oil for the use of the industry in the country. A research laboratory is now ready for use and research work on the polyphenolic constituents of acacia arabica pods, locally known as Bagaruwa, and other tannin-bearing tree crops are undertaken in the institute.

There is a modern tannery in the Sokoto sub-centre for the production of light leathers. The centre is also used for extension services. In the extension centre existing rural tanners are taught modern tanning techniques.

The second sub-centre at Maiduguri is used for the production of heavy leathers and rural tanners are cared for through extension services.

Hides and skins statistics are lacking in the country. In order to have a working figure, the following are supplied as a conservative estimate:

7 million goat skins
2 million sheepskins
1 million hides.

At present there is a limited amount of tanning done in the country. The following is the breakdown:

1. 10 per cent of finished chrome leathers are done by the two commercial tanneries in Kano. Cow hides, sheepskins and goat skins are used for producing these leathers;
2. 5 per cent is either tanned into blue chrome or pickled for export by the commercial tanneries;
3. 10 per cent are vegetable tanned as crust leathers by both traditional and commercial tanners;
4. 75 per cent of the hides and skins are exported in the raw dry condition.

Hides and skins marketing in Nigeria is chaotic. The traditional marketing system is bad, with the primary producers having no incentives. The middleman usually makes a lot of profit with very little effort. The vicious circle must be broken so that proper trading channels could be found. There is a world market for well prepared goat and sheepskins. Crust leathers are readily sold in European and North American markets. By vegetable crust tanning of Nigerian hides and skins a great return could be realized by the country. The need for the local craftsmen could be supplied but this is a relatively small percentage of the output. Assistance is therefore required to establish outlets abroad.

There are about ten well established shoe factories in the country. The average production of these factories is about 20 million pairs of shoes a year. Nigeria, with a population of 60 million with only ten shoe factories producing only 20 million pairs of shoes, has inestimable room for the expansion of footwear industry.

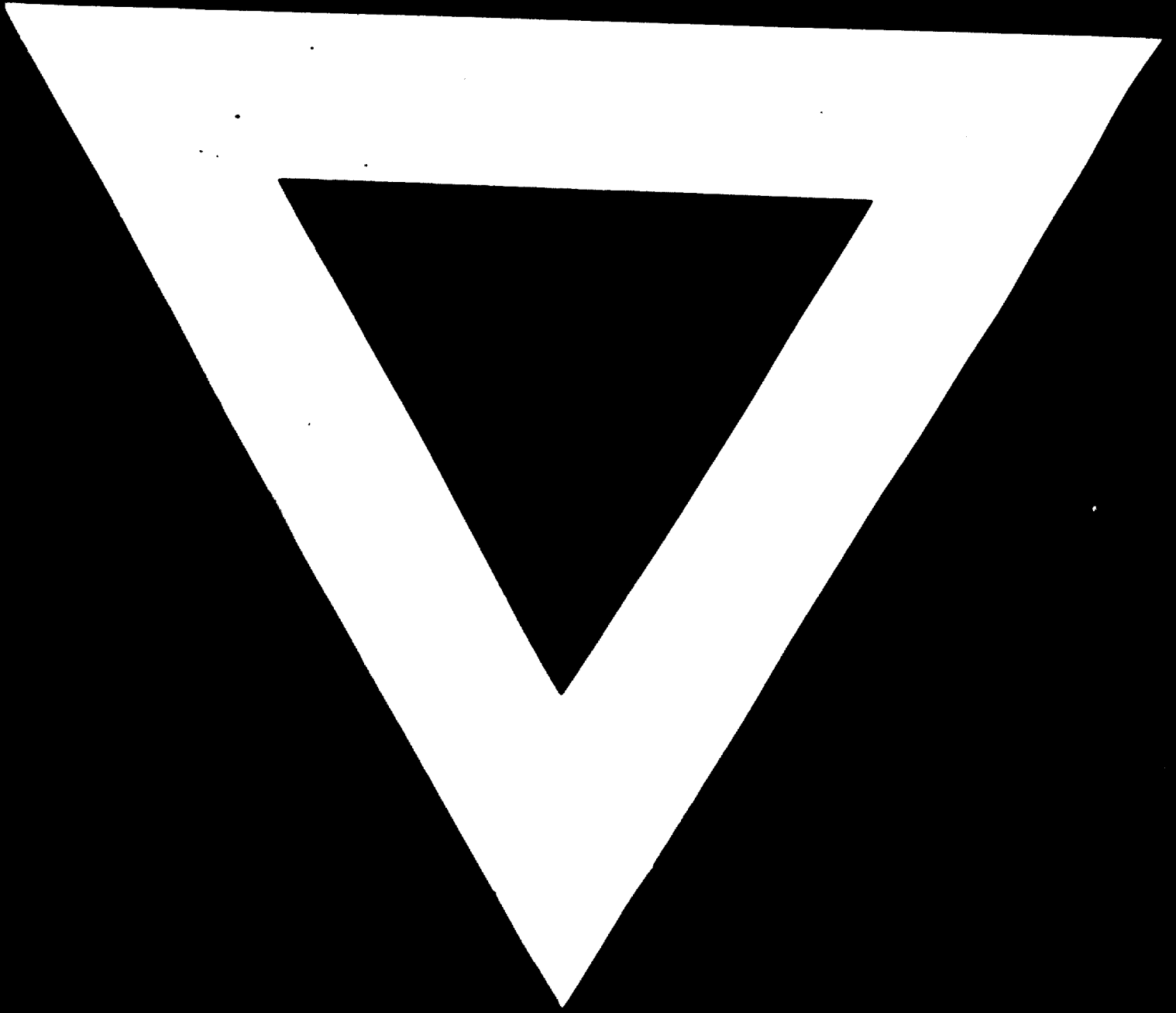
The cost of living of the people is rising rapidly. This has given rise to the demand of footwear which the industry cannot cope with. The possibility of exporting footwear to the neighbouring countries cannot be over-emphasized. This is not possible now because the local demand has not been met. The production of economic price range shoes, sandals and slippers for the low income group is the most profitable business in the footwear industry.

Boots for soldiers, police and warders are still being manufactured outside the country. The demand for these boots is very high, raw materials and labour are available and cheap. It is therefore up to the industrialists to face the challenge.

The manufacture of fancy leather goods is still in its infancy. There are only two modern leather goods factories in Lagos with a few others in the other states operating on very small scale. The problems facing this section of the industry are bad management, technical know-how and financial control. The market potential is unlimited. The demand at home and abroad is unlimited. The country is peaceful. Foreign investors are encouraged by the Government to invest in industries. Manpower is no problem, financial assistance can be given to prospective industrialists by the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, with all the resources in the country the sky is the limit for any ambitious entrepreneurs who wish to establish a leather goods industry.





8 . 8 . 7 3