



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

OCCASION

This publication has been made available to the public on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

DISCLAIMER

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” and “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

FAIR USE POLICY

Any part of this publication may be quoted and referenced for educational and research purposes without additional permission from UNIDO. However, those who make use of quoting and referencing this publication are requested to follow the Fair Use Policy of giving due credit to UNIDO.

CONTACT

Please contact publications@unido.org for further information concerning UNIDO publications.

For more information about UNIDO, please visit us at www.unido.org

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.

D04738



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.14/AS/L.4
29 January 1966

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND
CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
Symposium on Industrial Development in Africa
Cairo, 27 January - 10 February 1966

STATEMENT BY MR. G. POGNON,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY, ON BEHALF OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

It is my pleasant duty to convey the warm greetings of the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all the delegations here present, and to tell you that the Organization of African Unity is eagerly awaiting the conclusions of this Symposium.

The fact is that Africa, to consolidate and maintain her political independence, must win the battle for economic development. This means that our continent, while increasing and improving its agricultural output, must find the best ways and means of becoming an industrial power at the earliest opportunity.

This fact, thrust upon us by the realities of modern life, has been stressed time and again by all the African leaders. It has prompted all the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa since that body was first set up, and you all know that the Organization of African Unity has always listed accelerated economic development in general, and industrial development in particular, among the main objectives of African unity.

body, therefore, expects this Symposium to reaffirm - in whatever terms or however forcefully - the need and the advantages for Africa to move forward from the primary-producer stage and to become an industrial power.

The conclusions of many meetings at the regional or sub-regional level, the various studies undertaken by Governments and the vast amount of research work done by the Economic Commission for Africa give ample proof that Africa possesses abundant and varied natural resources, and that she also has men - that is to say, potential technicians. It is now realized that she could have started various industries in keeping with international standards if she had not long been the victim of the colonial system which broke up her enormous market in order to create an easy outlet to stimulate industrialization in the European countries.

Beyond the political framework of States, independent Africa needs to re-group her resources, unite her efforts and expand her markets. The Organization of African Unity has set up the structure and defined the working methods which can overcome with ease the political obstacles to that rapprochement between States on which this aspect of the African development strategy depends. The Symposium would be something of a disappointment if it merely confirmed this strategy. What Africa expects of it is that, duly noting the general trends in national industrialization policies and sub-regional activities, our Symposium will define the main lines for coordinated and rationalized industrial endeavour in Africa, and will lead - over and above the many plans - to a choice of new projects, the concrete, lively and convincing expression of an undoubtedly sound proposition, warranted by the complementary nature of national economies, the vast proportions of the market, the association of varied and considerable resources, combined efforts coordinated plans and joint management.

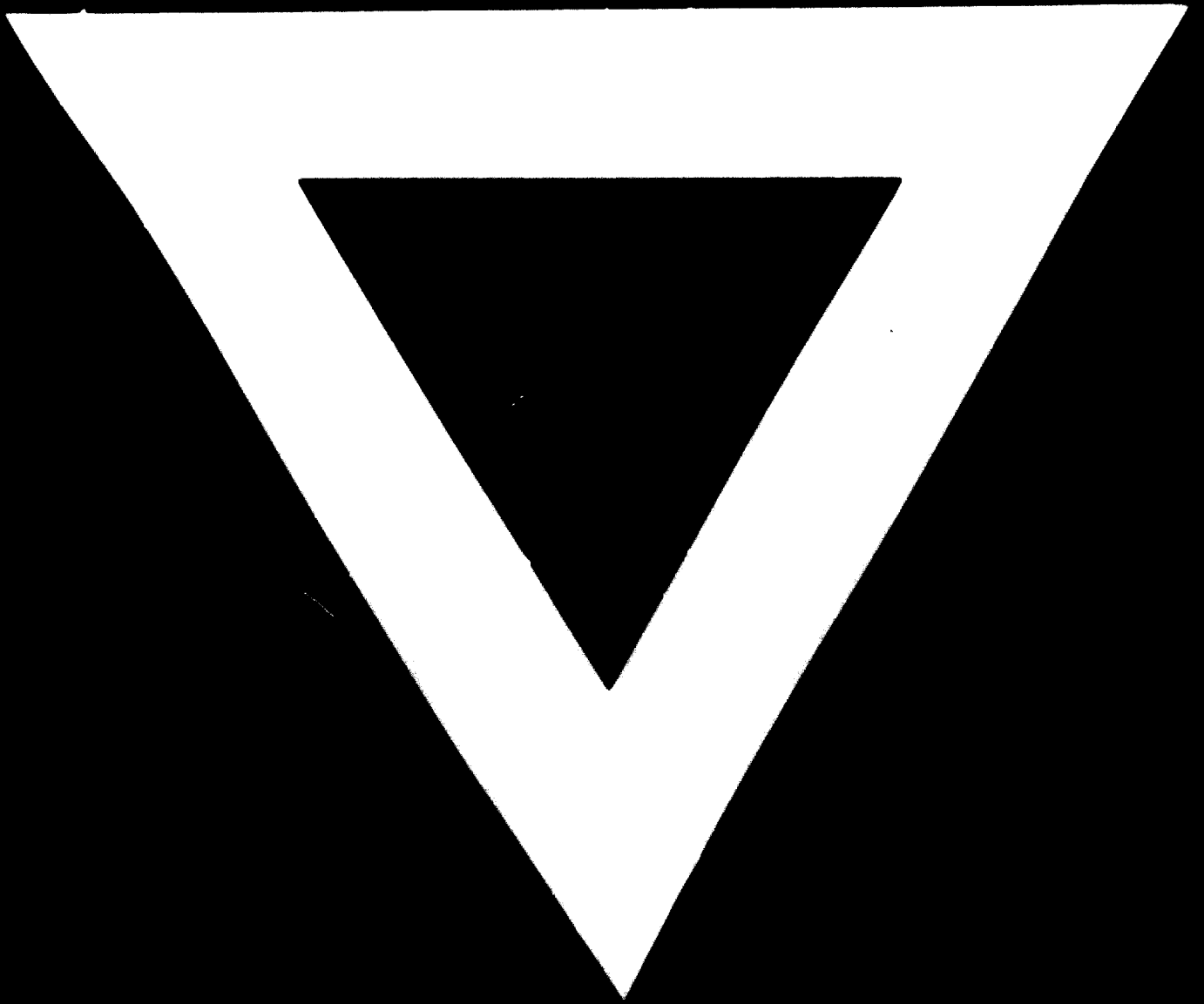
If this Symposium enables such projects to be undertaken in a short space of time, there can be no doubt that it will have already achieved a resounding success. No doubt, either that it will have enabled a solution to be found to the other aspect of the problem of African industrial development: that of foreign resources. There is no point in each of us here being convinced all over again that, for a long time to come, foreign capital and technical resources will continue to be an indispensable contribution to the industrialization of the African continent and to its overall struggle for economic development. In this respect, the special usefulness of this Symposium will depend on how far rationalization of Africa's industrialization may lead to a new approach to the problem of outside help. The assistance Africa expects from other continents must not be interpreted as charity, affording the outside world a pretext for controlling our future. It must be regarded as a genuine investment in the framework of world cooperation. We hope the discussions will abundantly prove that African industrialization is a sound proposition both for the Africans themselves and for possible investors in assistance, who will have as security the natural wealth of this Continent and the determination of all Africans to co-ordinate and align their efforts to develop that wealth.

There can be no doubt that the profitable aspect thus demonstrated will open the way for more intensive and sustained international co-operation for African economic development - a co-operation in which all partners know that they are equal, and that each will have his fair share of the profit.

We in the Organization of African Unity are convinced that this Symposium will mark an important date in the history of Independent Africa because, like many ECA experiences at the sub-regional level, it fulfils all the conditions for achieving the major objectives determined by common agreement between the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of

1/24.14/W/L.

... at all events, that is the success we wish
... to bring some positive satisfaction to the very
... and hope the peoples of Africa are placing in this Symposium.



29.3.74