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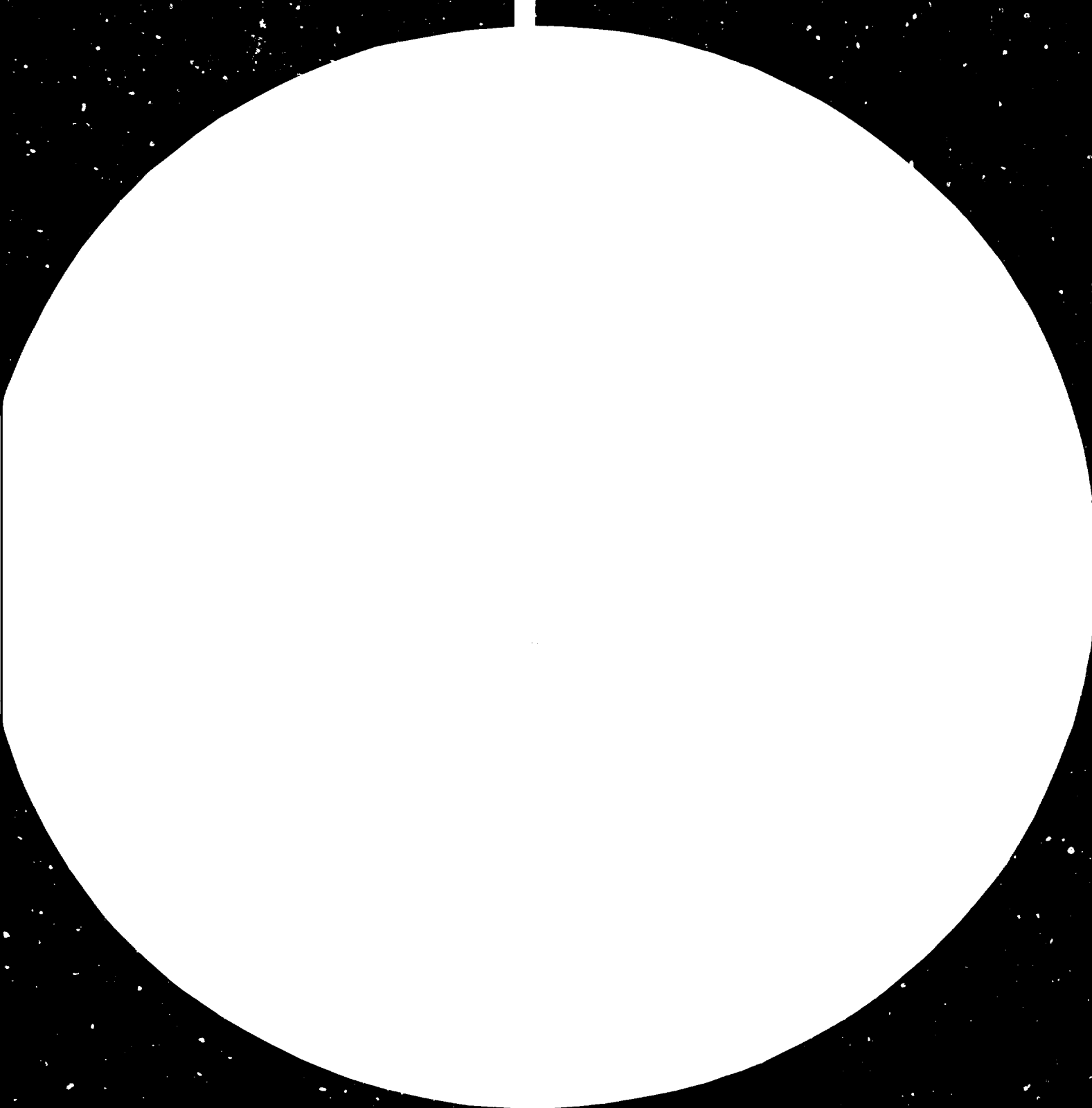
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Technology for Africa

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THE ROLE OF UNIDO IN
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY *

Prepared by
the UNIDO secretariat

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1. A detailed document describing UNIDO's past activities and directions for future work in the field of strengthening the technological capabilities of developing countries was presented to the Third General Conference of UNIDO, 21 January - 9 February 1980. Copies of this document are available at the Symposium and provide information on the range and scope of UNIDO's involvement in the field of industrial technology. ^{1/}

2. The document proposed that, in addition to continuing the important programmes already initiated, directions of future UNIDO work should be devoted primarily to:

- (a) Generating a widespread movement designed to create awareness and mobilize interest and effort;
- (b) Providing assistance to developing countries in planning and implementing the elements of a framework for national action;
- (c) Development of human resources;
- (d) Development of technology, including both processes and equipment.

3. The deliberations of the Third General Conference showed uniform recognition of the need to expand activities aimed at strengthening the technological capabilities of the developing countries. The recommendations of that Conference and of the Industrial Development Board, which considered the follow-up to that Conference at its Fourteenth Session, have provided a basis for action by UNIDO which reflects a more comprehensive approach to technology.

4. UNIDO has been active in several developing countries in the African region, both in regard to technical assistance and promotional activities: for example, in the United Republic of Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania in the field of technology policy and planning; in Algeria and Egypt concerning technology acquisition; and in a number of countries in regard to institution building and training.^{2/} Programmes for the promotion of metal production development units are under way in several least developed countries of Africa and a programme for co-operation in the

^{1/} Strengthening of Technological Capabilities of Developing Countries: The Role of UNIDO (ID/CONF.4/7).

^{2/} UNIDO's technical assistance to Africa amounted to \$ 17.3 million in 1979 and is anticipated to be \$ 19.4 million in 1980.

field of small-scale industry has been initiated in Egypt and Kenya. In addition, UNIDO has assisted emerging regional organizations such as the African Association of Industrial Technology Organizations (AAITO), and the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT).

5. In keeping with this trend of assistance to the African region and in the light of the importance attached by the UNIDO secretariat to the African Development Decade, many of the activities which will be undertaken by the secretariat in future are envisaged to be specifically relevant to African countries and conditions.

6. Directions of future action

- (a) Further activities under the Co-operative Programme of Action on Appropriate Industrial Technology, including the mobilization of interest and effort and the organization of further meetings like the International Forum on Appropriate Industrial Technology, New Delhi;
- (b) Further activities under INTIB^{3/}, to the extent resources permit;
- (c) Programmes for strengthening the technological capabilities of the developing countries, in particular capabilities related to the negotiation and acquisition of technology;
- (d) Programmes of assistance to, and co-operation with, regional centres for technology transfer, in order that those centres might provide, at the regional level, natural links for INTIB and other UNIDO activities in the field of industrial technology;
- (e) Programmes of technical assistance, to be rendered at the request of the countries concerned, to support national action for industrial technology, special attention being given to the least developed countries;
- (f) Programmes for the identification and greater use of the technologies, as well as the technological expertise and capabilities, of developing countries;
- (g) Further promotion of technological co-operation among developing countries, keeping particularly in view the recommendations of the Round Table Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Industry, held at New Delhi in January 1977, and the Istanbul Declaration;
- (h) Promotion of, and assistance to "centres of excellence" or specialized centres for technological co-operation;
- (i) Promotion of networking and co-operation among industrial and technological institutions at national, regional and interregional levels;

3/ See ID/B/241

- (j) Preparation of technology perspectives in important industrial sectors and monitoring of technological breakthroughs for the benefit of the developing countries;
- (k) Preparation of portfolios of R and D projects and the promotion of the implementation of those projects;
- (l) Support on technological aspects to follow-up activities of the meetings organized by the System of Consultations;
- (m) Preparatory work for a global consultation on industrial technology.^{4/}
- (n) Promotion of technology transfer in the redeployment process, and the further development of technology so transferred;
- (o) Promotion of research and dissemination of information on energy-related technologies;
- (p) Participation in the formulation and implementation of projects financed from the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development;
- (q) Strengthening UNIDO as an executing agency in the field of industrial technology and its co-ordinating role within the United Nations system in this field.

7. In a few cases, the programmes basically call for further development of ongoing activities, while others call for new initiatives.^{5/} Implementation of these programmes involves the mobilization of interest and effort in a sustained manner, at the international, regional and national levels. UNIDO intends to pursue systematically further avenues for effective co-operation not only with national governments, but also with regional organizations and other United Nations agencies, as well as public and private enterprises, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

^{4/} See New Delhi Plan of Action, ID/CONF.4/CRP 16/Add.1, Section III, C.(r).

^{5/} As regards actions taken since the Third General Conference of UNIDO, see Follow-up of the Decisions and Recommendations of the Third General Conference of UNIDO (ID/B/C.3/100/Add.1).

8. The issue and tasks involved in strengthening the technological capabilities of developing countries have by now been well recognized. A stage has been reached where integrated programmes of action of sufficient scope to make a decisive impact on the technological development of the African countries must be drawn up and carried out. This calls for a programme-oriented approach. The Symposium may wish to provide guidance on the future course of UNIDO programmes as outlined in this document and in ID/CONF.4/7 with particular reference to African needs.
9. Resources both from existing national and international sources, and from the Interim Fund for Science and Technology will be needed. Just as developing countries will have to devote a larger percentage of their GNP to the development of their technological capabilities, so also a larger percentage of the resources of the United Nations system and the international community, including those arising from other bilateral and multilateral arrangements, will have to be devoted to the task of strengthening national technological capabilities of developing countries.
10. UNIDO has co-operated in the past with many African countries in several programmes in industrial technology. It has maintained close relations with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including the ECA/UNIDO Industry Division. It has kept close relations with the African Regional Technology Centre (ARTC), provided expert assistance to it and will continue to support its work. UNIDO works also in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Monrovia during the Sixteenth Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Governments. The action programmes recommended by the Joint OAU/UNIDO Symposium on Industrial Technology for Africa will further enhance UNIDO's role in supporting the efforts of Africa in developing capabilities in the field of industrial technology.

