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Industrial Development Board

Third Session

Vienna, 24 April - 15 May 1969

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 24 April 1969, at 3.30 p.m.

Acting President: Mr. STANDENAT (Austria)
President: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)

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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.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT declared open the third session of the Industrial Development Board. The first session had been taken up with the task of setting UNIDO on its feet. The second, of which he had had the honour to be the President, had seen a consolidation of the aims and purposes of the organization. Trusting that the third session would be marked by the same spirit of mutual understanding, he hoped that its result would be a considerable step forward towards the industrialization of the developing world.

ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS

2. Mr. SERRANO (Chile) nominated Mr. Ortiz de Rozas (Argentina) for the office of President.
3. Mrs. SALLER (Austria), Mr. NIISEKI (Japan), Mr. BUZO-DULCE (Spain), Mr. ABANTE (Ghana) and Mr. SCHEJAL (Czechoslovakia) supported the nomination.
4. Mr. Ortiz de Rozas (Argentina) was elected President by acclamation.
Mr. Ortiz de Rozas took the Chair.
5. The PRESIDENT warmly thanked all those who had proposed and supported his candidature. His election was not only a personal pleasure to him but an honour for all the Latin American countries. Paying tribute to the hospitality of the host country, he recalled the tact, precision and good humour with which his predecessor had directed the work of the second session. He would endeavour to be a worthy successor in the Chair.
6. It was frequently asked whether UNIDO was still adolescent, or whether it had achieved intellectual maturity. Whatever the answer to that question might be, each passing year saw an increase in the hopes and expectations it inspired. UNIDO's brief past had already been marked by success, its present was characterized by great activity, as was witnessed by the voluminous documentation before the Board, and its future was filled with prospects and projects. But time itself was an inexcusable factor. The developing countries could not afford to lose or waste any

resource which would assist their rapid industrialization. In turn, their industrialization would be a source of further encouragement to those countries whose industries were already established. It was becoming increasingly clear that UNIDO's main task was to act as the centralizing organization within the United Nations family for all industrial development activities.

7. The industrialized countries were now accumulating economic knowledge at a rate that widened, rather than lessened the gap separating them from the developing countries, so that the latter were witnessing a constant postponement of the day when they would reach the same level of advancement. Yet UNIDO was itself hampered by its own limited resources. It was all the more important, therefore, for the Organization to redouble its efforts, and to seek greater efficiency in the fulfilment not only of the aim but also of the spirit of the General Assembly resolution under which it had been created. An encouraging factor was that the initial pessimism of those who had predicted a further crystallization of the two groups - on one side, the industrialized countries, and on the other side the developing countries, constantly crippled by a paucity of resources and by the protectionist measures of the former - had been modified by a growing realization that development, to be harmonious, must be universal. Indeed, the industrialized countries now realized that it was on such overall development that not only their own progress but also the peace of the world depended.

8. The path ahead was full of obstacles. Moreover, UNIDO could not act alone, and should regard itself merely as one of the tools with which that path might be cleared. But it should also strive at all times to be a true symbol of the movement towards international co-operation in the pursuit of a common objective, and the most tangible evidence of that co-operation would surely be provided by the Second Development Decade.

9. Mr. GLINSKI (Poland) nominated Mr. Petrov (Bulgaria) for the office of first Vice-President.

10. Mr. ABDELWAHEB (Sudan), Mr. KOLO (Nigeria) and Mr. CHRISTIANSEN (Denmark) supported the nomination.

11. Mr. Petrov (Bulgaria) was elected first Vice-President by acclamation.

12. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) nominated Mr. Quan (Cameroon) for the office of second Vice-President.
13. Mr. TOP (Guinea), Mr. WADUD (Kuwait), Mr. BITIENCOURT (Brazil), Mr. SPOYANOV (Bulgaria) and Mr. SEPINGO (Chile) supported the nomination.
14. Mr. Quan (Cameroon) was elected second Vice-President by acclamation.
15. Mr. MANCHOC (India) nominated Mr. Murad (Pakistan) for the office of third Vice-President.
16. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Mr. ELIUSKI (Poland), Mr. FRYER (United Kingdom), Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) and Mr. KOL (Nigeria) supported the nomination.
17. Mr. Murad (Pakistan) was elected third Vice-President by acclamation.
18. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) nominated Mr. Billner (Sweden) as Rapporteur.
19. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Mr. NSANZINANA (Rwanda), Mr. ILBOUDO (Upper Volta), Mr. ARKADIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. TOP (Guinea) supported the nomination.
20. Mr. Billner (Sweden) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.
21. Mr. BITIENCOURT (Brazil) proposed that a group of Friends of the Rapporteur, representing the various geographical groups, should be appointed to assist the Rapporteur in matters of liaison and in drafting his report on the work of the Board.
22. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) and Mr. SEPINGO (Chile) supported the proposal.
23. The proposal was adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ID/B/42/Ann.1/Rev.1; ID/E/INF.15 and INF.16)

24. Mr. BITIENCOURT (Brazil) considered that, in the light of the relevant paragraphs in document ID/B/41 (report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its second session) the items concerning institutional arrangements should

have been made more explicit. He announced that the subject of decentralization of UNIDO's activities and the consequent need for strengthening of regional and sub-regional centres in Africa and Latin America were open for discussion, as agreed by the Board at its second session, under this sub-item and expressed the wish that, in future, items of such substantial interest should be specifically included in the Board's agenda.

25. Mr. van OIJEN (Netherlands) referring to the item entitled "consideration of the report of the Working Group", to which one and a half days had been allocated, said that his delegation approved of the aim of the Secretariat in seeking to avoid any duplication of the work of the Working Group at the Board meetings; nevertheless, it wished to reserve the right to raise any necessary additional points relating to the work programmes for 1968, 1969 and 1970. The time tentatively allotted for certain items, and in particular for consideration of the report of the Working Group, appeared rather short and his delegation could only endorse the provisional calendar of meetings if it were to be considered by the Board as a flexible time-table rather than as an approved plan of work from which there was to be no deviation.

26. Mr. KOLO (Nigeria) observed that the annotated provisional agenda listed the work programmes for 1968 and 1969 as separate sub-items from that dealing with the programmes for 1970 and 1971. He hoped that the discussions of the Board would not have to be carried on as a year-by-year appraisal of UNIDO's activities. The overall picture of UNIDO's programme could be better appreciated, and future guidelines better elaborated, if the Board were free to discuss all its yearly reports at the same time.

27. He further observed that while seven meetings were allotted to the general debate, other significant items had been allocated only one meeting and he feared that the Board might find itself with too little time to discuss the really important matters before it.

28. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director) assured the Board that the question of the decentralization of UNIDO's activities would certainly be discussed under the heading "Institutional arrangements". Although the agenda made reference under that sub-item only to Part One of document ID/E/43, the whole of the document could be discussed in connexion with the item if the Board so wished.

29. The PRESIDENT commented that although the Board would assume that the provisional calendar of meetings was not a rigid time-table but only a guide for the organization of its work, it should nevertheless try to adhere as strictly as possible to the calendar. It was quite possible that some items, such as the general debate, would take up less time than envisaged and in that case the time allotted to them could be used for other items. Since the Working Group had been set up in order to help the Board with its work and had done its task very well, he assumed that the time-table prepared by the Secretariat for the work in hand was quite realistic. Although the final report of the Working Group had not yet been distributed, he felt sure that all delegations were fully informed of its contents and could thus begin, during the general debate, to make their comments on the various points raised in the meetings of the Working Group.

30. Mr. MURAD (Pakistan) said that he was grateful for the President's assurance that the provisional calendar of meetings was not binding on the Board. He also felt, however, that the time allotted to consideration of the report of the Working Group and of the work programmes for 1969, 1970 and 1971 would almost certainly have to be extended.

31. Mr. LORENZI (Uruguay) noting that the provisional agenda and the provisional calendar need not be rigidly adhered to and that the President had indicated that discussion on important items could go on longer than listed if necessary, wished to know whether or not the Board Session itself could continue for a few days after the deadline of 9 May 1969.

32. The PRESIDENT explained that by "flexibility" he had meant that the discussion of important items could be extended into the time provisionally allotted to less important items or to items that were completed in less than the time accorded. He believed that in such a way the Board could finish its work by 9 May. That date, however, was not a final deadline and, if it proved necessary, the work of the Board could indeed extend beyond it for a few days and up to 15 May, the date originally envisaged for the end of the session.

33. Mr. BERTENCOURT (Brazil) observing that the general debate was due to start at the next Board meeting, wished to know when the final version of the report of the Working Group would be distributed.

34. The PRESIDENT informed the Board that the final text of the report would be available some time the following day. He pointed out that, although the final version contained several amendments of some importance, the substance of the document remained unchanged from that of previous draft versions so that there was no real reason why delegations should not begin to make comments on it from the outset of the general debate.

35. The agenda and calendar of meetings were adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.



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