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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Joint UNIDO/ECWA Meeting on Special Problems and Requirements of Industrial Development of Selected Countries of the Middle East

Beirut, Lebanon, 25 - 29 November 1974

CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES 1

prepared by the Secretariat of UNIDO

We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

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I. BACKGROUND

- 1. The preferential attention that should be given to the promotion of co-operation between developing countries has been the subject of coneideration by many international forums. The meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affaire of Mon-aligned Countries held at Georgetown, Guyana, in August 1972, adopted in this connexion an action programme for economic co-operation among developing countries. This programme underlines the objectives of self-reliance and contains specific provisions to deal, inter alia, with co-operation in the sector of trade, industry and transport.
- 2. Similarly, the Economic Declaration, adopted by the Algiers Conference, states that "there are great opportunities for economic, trade, financial and technological co-operation among developing countries".
- 3. During the Second Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Cairo in December 1973, the promotion and development of inter-African co-operation and self-reliance were considered of great importance.
- To this effect, a Working Group was convened at the request of the General Assembly (in its Resolution 2974(XXVII) to examine and make recommendations on the best way for developing countries to share their capacities and experience with one another with a view to increasing and improving development accietance; and, to examine the relative possibilities and advantages of regional and interregional technical co-operation among developing countries. The principles and objectives contained in the report of the Working Group indicate that technical co-operation among developing countries should be seen as an integral part of overall co-operation for development. Such co-operation chould add a new dimension to the existing programms of bilateral and multilateral co-operation for development and, as far as possible, result in an expansion of such co-operation. It should be as broad and flexible as possible, and should increasingly rely on innovative approaches, methods and techniques better adapted to local needs. As technical co-operation among developing countries is a venture in self-help, all participating countries should contribute to, as well as benefit from it.

- 5. Furthermore, developing countries have expressed their determination to contribute to their mutual development, as they recognize that the primary responsibility for their development rests upon themselves. To be a true co-operative venture towards the attainment of self-reliance, the main responsibility for mobilizing resources for technical co-operation among developing countries rests on the developing countries themselves.
- 6. The Working Group recommended, inter alia, that developing countries should devise, adopt and implement specific programmes of technical cooperation among themselves; that in the promition and implementation of CDC, special attention should be given to the needs and capacities of the least developed countries and of developing countries geographically disadvantaged; and, that governments of developing countries should consider, inter alia, establishing a special office to plan and co-ordinate activities related to such co-operation.
- 7. A draft resolution has been recently submitted by the Second Committee, for adoption by the General Assembly at its present session, endorsing the report of the Working Group and requesting the UNDP to adopt all measures required for its application. 1
- 8. Moreover, one of the principles of the "Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", approved by the General Assembly at its Sixth Special Session in May 1974, is the "strengthening through individual and collective actions of mutual economic, trade, financial and technical co-operation among the developing countries mainly on a preferential basis". Furthermore, its "Programme of Action" foresees that "collective self-reliance and growing co-operation among developing countries will further strengthen their role in the new international economic order".

^{1/} Boc. A/C.2/L.1348 of 10 October 1974

II. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- 1. Establish a systematic and long-term programme of action to promote co-operation among developing countries in the field of industry. As a first step, a survey to define areas in bich the member countries of the ECWA region could offer technical assistance within the framework of the programme of co-operation among developing countries.
- 2. To assist in this endeavour, participating governments could suggest specific areas for mutual co-operation in the industrial sector, and methods and types of action that could be particularly effective.
- 3. Indications as to the ways and means which in their opinion would be best suited for delivering or receiving such assistance have also been sought.

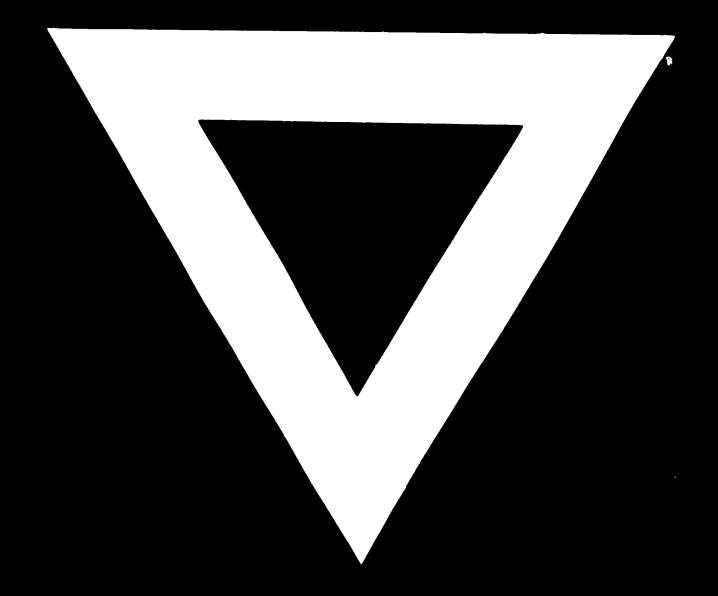
 The attached questionnaire has been submitted for this purpose to governments of developing countries, who are presently gathering the information required.
 - 4. It is expected that governments, when appraising their possibilities, will also wish to take into consideration the potential of their industries both in the public and private sectors. It is also expected that the contribution of governments will be enhanced by business and professional associations which would be ready to share their experience with associations in other developing countries. Mutual assistance among private industries or associations of the same sector may prove of great value and help to develop co-operative programmes among countries.
 - 5. On the basis of the information thus gathered a roster will be established of resources of, and needs for, technical co-operation among the ECWA countries in industry to match available resources and recuirements for the promotion of specific co-operative projects, by bringing together the countries concerned and by assisting them in the formulation and implementation of the projects. The collaboration of governments in the future will be needed to up-date the roster and give it the widest poseible discemination.
 - 6. UNIDO's main role in promoting co-operation among developing countries is to encourage the utilisation of capacities existing in the ECWA countries to co-operate among themselves, as a complement to the existing programmes of bilateral and multilateral co-operation and as an integral part of overall co-operation for industrial development.

- 7. It should be understood that the information to be provided on existing capacities and needs for mutual on-operation does not entail any definite commitments. Proposals for concrete and specific projects will be submitted to governments individually for consideration.
- 8. Once the above exercise is completed, consideration should be given to establishing a point of contact with whom UNIDO could communicate directly to initiate co-operative projects.
- 9. To the extent possible, ECWA and UNIDO staff members going on mission, or assigned to work in the field, will be briefed on the identified CDC activities relevant to the country(ies) concerned, to stimulate the participation in the programme.

III. SOURCES OF FINANCING

- (i) Punds which could be made available from donor countries from within the region.
- Should UN's assistance be financed from those funds, a Funds in Trust agreement could be signed. The description of a Funds in Trust and draft agreement are attached.
 - (ii) Regional Financing Institutions
 - (iii) Indicative Planning Figures (IPF)
 - (iv) UNIDO Regular Programme for LDC's
 - (v) SIS under the CDC programme
 - (vi) Others including bilateral aids.
- Copy is also attached of the Aids-mémoire sent out by the UNIDO

 Executive Director to governmente informing them of the agreement resched
 with the United Nations Development Programme on the launching of an initial,
 experimental programme to encourage co-operation among developing countries,
 by assisting developing countries in the financing and implementation of
 small and limited bilateral or multilateral co-operative activities.



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