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*for a sustainable future*

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When the first of these things happened, the people  
of the world were very much surprised, and  
they thought that the world was coming to an end.  
But when the second of these things happened, they  
were even more surprised, and they thought that  
the world was coming to an end.



08146



Distr.  
LIMITED

ID/WG.275/3  
10 May 1978

Original: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Meeting of Government Experts on  
Regulatory Functions in Transfer of Technology  
Vienna, Austria, 29 May - 2 June 1978

INTRODUCTORY NOTE<sup>2/</sup>

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id.78-2492

1. Since its establishment in 1957, UNIDO has been actively involved in various aspects of industrial development, including the transfer of industrial technology to the developing countries.
2. The paper entitled "UNIDO and the development and transfer of industrial technology" (UNIDO/ICIS.55) provides a detailed account of the present and future activities of UNIDO in this field. Special emphasis is placed, inter alia, on: the transfer of technology; the selection and choice of appropriate technology; support for national policy-making and institution-building; and new forms of international co-operation.
3. This meeting on governmental regulatory functions in the transfer of technology constitutes the first phase of a larger UNIDO programme related to the elaboration of national plans and policies for the development and transfer of technology. During this initial phase attention will focus on assessing the overall impact of technology transfer policies on the economy of selected developing countries.
4. The UNIDO Secretariat is of the view that whereas the developing countries have evaluated and assessed the effectiveness, results and impact of such policies only to a limited degree, general trends would indicate the willingness of an increasing number of countries to have governments adopt a more direct and active role. As a consequence, there is an explicit need for analysis of the experience gained hitherto in this field.
5. Through the present programme, it is intended to investigate in depth the impact of various technology transfer policies on the economies of selected developing countries with a view to obtaining an objective comparison of the effect of these policies in terms of various economic indicators. The conclusions to be drawn from such in-depth studies will not only be of benefit to the countries concerned, but they will also be of importance to other developing countries, in particular to those which intend to introduce similar measures and policies in this field.
6. In the document entitled "Surveys on the impact of foreign technology in selected countries and priority sectors" an outline is given of the scope and depth of the country surveys as well as of the assessment criteria and investigation methodology. Proposals are also made as to the time schedule and future action by UNIDO, the Governments concerned and co-operating United Nations agencies.

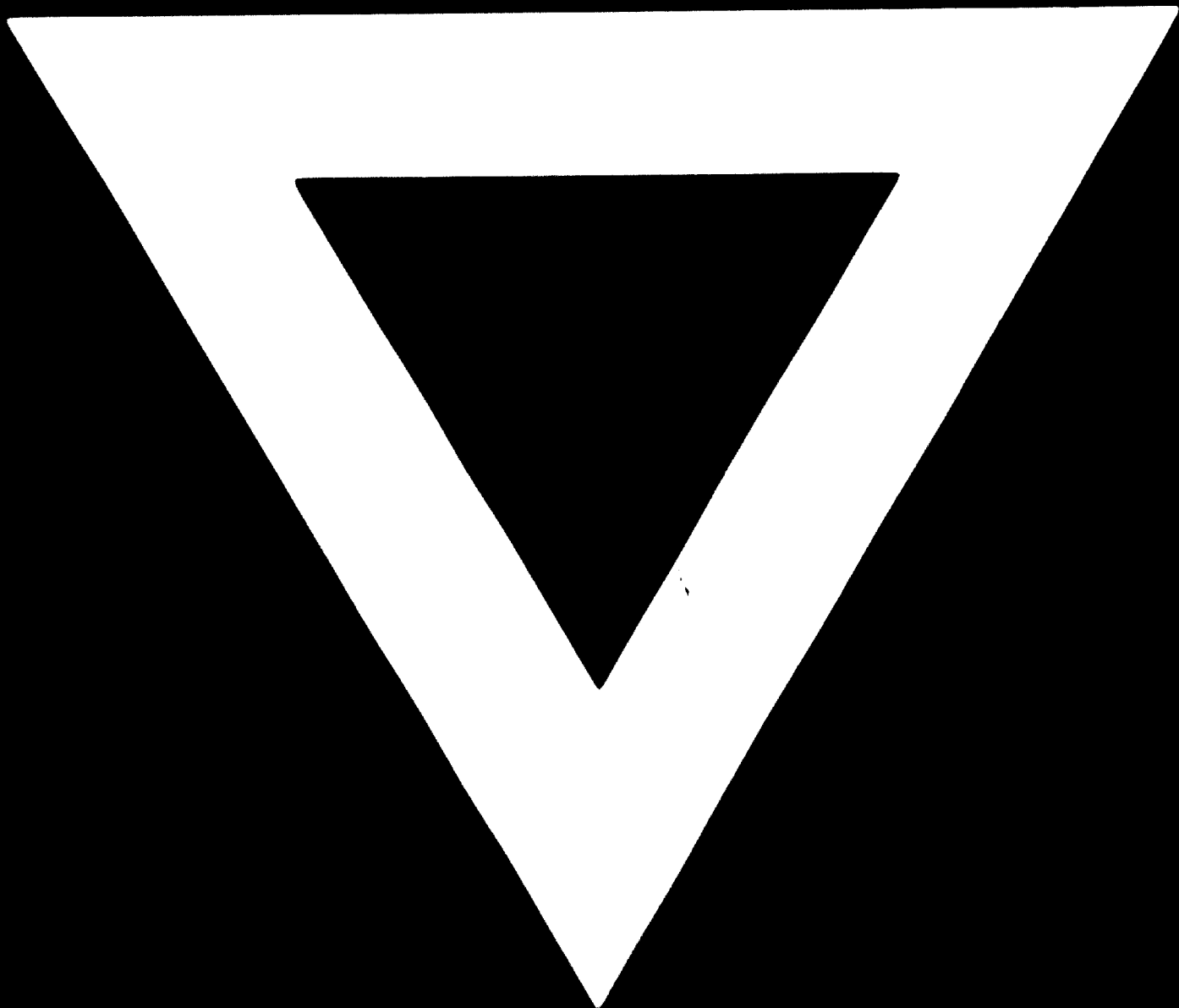
7. This meeting will also consider the role, functions and effectiveness of national technology transfer offices and similar institutions on the basis of the documents prepared by the UNIDO Secretariat. It is felt that the discussions will lead to an identification of the optimal role and activities of these governmental institutions, which within the administrative structure of a given country constitute an executive body responsible for the implementation of government policies *vis-à-vis* foreign licensors and the business community. Having assisted a number of developing countries to set up such institutions, UNIDO wishes to disseminate the experience it has gained to the benefit of others.

8. The meeting will also discuss the question of drawing up guidelines for the evaluation and approval of technology transfer agreements to be used by enterprises and government agencies. The material prepared by UNIDO is presented in the document entitled "Guidelines for the Evaluation and Approval of Technology Transfer Agreements for the Use of Enterprises and Government Institutions in Developing Countries on the Basis of Current Experience". An outline is given of the basic elements as well as an interpretative analysis of the guidelines which provide an effective tool for negotiation and evaluation, applicable to both domestic industry and government. It is expected that this meeting will indicate scope for further improvements in this connexion.

9. It is also expected that this meeting will contribute to the advancement of the present programme of UNIDO in this field, and that the country surveys to be conducted will be completed in the latter half of 1979. United Nations agencies are invited to co-operate in the compilation of analytical material that will be of service to the Governments of the developing countries, whose support and co-operation are also essential to the execution of the surveys and the achievement of tangible results.



**C-664**



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