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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Industrial Development Board

Fourth Session

Vienna, 20 - 30 April 1970

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Monday, 20 April 1970, at 10.45 a.m.

Acting President: Mr. MURAD (Pakistan)
President: Mr. SEDIVÝ (Czechoslovakia)
Chairman: Mr. ARCHIBALD (Trinidad and Tobago)

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The ACTING PRESIDENT declared open the fourth session of the Industrial Development Board. He welcomed the new members who had been elected by the General Assembly and congratulated the members whose terms of office had been extended by the Assembly. He said that the world was facing a most crucial period of rapid change and development which presented a real challenge to mankind. UNIDO needed a rational and objective approach to its important tasks, both with regard to developing countries and to the technically more advanced countries, since there could be no doubt that interdependence was an increasingly important factor and that international co-operation based on mutual respect was essential in international relations. UNIDO's activities were directed towards the economic rejuvenation of the developing countries and were aimed at promoting the requisite spirit of international co-operation. He was sure that the Board's discussions would play a part in helping to resolve the pressing problems with which the world was faced.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Mr. TRIVEDI (India) nominated Mr. Sedivý (Czechoslovakia) for the office of President.
3. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) and Mr. ABUBAKR (Sudan) supported the nomination.
4. Mr. Sedivý (Czechoslovakia) was elected President.
Mr. Sedivý took the Chair.
5. Mr. MURAD (Pakistan) nominated Mr. Brillantes (Philippines) for the office of first Vice-President.
6. Mr. TRIVEDI (India), Mr. SERRANO (Chile) and Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) supported the nomination..
7. Mr. LOPEZ LUIÑO (Cuba) said that in order to avoid a repetition of the misunderstanding which had arisen during the election of officers of the Working Group on Programme and Co-ordination, his delegation wished to abstain in the election of the first Vice-President. The abstention was in no way a reflection on the personal qualities of Mr. Brillantes.

8. Mr. Brillantes (Philippines) was elected first Vice-President.
9. Mr. PUTTEVILS (Belgium) nominated Mr. Probat (Switzerland) for the office of second Vice-President.
10. Mr. KOLO (Nigeria) and Mr. SERRANO (Chile) supported the nomination.
11. Mr. Probat (Switzerland) was elected second Vice-President.
12. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) nominated Mr. Abubakr (Sudan) for the office of third Vice-President.
13. Mr. SCHEJBAL (Czechoslovakia), Mr. CASILLI (Italy) and Mr. ARKADIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the nomination.
14. Mr. Abubakr (Sudan) was elected third Vice-President.
15. Mr. DAVILA (Mexico) nominated Mr. Archibald (Trinidad and Tobago) as Rapporteur.
16. Mr. LEON (Spain), Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) and Mr. NDLO (Nigeria) supported the nomination.
17. Mr. Archibald (Trinidad and Tobago) was elected Rapporteur.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ID/B/63)

18. Mr. SERRANO (Chile), supported by Mr. LEON (Spain), Mr. DAVILA (Mexico), Mr. SZITA (Hungary), Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines), Mr. STURAVI (United States of America), Mr. STEDTFELD (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr. LOPEZ MUIÑO (Cuba) and Mr. ASANTE (Ghana), proposed the introduction of an additional item concerning a special international conference of UNIDO on industrialisation in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2578 (XIV).
19. It was so decided.
20. The provisional agenda, as amended, was adopted.

GENERAL DEBATE

21. Mr. ABDEL-RAHMAN (Executive Director) expressed the hope that the report of the Working Group on Programme and Co-ordination, which had just been distributed would be of help to delegations during the general debate. In past years, it had been the task of the Executive Director to introduce the general debate by a statement summarizing UNIDO's activities and situation. In view of the limited time at the Board's disposal, and after consultation with a number of representatives, he had decided not to make the traditional statement but instead to refer delegations to documents ID/B/74 and ID/B/77 which, together with the Working Group's report, contained the points he would have made in his verbal statement.
22. Mr. KOLC (Nigeria) said that although his delegation had been unable to participate in the Working Group's fourth session, its interest and confidence in UNIDO had increased appreciably since the previous year. In the interval, Nigeria had submitted several applications for assistance. He was grateful that non-resident delegates had been notified sufficiently in advance to enable them to make arrangements to attend the Board meeting.
23. The statement made by the Nigerian representative before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 7 November 1969 contained a number of points which were basic to his country's policy towards UNIDO. On that occasion, the representative of his Government had pointed out that industrialization must be regarded as one of the most important elements for the future advancement of developing countries, and had laid particular emphasis on studies and research, technical assistance and information. Studies and research must be concrete and be directed towards finding industrial uses for the natural resources of the developing countries. In particular, UNIDO should interest itself in the design of cheap intermediate agricultural machinery. With regard to technical assistance, one of the constraints on the ability of the developing countries to absorb aid was inadequate project preparation; UNIDO could make a real contribution by providing industrial consultant services, particularly when new projects were contemplated. On the question of information, he proposed the collection, collation and distribution of information on alternative technologies or processes available in the various industrial sectors; UNIDO should prepare a publication listing industries in which labour-intensive

and capital-intensive techniques could be used, describing those techniques and explaining their implications. Such a publication would be of considerable assistance to industrial programmers and economic planners in the developing countries.

24. He noted that UNIDO was already operating in the three sectors he had just mentioned, although it would of course be some time before research on questions such as the design of cheap agricultural machinery would produce tangible results. It was gratifying that the Organization was according industrial information and promotion their due place in the scheme of its activities, especially in the disbursement of voluntary contributions (document ID/B/66, Annex, paragraph 8). He commended the increase in the funds allocated to the SIS programme and expressed the hope that the resources made available to UNIDO in 1970 and 1971 would be further increased in future years. UNIDO should redouble its efforts in the field of industrial financing.

25. The sums pledged at the second Pledging Conference still fell short of the total reached during the first Conference, although he believed that other pledges would be forthcoming in the near future. He announced that the sum of 76,000 pledged by his country was being paid to the Organization.

26. UNIDO was a young organization, which it would be premature to expand by setting up subsidiary organs. His delegation would have certain remarks to make on that subject under the relevant item of the agenda. Another matter of great interest to his delegation was the geographical distribution of secretarial staff.

27. Mr. PROBST (Switzerland) observed that the Board was meeting at a time when international preoccupation with industrial development, particularly its long-term aspects, as evidenced by the Jackson and Pearson Reports, was carrying the problem far beyond the confines of UNIDO itself.

28. He was pleased that the Organization's activities showed a greater degree of cohesion than in the past, particularly in the relationship between supporting and field activities. Such cohesion would become more and more important as UNIDO assumed responsibility for an increasing number of UNDP projects, where follow-up would, in many cases, involve supporting activities in respect, for instance, of the training of skilled manpower or investment promotion.

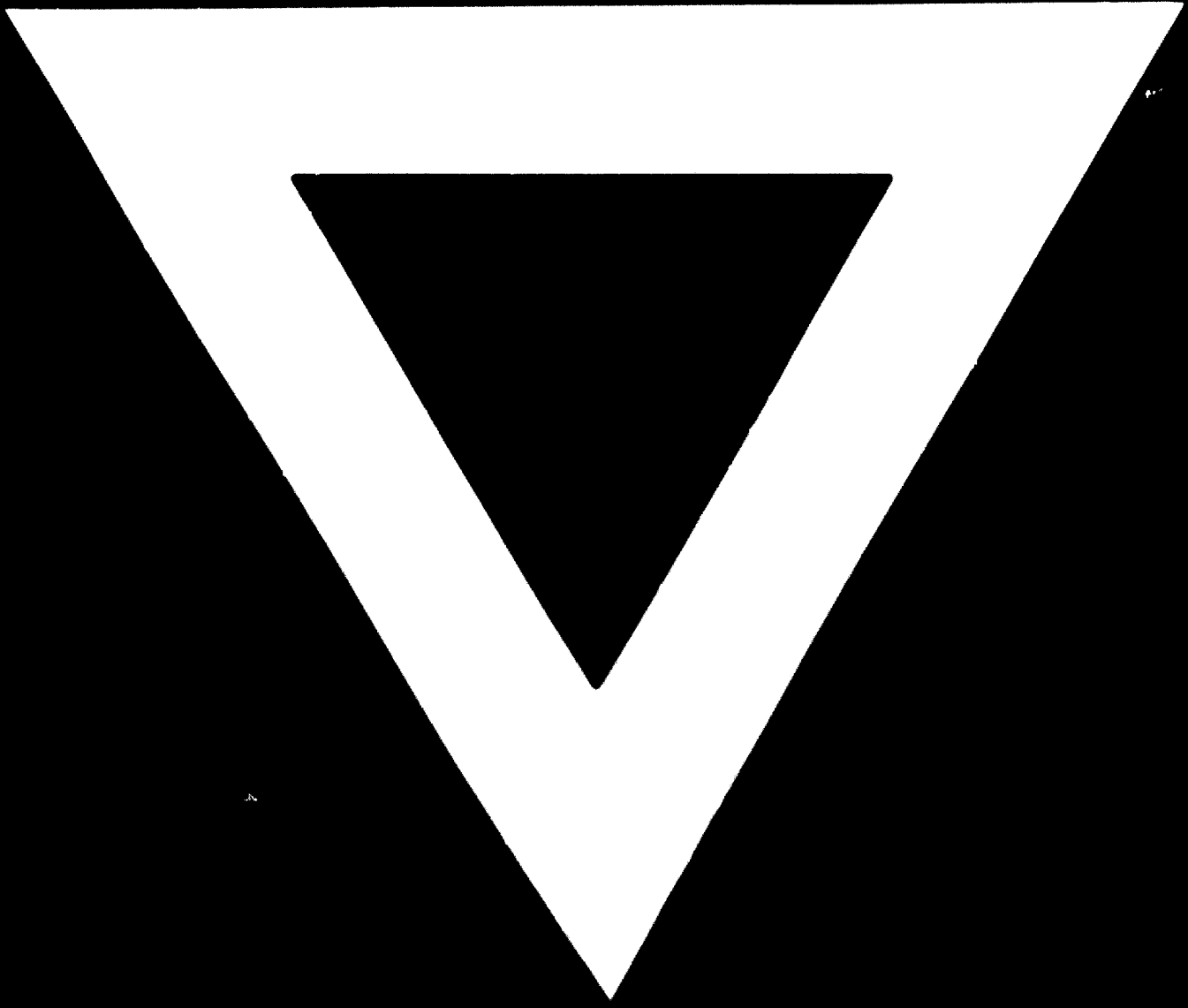
29. The delegation of Switzerland which, at the third session of the Board, had joined others in expressing the hope that in conception and presentation UNIDO's work programme would continue to improve, congratulated the secretariat on the progress made in this direction. If his delegation still wished to learn more about the follow-up of completed projects, it did so rather to encourage than to criticize.
30. UNIDO's activities were tending to be more clearly directed into specific fields. This was evidence of improved consolidation and better control on the part of those responsible for the work. The selection of priorities in response to requests from the developing countries underscored UNIDO's role of co-operation, and should be pursued further.
31. The developing countries themselves might usefully provide the secretariat with their own comments on and assessment of projects completed on their own territory. Such information would add to the experience and increase the efficiency of UNIDO, and would be particularly valuable now that it was undertaking more and more operational activities, particularly in the UNDP/OT sector.
32. The delegation of Switzerland was particularly anxious that operational activities, whether in the form of technical co-operation or of pre-investment assistance, should be integrated with national efforts, and that they should lead from the outset to coherent operations and practical results. For that reason, it was to be hoped that the secretariat would adapt its procedures to those which might emerge from the study now being made of the Jackson Report, so that efforts which were still too disjointed might be rationalized and integrated in programmes of technical co-operation and pre-investment aid in line with the actual needs of individual countries.
33. Co-ordination and integration were equally important in the preparation of the Second Development Decade. In that connexion, the delegation of Switzerland approved the essentially pragmatic approach adopted by the secretariat, whereby the role of UNIDO was envisaged as progressive and dynamic. The delegation believed that UNIDO's participation in the Second Development Decade should be universal in character and should be directed not only towards providing the peoples of the world with more material goods, but also towards solving the chronic problem of under-employment, and ensuring that developing economies were ever more closely integrated into the contemporary world economy.

34. In view of the heavy demands on resources available for development assistance, it was essential that operational procedures should be efficient and that organizational arrangements should be sound. For that reason, every effort in the direction of greater synchronization and co-ordination was to be encouraged. It was gratifying that UNIDO was already moving in the direction of some of the practical recommendations of the Jackson Report as regards country programming and the relations between industrial advisers and UNDP resident representatives. Similarly, UNIDO was to be congratulated on the steps taken to ensure collaboration with other organizations active in the field of industrialisation, and particularly on the agreement concluded with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). There was, however, one matter which needed more attention, namely, to establish greater co-ordination between bilateral and multilateral programmes, so as to eliminate duplication as far as possible and to rationalize development efforts from all sources.

35. In conclusion, the delegation of Switzerland wished to pay tribute to the Executive Director and the secretariat for the very efficient organization of courses on UNIDO operations for government officials responsible for industrial development planning and technical assistance, financed from a voluntary contribution of one million Swiss francs made by the Government of Switzerland. It appeared that the outstanding credit balance of that contribution would make it possible to organize two more courses on the same lines and also to bear part of the cost of two in-plant training courses (in the chemical and electro-mechanical industries) to be held in 1971 in Switzerland. Those courses had proved most valuable, and the Swiss Government was happy to announce that it would be prepared to consider making a further contribution for similar activities.

The meeting rose at 12.15 P.M.





28.3.74