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REPORT ON THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR 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. Since the International Symposium on Industrial Development adopted its recommendation on the establishment of National Committees for UNIDO, four years have elapsed.
2. During this period a relatively large number of National Committees have been set up: from 1968 until December 1971 forty countries established National Committees or similar institutions. The geographical distribution was:
Africa (14): Burundi, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Morocco, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta; Asia (10):^{1/} India, Iran, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Viet-Nam, Singapore, Thailand; Europe (9): Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia; Latin America (7): Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay.
3. The secretariat of UNIDO has exerted its efforts with a view to (a) fostering the establishment of National Committees or similar institutions in countries where such bodies do not exist as yet, and (b) strengthening the relations between UNIDO and the existing Committees.
4. The purpose of this report is threefold: to review the working relations established with the Committees; to assess the results attained so far; and to examine ways and means of promoting co-operation with the Committees.
5. During the past four years the secretariat has endeavoured to promote working relations between UNIDO and the Committees by taking a number of actions in the following fields.
6. Provision of information. The secretariat has notified the National Committees of all the activities of UNIDO that might be of interest to them, placing at their disposal all the basic documentation of UNIDO. The National Committees have been kept informed in particular of all the technical meetings organized by UNIDO (symposia, workshops, expert group meetings, seminars, industrial promotion services etc.). The necessary arrangements have been made to inform the National Committees of technical assistance missions sent by UNIDO to their respective countries.

^{1/} The National Committee for UNIDO of China (Taiwan) was abolished after the decision taken by the General Assembly on 25 October 1971 concerning the representation of China in the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2758(XXVI)).

7. Consultations. The secretariat has consulted the National Committees periodically on a number of questions of primary importance for UNIDO such as the preparation of the work programme of UNIDO, the International Development Strategy to be followed during the Second United Nations Development Decade, the preparations for the Annual United Nations Pledging Conference on UNIDO, and in 1970 and 1971 the preparations for the Special International Conference of UNIDO.
8. Within the framework of the co-operation between UNIDO and the National Committees in the formation of the UNIDO work programme, the secretariat has brought to the attention of the National Committees information on a number of projects contained in the draft programme of work of UNIDO for 1973 which were likely to interest them. The Committees were invited to communicate to the secretariat any observations and suggestions they might have to make on these projects, so that the secretariat could take them into consideration as far as possible when finalizing the work programme for 1973.
9. Industrial Development Field Advisers. The Industrial Development Field Advisers of UNIDO have been playing an important role with regard to the National Committees; firstly through their consultations with the Governments of the countries in their area, leading in certain cases to the setting up of National Committees in these countries, and secondly through their contacts with the Committees already in existence. These contacts have provided an opportunity for the exchange of information both on the activities of UNIDO in general and on its activities in the countries concerned in particular.
10. Missions. Senior officers of UNIDO assigned to missions in countries where National Committees exist are being instructed to get in touch with the Committees with a view to providing information on UNIDO. Officers going on mission to countries where National Committees do not yet exist are being briefed on the possibility of raising the question of the establishment of National Committees on the spot.
11. Co-ordination at the country level. The secretariat drew the attention of the National Committees in the developing countries, on several occasions, to the important role they could play in regard to co-ordination at the country level. The Committees in these countries could give useful advice to their respective Governments in drawing up technical assistance programmes.
12. Partnerships. In 1971 UNIDO invited the co-operation of chambers of commerce and industry, exporters' associations and other institutions dealing with

industrial development with a view to promoting a "partnership" scheme launched by UNIDO. The scheme is aimed at fostering co-operation between industries and institutions in European countries and small-scale and medium-scale industries in countries of Africa south of the Sahara. A note on the subject was sent to institutions and industries in European countries and, through the UNDP Resident Representatives, to the Governments of the African countries concerned. A copy of this note was sent to the relevant National Committees inviting them to co-operate in the implementation of the scheme.

13. International non-governmental organizations. In some cases, National Committees have among their members representatives of national associations affiliated to international non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with UNIDO. In their capacity as representatives of non-governmental organizations associated with UNIDO, they are being kept informed by the headquarters of their organizations of the activities of UNIDO, especially those related to the specific aims of the individual organizations; on the other hand, in their capacity as members of National Committees, they are acting as advisers to the Governments on UNIDO matters. In taking advantage of this double role, they are in an optimum position to promote the activities of the National Committees in which they are represented. They are particularly qualified to offer to the Committee the services and resources of their organizations to further the industrialization of their countries.

14. Implementation of the UNIDO work programme. A number of proposals for co-operation at the level of the implementation of the programme of work of UNIDO were worked out in consultation with the appropriate units of the secretariat. They were concerned in particular with:

- Assistance to UNIDO in ensuring early decisions from the competent government authorities on expert posts and the choice of consulting firms;
- Briefing UNIDO experts on national conditions upon their arrival in the country;
- Assisting UNIDO experts in establishing the necessary contacts with the appropriate government authorities and local industry, if requested;
- Helping project managers in solving administrative and technical problems with the competent government authorities in connexion with the execution of projects;

- Assisting UNIDO in obtaining from the appropriate government authorities early nominations for fellowship posts;
- Assisting UNIDO in the realization of the prerequisites for the implementation of long-term projects.

15. Before engaging in an evaluation of the results attained in relations with the National Committees, the secretariat would like to stress the positive attitude generally taken by Governments towards the establishment of these bodies. Forty countries have already set up National Committees, some twenty countries have indicated that they are considering the establishment of a committee, and only twelve Governments have so far expressed their intention not to create a committee; most of the latter stated that machinery already existed for consultations between governmental departments and representatives of industry and of academic and research institutions concerned with industrialization, and there was, therefore, no need at the moment to augment the existing system of liaison by the establishment of a National Committee.

16. While noting with satisfaction the establishment of a relatively large number of National Committees, the secretariat of UNIDO considers at the same time that the results achieved during the four-year period in co-operation between UNIDO and the Committees could be further improved.

17. Although on various occasions the secretariat has expressed the wish to be informed of the activities of the existing National Committees, and to receive wherever possible a copy of the minutes of their meetings, only a few Committees have so far provided UNIDO with this information. A limited number of Committees responded to the various concrete proposals made by the secretariat with a view to developing co-operation with UNIDO. They indicated that during meetings in which high officials of public and private institutions dealing with industrialization took part, the activities of UNIDO were reviewed, opinions were exchanged on proposals which might be made in order to accommodate better the organization's activities to national requirements, and measures were proposed for utilizing more fully the opportunities available. On the occasion of sectoral meetings, such as the First Symposium of the National Automobile Industry, the First Conference of Plastic Industrialization of the Andean Pact Countries etc., the role which UNIDO could play in solving problems relevant to these industrial sectors was emphasized. These Committees also recommended to their Governments an increasingly rational and intensive utilization of the technical

circles affiliated to UNIDO and a widespread circulation of the UNIDO publications. Moreover, useful contacts were established with National Committees with regard to the organization of a training course on quality control of export products and of an expert group meeting on quality control in the textile industry. Views were also exchanged with a National Committee on the possible co-operation of a research institute in the country concerned in the envisaged field project on metalworking industries as potential export industries.

18. A National Committee collaborated with the secretariat of UNIDO in the organization of the UNIDO Seminar on Furniture and Other Secondary Wood Processing Industries which was held in Lahti (Finland) from 16 August to 11 September 1971.

19. Another Committee contributed to the organization and holding of the Regional Seminar on Machine Tools in Developing Countries of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa which was held in Varna (Bulgaria) from 18 to 27 October 1971. The Committee rendered assistance to ensure that activities related to the Institute for Instrument Design and Packaging Institute projects went normally. It is intended to establish a specialized organization in the country concerned to provide a reserve of experts in the industrial field who will be placed at the disposal of UNIDO to assist the developing countries.

20. An offer has been received from a National Committee to act as host for a visit to a plant by participants attending the seminar on prefabrication in Africa and the Middle East, scheduled to take place in Bucharest in April 1972.

21. Finally, a number of National Committees are co-operating with UNIDO as a clearing-house for requests received from developing countries concerning industrial inquiry and advisory services and the supply of industrial equipment.

22. The secretariat of UNIDO has been led to consider the reasons for the limited response on the part of the National Committees to the various circulars and documents sent to them by the secretariat suggesting exchanges of views and asking for their observations and comments.

23. The secretariat is well aware that the character of the National Committees, as defined by the various Governments which have notified UNIDO regarding their establishment, restricts the nature of their role and their powers. It may be thought that more detailed measures or suggestions on the part of UNIDO could be interpreted as being beyond its sphere of competence. The National

Committees were set up by Governments, which have the right and the power to determine the scope of their activities in accordance with the needs of the countries concerned.

24. On the other hand, experience seems to show that, as regards their organization and the tasks they have to accomplish, the National Committees are still somewhat hampered not only by the uncertainties incident to the life of all new institutions, but also by the disparities in the responsibilities entrusted to them. It is evident that the diversity of their composition and the lack of clarity in their terms of reference greatly impede their functioning as demonstrated by the slowness in the holding of their first meetings and the slow progress of such meetings as have been held.

25. The experience of other organizations of the United Nations family having National Committees or similar institutions has also been considered with a view to possibly adapting it to the relations between UNIDO and its National Committees. In documents published in recent years by UNESCO and FAO, it has been pointed out that, whatever the form in which National Committees are organized and function, the effectiveness and moral authority of such a Committee depends upon the trust and support of all the governmental and administrative authorities concerned, the interest and work of individuals, the active participation of specialists and the vitality of the agencies and non-governmental organizations represented in it.

26. It has been further stressed that the success with which a National Committee functions at the national level and in the domain of international co-operation varies directly with the authority and efficiency of its secretariat and the resources available to it. A National Committee, if it is to be really effective, requires a permanent secretariat and sufficient funds to enable it to make its contribution to the work of promotion and co-ordination.

27. A resolution adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its fourteenth session^{2/} stressed the advantages to member States of making increasing use of their National Commissions not only as advisory, liaison and information bodies, but also as executing and evaluating agencies at the national level.

28. In a resolution adopted at its sixth session,^{3/} the FAO Conference stressed the importance of the function of National Committees in ensuring liaison

^{2/} Res. 5.21, Fourteenth Session 1966.

^{3/} Res. 19/51, Sixth Session 1951.

between FAO and the Government and their information function among government agencies, national institutions and the broad public in their respective countries. It recommended that Governments make sure that Committees already established were in a position to assume the above-mentioned functions.

29. In another resolution adopted at the same session,^{4/} the FAO Conference recommended that FAO should rely on National FAO Committees to keep it informed about technical developments in member countries. To that end, "the committee should either make available to FAO all pertinent publications, abstracts, bibliographies, or else arrange for the preparation of articles and studies by specialists about developments of interest to FAO".

30. Before considering the above recommendations and their possible adaptation to the UNIDO National Committees, it should be noted that institutional differences exist between the National Committees for UNIDO and the similar institutions for UNESCO and FAO with regard to their legal status and their terms of reference. The National Committees for UNIDO were established in response to a recommendation adopted by the International Symposium on Industrial Development held in Athens in 1967,^{5/} whereas the texts governing the National Commissions for UNESCO and the National Committees for FAO are contained respectively in the UNESCO Constitution and in the General Rules of FAO and the report of the FAO Executive Committee at its eighth session.

31. With regard to these functions, the National Committees for UNIDO, as indicated in the recommendation referred to above, "serve in an advisory capacity to the Governments and to the member institutions in regard to all questions related to the activities of UNIDO". For their part, the national committees for FAO and UNESCO do not only advise their Governments in matters relating to their organizations, but also ensure liaison between the organizations and their Governments on all matters of interest to them.

32. There does not seem any reason why institutional differences should prevent UNIDO from adapting to its own circumstances the experience gained by FAO

^{4/} Res. 23/51, Sixth Session 1951.

^{5/} "Report of the International Symposium on Industrial Development, Athens 1967", document ID/11, page 21.

and UNESCO in their relations with their national committees. Two recommendations seem particularly applicable to UNIDO:

- (i) The terms of reference of the National Committees should be reconsidered in the light of the present evolution of the Committees, which tend to assume increasing responsibilities, not only of advice and liaison but also as executive organs of the Governments;
- (ii) The establishment of a full-time secretariat for the individual National Committees is a sine qua non of successful functioning.

33. The secretariat of UNIDO considers that a precise reformulation of the role of the National Committees for UNIDO would greatly contribute to the development of their activities. The advisory functions vis-à-vis Governments and member institutions assigned to them under the terms of the recommendation adopted by the Athens Symposium could be extended to include advisory functions vis-à-vis UNIDO also. Furthermore, these functions could be complemented by liaison functions between UNIDO and the Governments and information functions vis-à-vis UNIDO and among government agencies, national institutions and the broad public in their respective countries. The possibility could also be envisaged of assigning to the Committees some executive functions, such as that of contributing towards the execution of UNIDO projects on the national level, and the implementation of joint projects associating two or more National Committees at the subregional, regional or interregional level.

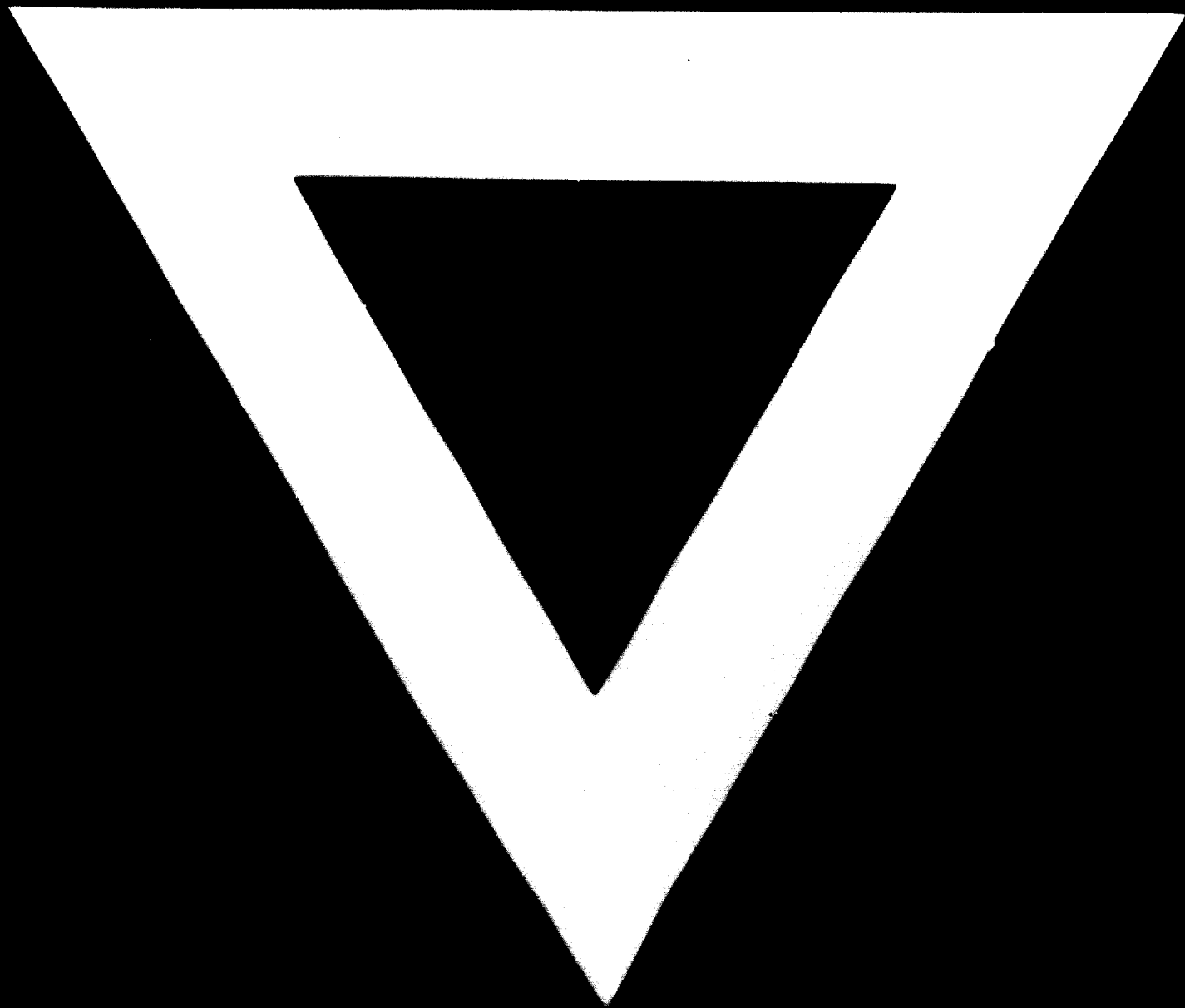
34. A possible revision of the terms of reference of the National Committees for UNIDO could be considered by the Industrial Development Board during its present session. Possibly a meeting of experienced members of National Committees for UNIDO could be convened by the secretariat to make proposals to that effect, for the consideration of the Board.

35. With regard to the establishment of a full-time secretariat for the individual National Committees, this immediate measure had been advocated by the secretariat of UNIDO in a circular letter sent to the National Committees on 14 July 1970. It was indicated that a service of this kind would enable the Committees to promote and intensify regular activities on the basis of information and circulars sent to them regularly by the secretariat of UNIDO. The permanent secretariat would enable the Committees to hold regular meetings; ample material would be provided for discussion at such meetings by exchanges of

correspondence, the organization of appropriate two-way visits, as well as continuing consultations with the government authorities concerned on programmes falling within the competence of the Committees. The Government concerned would have to assume responsibility for meeting the cost of this permanent secretariat for its Committee.

36. Should a revision of the functions of the National Committees for UNIDO be envisaged, the secretariat of UNIDO considers that the inclusion of a text advocating the establishment of a full-time secretariat for the individual National Committees would be of utmost importance for the effective functioning of these Committees.





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