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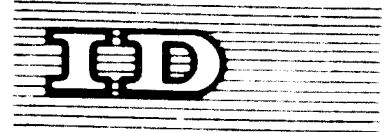
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## Industrial Development Board

Second Session

Vienna, 17 April - 14 May 1968

Agenda item 8

### CENTRAL ROLE OF UNIDO IN CO-ORDINATING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Executive Director

1. In resolution 2152 (XXI), the General Assembly recognized the need for co-ordinated action to increase the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the United Nations family as a whole with a view to promoting and accelerating the industrialization of the developing countries, and, at the same time, it assigned to UNIDO a central role in that co-ordination.<sup>1/</sup>
2. In the course of the discussions which took place at the time, it was stressed that the central co-ordinating role entrusted to UNIDO came within the context of the general responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council for co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. It still remained to work out methods and procedures which would enable the Industrial Development Board to assume the responsibilities and functions assigned to it in that regard, including the establishment of co-ordination machinery which would fulfil the purposes and meet the needs which the General Assembly had had in mind.

<sup>1/</sup> See the report of the Industrial Development Board (A/6715/Rev.1), para. 235, and General Assembly resolution 2299 (XXII).

3. The Committee for Industrial Development had already, at its fifth and sixth sessions, considered the problem of the co-ordination of United Nations activities in the industrial field. However, the reports submitted to those sessions by the various organizations concerned on their activities in the industrial field in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1081 D (XXXIX) and 1181 (XLI), were not considered to be sufficiently complete to serve as a basis for effective co-ordination. The Committee was of the opinion that its task would be facilitated if it had at its disposal a document summarizing all the activities of the specialized agencies and the various organizations of the United Nations family.
4. The first consolidated report on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system, replacing the previous individual reports, appeared to be the essential instrument for the work of co-ordination, and its preparation can already be regarded as a significant advance. It will be necessary, as the Board requested at its first session, to improve that document and give it a more analytical form so that it can serve as a basis for the establishment of co-ordination policies by the Board.
5. Thus, the lack of uniformity in the data submitted by the various organizations and the diversity in programming periods and systems are a source of difficulties which need to be overcome if an adequate analysis of current activities is to be possible. Such an analysis should, in particular, draw attention to duplication or to fields inadequately covered, in order to avoid waste of energies and to ensure optimum use of the resources of the United Nations system.<sup>2/</sup>
6. The Executive Director of UNIDO recently entered into discussions with the heads of certain specialized agencies (ILO, FAO, UNESCO, and WHO). These exchanges of views were devoted in particular to exploring possibilities for establishing joint programmes in fields of common interest and for harmonizing activities in fields where there are conflicts of competence. These discussions enabled the

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<sup>2/</sup> See in this connection the note on the preparation of analytical reports submitted by the Executive Director at the present session (ID/B/24).

various viewpoints to be brought considerably closer together as far as the approach to the problems, possible solutions and the procedures for putting them into effect are concerned

7. In the case of FAO, for example, programmes of joint action are envisaged in the following fields: fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides and agricultural equipment; the establishment of plans for the complementary development of industry and agriculture; contacts with the industrial and banking worlds with a view to the promotion of projects relating to both industrial and agricultural development. As to the sectors where there are conflicts of competence - industries based on forestry products, industries producing products of animal or vegetable origin, and the food industry - they will be the subject of intensive discussions aimed at co-ordinating the activities of the two organizations in a positive and constructive way.

8. With regard to UNESCO, it was recognized that its activities in the fields of education, training, science and technology relating to industry are generally complementary to those of UNIDO. Following an exchange of views, it was agreed that close relations should be developed in these sectors between the two organizations, for the purpose of exchanges of information on their respective activities, consultations and, where appropriate, studies and the implementation of joint projects.

9. The situation is similar regarding WHO, whose activities in certain fields where industrial problems arise are complementary to those of UNIDO. Among questions of interest to both organizations are those of equipment and installations for the supply of drinking water, public health installations, the preparation of pharmaceutical products, etc. It was found that the co-ordination of activities between the two organizations did not, in general, give rise to any problems. Plans are under study for co-operation in the establishment of joint programmes.

10. In the case of the ILO, the discussions centred on the problems of co-ordinating the activities of the two organizations in sectors where there are conflicts of competence: the training of middle-level industrial cadres, management, small-scale industry, etc. Further talks are envisaged, at the appropriate

level in the respective secretariats, in order to develop procedures for the co-ordination of activities through more precise definition of the respective sectors of competence of each organization.

11. With regard to co-ordination of the activities of UNIDO and UNCTAD in the promotion of industrial exports, the United Nations Export Promotion Programme, which was given final form at the recent meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions,<sup>3/</sup> already provides a good starting point for co-operation and the co-ordination of activities. Discussions are in progress with a view to extending the co-operation established under this programme to cover all problems connected with the expansion of exports of manufactures by the developing countries. In the discussions concerning the establishment of this joint programme, particular account will be taken of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which has just concluded its work at New Delhi.

12. Economic planning, with particular reference to the preparatory studies for the next Development Decade, constitutes another field in which UNIDO proposes to make a contribution in close co-operation with the other organizations of the United Nations family. The same is true regarding the industrial aspects of the application of science and technology to the needs of the developing countries. As the Board is aware, the leadership in these two fields is provided by the Committee for Development Planning and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, bodies which co-ordinate the activities of the organizations of the United Nations family in their respective fields.

13. In short, UNIDO is engaged at the present time in active consultations and bilateral discussions at the highest level of the secretariats of the organizations concerned. The climate of mutual understanding in which these talks are taking place gives promise of a rapid and constructive solution of the problems involved.

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<sup>3/</sup> See document E/4410/Add.1, submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its forty-third session.

The Executive Director believes that he will be in a position to report to the Board at its next session on the results achieved and to communicate to it details regarding the arrangements agreed upon with the relevant organizations.

14. Two recent initiatives resulting from the deliberations of the first session of the Industrial Development Board and the Athens Symposium should make an effective contribution towards the task of co-ordination, particularly with regard to operational activities. The first of these is the establishment of a network of UNIDO industrial advisers in the various regions; its purpose will be to assist the efforts of the local resident representatives and at the same time to ensure liaison with the regional economic commissions. These industrial advisers, who in the course of their duties will participate actively in the preparation of technical assistance programmes in the industrial field, could play a very important role in the co-ordination at the local level of the activities of the various agencies in the industrial sector.

15. The other initiative is the recommendation made to Governments by the International Symposium on Industrial Development to consider the possibility of establishing national committees for UNIDO. Through the activities that these committees will be responsible for developing in their countries, they could also help to facilitate co-ordination at the local level.

16. Finally, in order further to strengthen the co-ordination of activities and co-operation with the other organizations of the United Nations family, the Executive Director would like to submit the following proposals to the Board for its consideration.

17. In view of the very valuable experience of UNDP in the problems of co-ordination which it has had to face for a number of years, the Board might consider the possibility of asking the secretariat of UNDP to prepare for it a detailed analysis of the experience it has acquired in that field and to make any

recommendations concerning measures and procedures for the co-ordination of technical assistance in the field of industry which might be suggested by the analysis.

18. As another step, in order to back up the efforts of the UNIDO secretariat, the Board could consider providing the Executive Director with an advisory committee on co-ordination questions. This committee, which would be composed of distinguished persons to be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with Governments, would have the task of assisting the Executive Director in regard to co-ordination. One of its functions, for instance, could be to suggest ways of improving the preparation of the annual consolidated reports, taking into account the observations on that subject to be found in a document submitted by the Executive Director to the Board's second session (ID/B/24).

19. At its fourth session, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination stressed the need for bilateral consultations aimed at working out formulae for long-term co-operation between the organizations concerned and UNIDO, particularly in certain fields of activity and at various levels. The Committee also decided to take the problem up again at its next session, with a view to establishing some form of internal machinery to undertake a regular review of industrial development activities, for the purpose of co-ordinating them. The Executive Director proposes to report to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, at its next session, to be held at Geneva in April 1968, on the discussions and consultations mentioned above.







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