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Industrial Development Board

Third Session

Vienna, 24 April - 15 May 1969

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Friday, 9 May 1969, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. ORTIZ de ROZAS (Argentina)
Reporteur: Mr. BILLNER (Sweden)

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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.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING DOCUMENTATION (continued)

1. Mr. QUAN (Cameroon) said that it was important to reduce the volume of documentary material issued to delegations and to lighten their work. He therefore suggested that the secretariat should prepare a brief document of not more than three pages for every item submitted to the Board, announcing the subject, giving all the relevant background information, setting forth the factors to be considered before decision, and suggesting what the decision should be. The documents, resembling those prepared for government departmental meetings or the board meetings of large enterprises, would enable delegations to identify problems immediately and to consider in greater detail those which interested them most. The draft conclusions, recommendations and resolutions drawn up by the secretariat should not be taken by the Board to represent a rigid attitude of the Executive Director or the secretariat, but rather as information designed to facilitate its own task, which was to take the final decision on each issue.
2. Mr. ANGER (Sweden), Mr. BITTENCOURT (Brazil), Mr. THOMAS (Canada), Mr. LOPEZ MUIÑO (Cuba) and Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) supported the proposal made by the representative of Cameroon.
3. Mr. DELVAUX (Belgium) thought that the secretariat might propose the alternative decisions open to the Board but not formal conclusions or recommendations, which lay within the Board's competence.
4. Mr. CASILLI (Italy) foresaw difficulties if the secretariat were asked to propose solutions. The Board would have to adopt or reject those proposals, and rejection might lead to friction with the secretariat. The secretariat should summarize the problem but not express any view on its solution.
5. Mr. KOLO (Nigeria) considered that the secretariat should merely call the Board's attention to issues which it should decide, and not formulate recommendations.
6. Mr. STEDTELD (Federal German Republic) observed that in all matters of documentation the Board was endeavouring to reach two distinct objectives: to reduce the volume of documents and to present them more uniformly and simply. The proposal of the representative of Cameroon related to the second objective and merited the Board's wholehearted support.

7. Mr. WANCHOO (India) considered that the proposal of the representative of Cameroon was constructive but that the secretariat should not be asked to prepare conclusions or solutions. It was difficult to give exact instructions about limiting documentation in general; the secretariat could only be asked to reduce volume as much as possible without omitting any essential information.
8. Mr. BITTENCOURT (Brazil) stated that he could only support the proposal of the representative of Cameroon if the Board maintained exclusive jurisdiction over draft resolutions. The secretariat should give exact information on the problems to be solved but should refrain from proposing solutions. Concerning the need to limit documentation, the Brazilian delegation supported the views of the representative of India; it thought that the Board could only give the guidelines set forth in the Report of the Working Group on Programme and Co-ordination (ID/B/WGPC/2), paragraph 239.
9. Mr. SHATSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) approved the first three points in the proposal of the representative of Cameroon. He agreed that the documents issued for the Board were too bulky. Even if the secretariat were not given any precise instructions at the present session, it might at least take care, as the representative of India had suggested that in future its documents were more concise.
10. On the Cameroon representative's fourth point the Soviet delegation, like that of Brazil, did not think the secretariat ought to guide the Board. Delegations were perfectly capable of grasping for themselves the essential issues requiring decision, and of determining their own positions without recommendations from the secretariat. Furthermore, since decision was vested in the Board and the Board alone, no stress should be laid on differences of opinion between the Board and the secretariat.
11. It was also absolutely essential that all the documents should be distributed to delegations at least six weeks before the Working Group met, and in the four languages; otherwise they could not be properly examined.
12. Mr. DELVAUX (Belgium) felt that the summaries proposed by the representative of Cameroon should relate, not to the document as a whole, but to each of the subjects considered in it.

13. Mr. AJAH (Pakistan) agreed that the secretariat should draft summaries emphasizing the problems requiring the Board's attention.
14. Mr. BITTENCOURA (Brazil) agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union. As the Working Group was a subsidiary organ of the Board, its members should receive documents at least six weeks before the session opened.
15. Mr. QUAI (Cameroon) explained that the essential need was to ensure that all the problems to be solved by the Board were summarized. The secretariat, by setting forth information which would help the Board to make a decision, would not in the least be dictating that decision.
16. Mr. BRILIANTES (Philippines) considered that the proposal of the delegation of Cameroon might be adopted experimentally, and the Board at its fourth session could judge from the results, whether the new presentation of documents needed to be modified.
17. The proposal of the delegation of Cameroon was adopted.
18. The PRESIDENT suggested, since all delegations seemed to agree, that the Board should invite the secretariat to take all possible steps to simplify documents and reduce their volume.
19. It was so decided.
20. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in accordance with the view put forward by all the delegations, the Board should invite the secretariat to arrange that all documents should reach member States at least six weeks before the opening of the session of the Working Group on Programme and Co-ordination.
21. It was so decided.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FOURTH SESSION

22. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Board should hold its next session at Vicent from 1-29 April 1970, on the understanding that the Executive Director might modify these dates slightly if necessary to allow for the calendar of the principal international meetings.
23. It was so decided.

OTHER BUSINESS

24. Mr. KRISHNAJIANTI (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that he had noted the interest shown by numerous delegations in the problems of the export of manufactured goods by the developing countries; in this connexion, some of the measures under consideration in UNCTAD should be of interest to the Industrial Development Board. One of the most important results of the second session of the Conference had been the agreement for the establishment of a generalized, non-reciprocal system of tariff preferences in favour of the developing countries. The second session had set up a Special Committee on Preferences, which had already held two meetings; the objective was to settle the details of the generalized system of preferences in 1969, with a view to giving effect to it in 1970. The introduction of a generalized scheme of preferences would be of interest to UNIDO, because the extent to which the developing countries would be able to benefit by the improved access to markets would depend on their success in establishing industries and developing exports of manufactures. UNIDO had thus an important contribution to make in helping the developing countries.

25. The UNCTAD Committee on Manufactures also had on its work programme the examination of non-tariff barriers, including quantitative restrictions affecting exports of manufactures from the developing countries. In addition, a Working Party of Inter-Governmental Experts on Tariff Reclassification had been established and the UNCTAD secretariat, in co-operation with the Customs Co-operation Council, was dealing with the problem of tariff reclassification of products of interest to the developing countries. The UNCTAD Committee on Manufactures was also engaged in examining the question of restrictive business practices applied by private firms in industrialized countries which affected the export interests of the developing countries. All these activities of UNCTAD should be of interest to UNIDO in its efforts to promote industrial development.

26. He recalled the statement made by his UNCTAD colleague in the Working Group and was happy to reaffirm the co-operation that had been established between UNIDO and UNCTAD and with the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. UNCTAD was dealing with several commercial policy issues of general interest to UNIDO.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION (ID/B/L.44/Add.1-5, ID/B/L.50 and ID/B/L.51)

27. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden), Rapporteur, said that he had tried in his draft report to strike a fair balance between the comments made by the different delegations during the discussions. In accordance with the practice followed by other United Nations bodies, he had left out political declarations, which in any case appeared in the summary records of the meetings.
28. He then read out the symbols of the documents containing the introduction and the various chapters of the draft report.
29. Mr. SAHLOOL (Sudan), supported by Mr. MADOUH (Kuwait), observed that his delegation had submitted an amendment (ID/B/L.50), and asked whether, as appeared from the Rapporteur's draft, he should understand that it would not be mentioned in the report.
30. The PRESIDENT said that the amendment proposed by the Sudanese delegation would be considered in discussion on the relevant item.
31. Mr. SHATSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. MADOUH (Kuwait), was absolutely convinced that the report should reflect as faithfully as possible all the opinions expressed by delegations during the discussions, including political considerations, which often could not be dissociated from others.
32. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden), Rapporteur, replied that his opening remarks did not apply to any particular paragraph or amendment but merely stated a general principle.
33. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the essence of the statements made by representatives during the Board's discussions were recorded in the summary records and the report; furthermore, delegations could submit amendments whenever they thought fit during consideration of the draft report.
34. He invited the members of the Board to decide on each paragraph of the draft report.

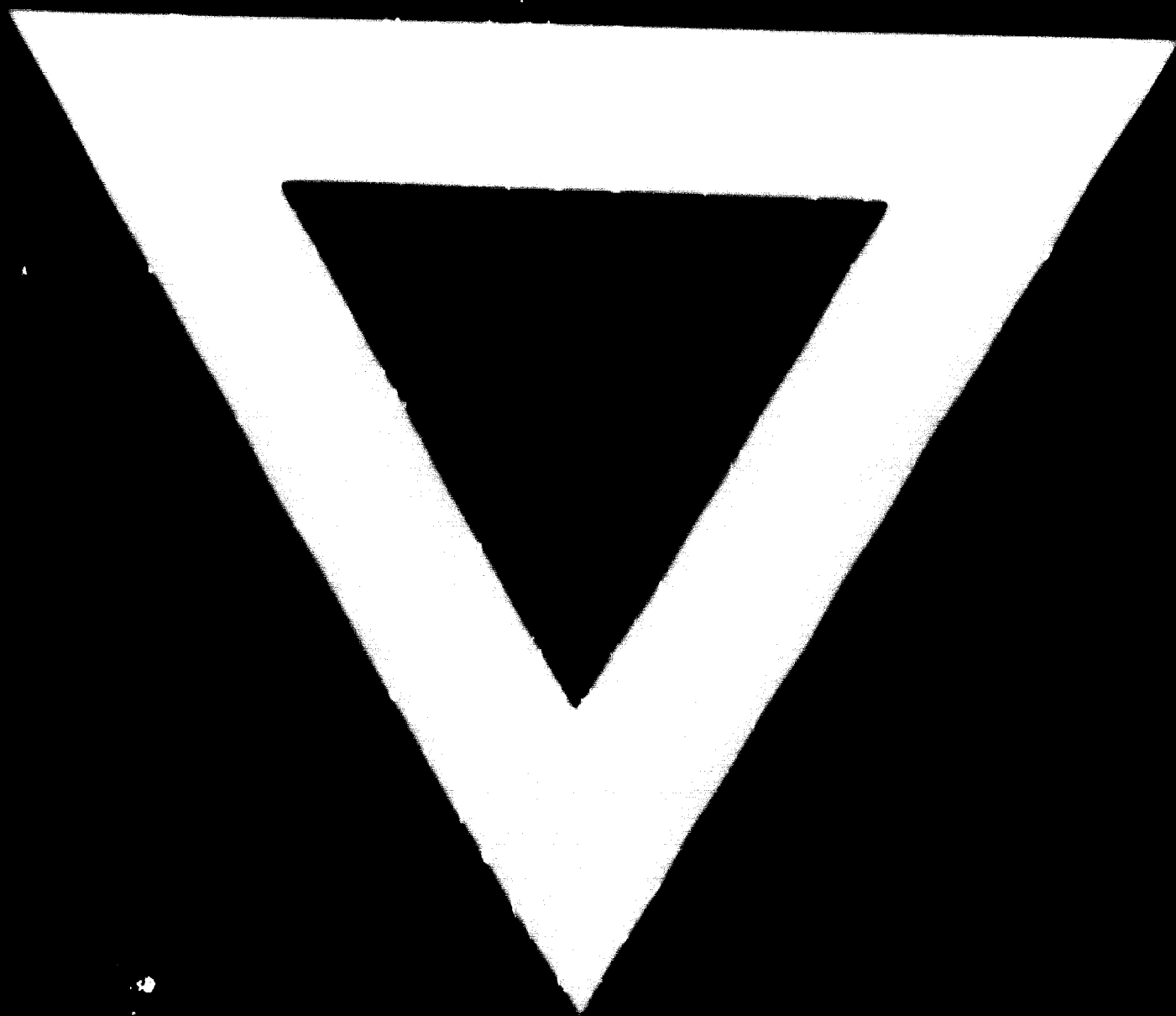
Introduction

35. Paragraphs 1 to 3 were adopted.
36. Mr. BITTENCOURT (Brazil) pointed out a typographical error in the English text of paragraph 4, which should read: "Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies".
37. Mr. SHATSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that China, mentioned among the States Members, should be designated by its official title of "Republic of China". That correction was required in the Russian, English and Spanish texts.
38. Mr. MAJCHER (Poland) asked that in the French text the words "République de" should precede the word "Chine" instead of appearing in brackets.
39. The PRESIDENT, supported by Mr. SIMPSON (United States of America), said that in that matter the official list of the States Members of the United Nations should be followed.
40. Paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted.
41. Paragraphs 5 to 7 were adopted.
42. Mr. VAVASSEUR (France) pointed out a typographical error in the fourth line of paragraph 8 in the French text, which should read "CEDINOR" and not "CEDINOF".
43. Paragraph 8 was adopted.
44. Paragraphs 9 to 11 were adopted.
45. Mr. QUAN (Cameroon), supported by Miss RICHARDS (United Kingdom), proposed that at the end of the second line of the English text the word "have" should be deleted.
46. Paragraph 12, as amended, was adopted.
47. Paragraphs 13 and 14 were adopted.
48. Miss RICHARDS (United Kingdom) suggested that, in the first line of the English text of paragraph 15, the word "problem" should be replaced by "subject" and the word "will" by "would".

49. Paragraph 15, as amended, was adopted.
50. Mr. QUAN (Cameroon) proposed that, at the end of the penultimate line of the English text of paragraph 15, the word "earlier" should be replaced by "early".
51. Mr. VAVASSEUR (France) said that the amendment did not affect the French text.
52. Paragraph 16, as amended, was adopted.
53. Mr. ROBERTS (Canada), supported by Mr. KOLO (Nigeria), said that in the third line of the English text of paragraph 17 the word "will" should be replaced by "would".
54. Paragraph 17, as amended, was adopted.
55. Paragraphs 18 to 22 were adopted.
56. Mr. LORENZI (Uruguay) thought that in paragraph 23 the word "incorporado" was insufficient, as it might give the wrong impression that the report of the Working Group was annexed to that of the Board. It would be more correct to say that the text of that report "se aprobó e incorporó" in the report of the Board.
57. Mr. ROBERTS (Canada), supported by Mr. BUTTENCOURT (Brazil), proposed the form "adopted and made part of" for the English text.
58. Paragraph 23, as amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.





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