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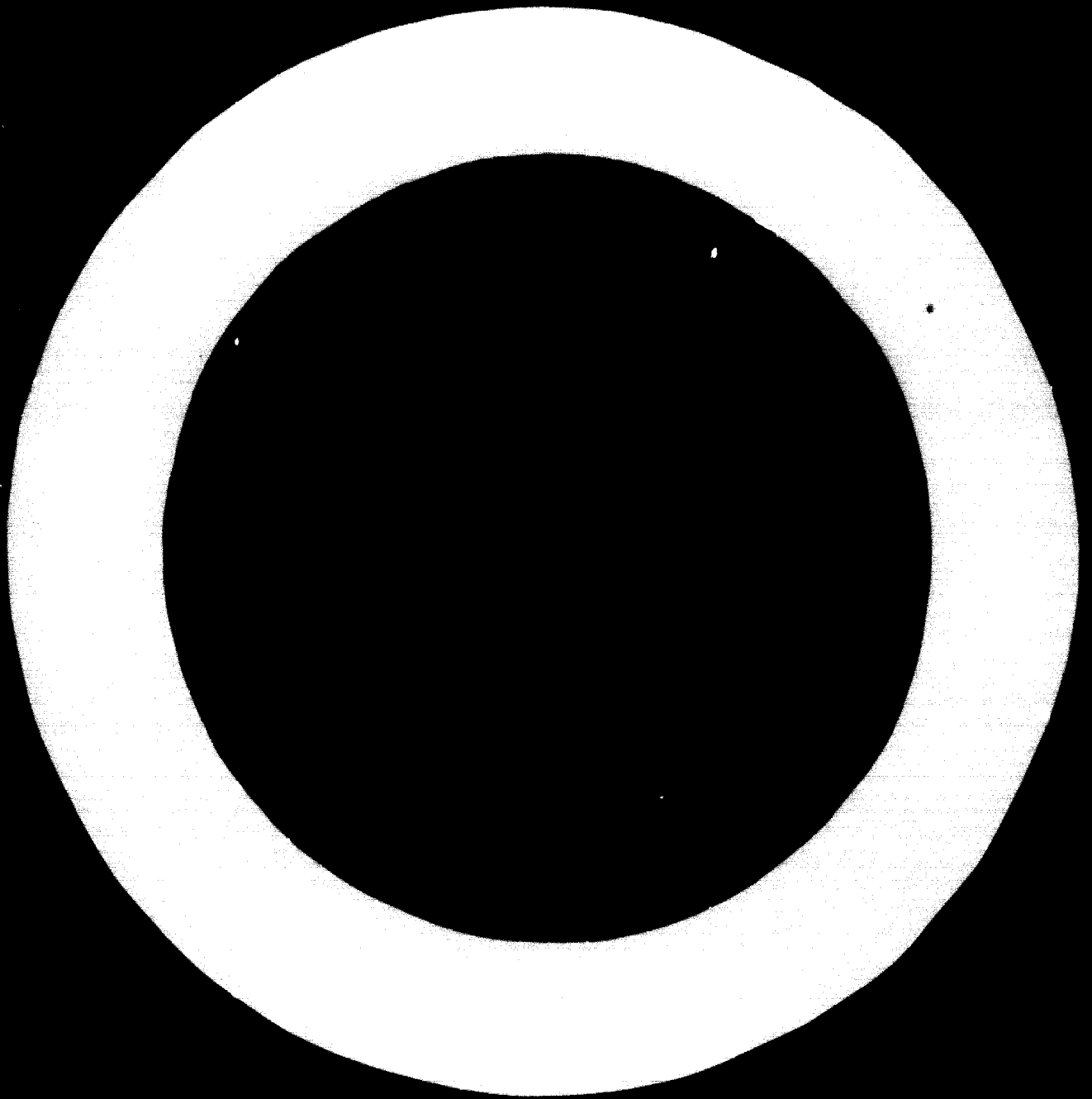
Fifth session

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Agenda item 9

**REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE
SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 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.

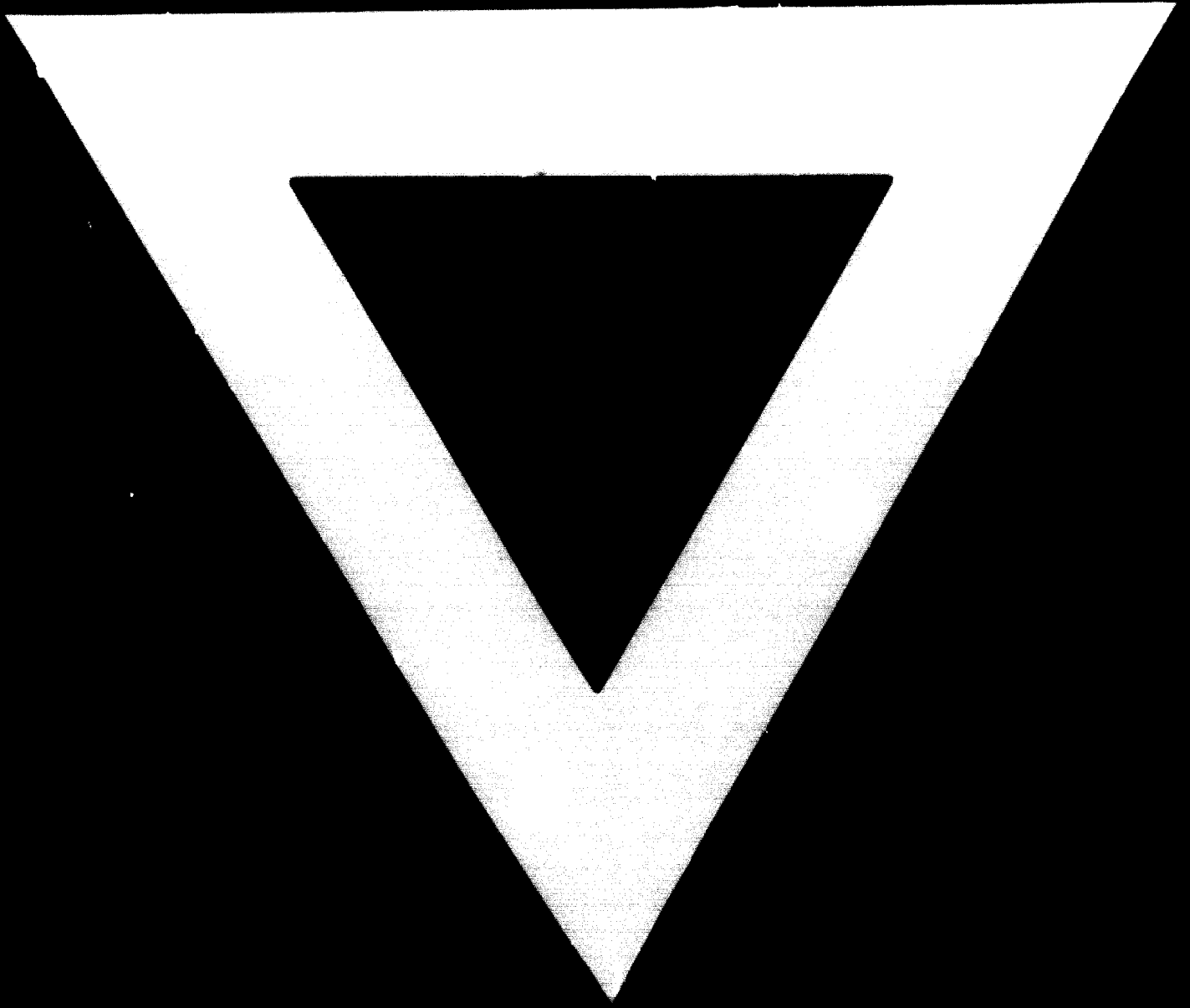


1. Under resolution 29(IV), adopted by the Industrial Development Board at its fourth session, the Executive Director was requested to undertake the preparatory work for the proposed Special International Conference of UNIDO including the preparation of the documentation and the necessary contacts and consultations. By the same resolution, an Advisory Committee for the Conference was established, composed of the members of the Bureau of the fourth session of the Industrial Development Board which was given the mandate of reviewing the progress of the preparation for the Conference and of making any recommendations thereon to the Executive Director. The Advisory Committee held three sessions; in Vienna on 10 and 11 July 1970, in Prague on 17 and 18 December 1970 and again in Vienna from 22 to 24 March 1971. The reports of these sessions were circulated to Governments as Aide-Mémoires Nos. 1, 5 and 7.
2. The statement to be made to the Board by Mr. Z. Šedivý, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, will provide it with detailed information on the preparations for the Conference. Governments were also kept continuously informed of the progress of the preparations through the medium of Aide-Mémoires, which were issued periodically by the secretariat. The first of these Aide-Mémoires was issued on 17 July 1970 and the last one, No. 7, on 1 April 1971. A list of the Aide-Mémoires appears as an annex to this document. The following report will thus be confined to a brief outline of the highlights of the activities of the secretariat, which were undertaken either upon the recommendations of, or in close consultation with, the Advisory Committee.
3. Acting upon the instructions contained in the above-mentioned resolution, a circular inquiry was addressed to Governments by the Executive Director on 8 May 1970 as to their preference for the date of convening the Special International Conference. Following this inquiry, the Executive Director reported to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly that the majority of the Governments were in favour of holding the Conference in June 1971, immediately following the fifth session of the Industrial Development Board.
4. The subject of the Conference was debated at the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council and at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly which, in its resolution 2638 (XXV), approved the recommendations of the Industrial Development Board on the holding of the Conference. Subsequent to the decision of the General Assembly, the secretariat undertook the following action.

5. By a letter of the Executive Director, dated 18 December 1970, Governments and interested organizations were invited to inform the secretariat about their participation in the Conference and the composition of their delegations.
6. On 31 December 1970, a letter was addressed to Governments and interested organizations inviting them to submit by 1 March 1971 their preliminary views and comments on the agenda items of the Conference. To facilitate the preparation of their replies, Governments were provided with background documentation on the Conference, including a paper by the secretariat that contained some reflections on the various issues to be dealt with by the Conference (Aide-Mémoire No.4). Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the secretariat also circulated to Governments a brief digest of the activities of UNIDO since its establishment in 1967 and a synthesis of the views expressed by the Industrial Development Board and other legislative bodies on the past activities and future programme of UNIDO (Aide-Mémoire No.6).
7. In the meantime, the Executive Director and other officials of the secretariat engaged in contacts and consultations with Governments, either through their delegations in Vienna, or on the occasion of visits of government officials to UNIDO headquarters, or through visits of secretariat officials to countries and inter-governmental meetings which dealt with the subject of the Conference.
8. A first synthesis document, based on replies received from Governments as of the cut-off date of 12 March 1971 and the statements and declarations that emerged from the meetings of geographical groupings, was prepared by the secretariat and issued on 29 March 1971 under symbol ID/SCU/2.
9. In view of the limited number of replies received from Governments as of the cut-off date, and upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee at its third session, the secretariat further invited Governments that had not sent in replies to submit their comments with a new cut-off date of 20 April 1971. Subsequently, an up-dated version of the first synthesis document was prepared, incorporating all material received from Governments individually or collectively. This document, which was issued on 6 May 1971 under the symbol ID/SCU/2/Rev.1, constitutes the basic document for consultations on the Conference by Governments.

10. Subsequently, a summary document, mapping out the positions of Governments on the key issues on the agenda of the Conference, was prepared by the secretariat and issued on 20 May 1971 as document ID/SCU/3.
11. Throughout this period, the secretariat continued consultations and discussions with Governments and was at the disposal of Governments and geographical groupings to facilitate in every way intergovernmental consultations.
12. With the opening of the session of the Working Group on 10 May 1971, the preparation for the Conference entered the decisive stage of negotiations. At the proposal of the Chairman, the Working Group, noting the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in its third session, invited Governments and geographical groupings to engage in negotiations on the Conference outside the normal sessions of the Working Group, the secretariat providing the necessary facilities and being at the disposal of delegations in connexion with these negotiations.
13. As regards the present session of the Industrial Development Board, the Executive Director would like to refer to document ID/WOPC/L.16, distributed to delegations on 10 May 1971, in which he recalled that under General Assembly resolution 2638 (XXV), the Board was requested to take active part in the preparatory work for the Conference and that, acting upon this resolution, the Advisory Committee recommended in the report on its third session that the Board consider the item on the agenda concerning the Conference early in its session.
14. It was further recalled in the same document that the Advisory Committee had considered that it would be most helpful if the results of the negotiations between Governments and geographical groupings were made available to the Conference before its opening. This report of the Advisory Committee indicated three alternatives for the preparation of such a document, one of which being that the Board itself might wish to undertake its preparation.
15. In closing, the Executive Director wishes to express his gratitude to the distinguished Chairman and members of the Advisory Committee for the most helpful co-operation which the secretariat received from them in the preparation of the Conference.





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