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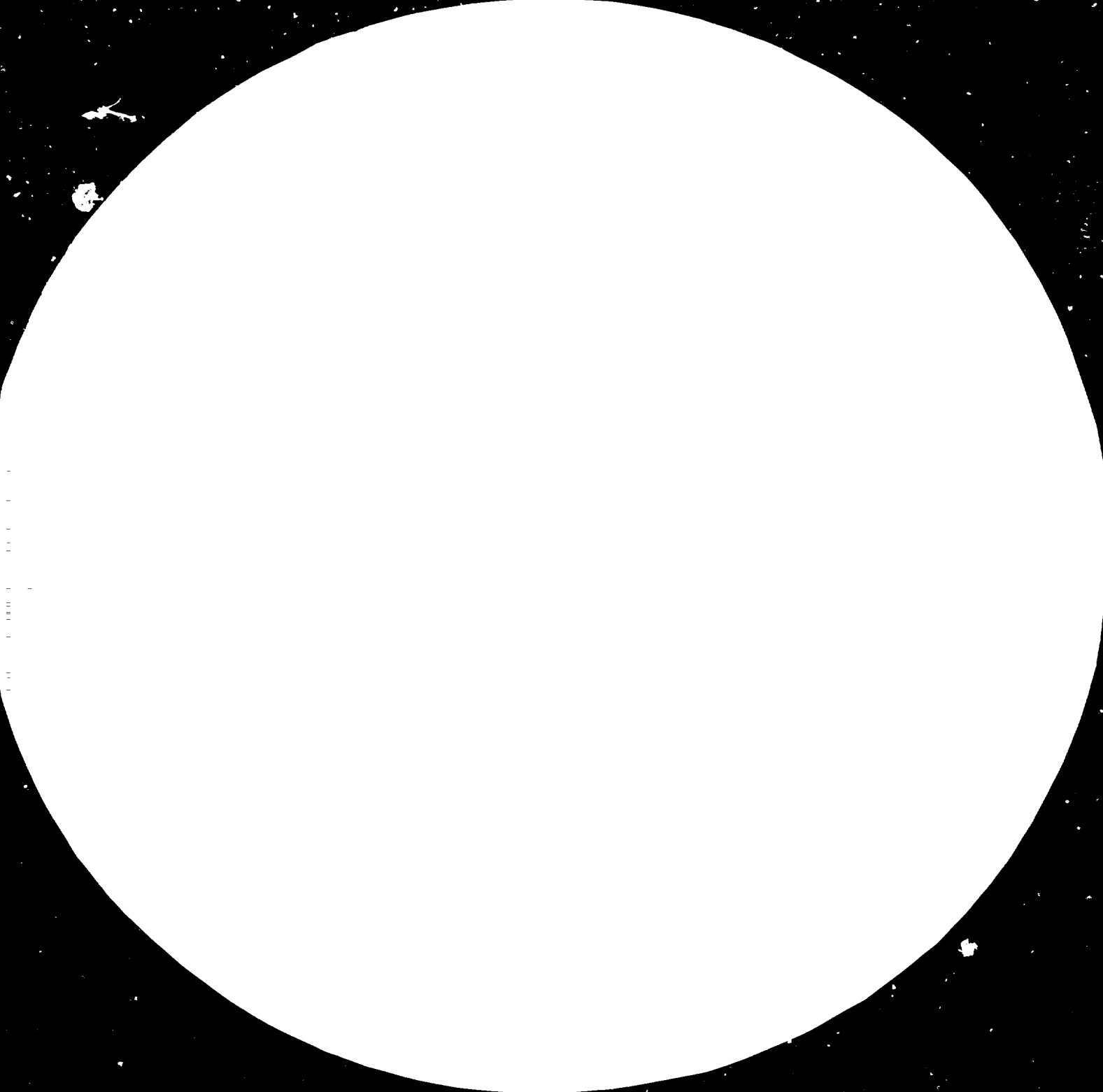
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Sixth Session of the Leather and
Leather Products Industry Panel

Vienna, Austria, 29 November - 1 December 1982

REPORT: (Leather and leather products industry).

3692

PREFACE

The Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel was established by the Industrial Development Board after the First Consultation on the Leather and Leather Products Industry to assist in preparing and to oversee the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Consultations in this sector.

The Second Meeting of the Industrial Working Group was held at UNIDO headquarters, Vienna, Austria, on 26 November 1982, and the sixth session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel was held from 29 November to 1 December 1982.

At the sixth session, the Panel reviewed follow-up action to the recommendations and conclusions of the Second Consultation and of its fifth session.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The sixth session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel was attended by 21 participants from 15 countries and 5 international organizations (see annex I).

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening of the Meeting

2. The session was opened by the outgoing Vice-Chairman, Getinet W. Giorgis (Ethiopia). In his introductory comments, Mr. Getinet noted with regret the death of Mr. Xilin Zhang (China) on 1 January 1982.

3. Mr. Getinet welcomed two new members: Osmundo S. de Guzman Sr. (Philippines) and Shi Xianlin (China).

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

4. The Panel elected Wilson Sabio de Mello (Brazil) Chairman and Guy G. Reaks (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairman.

Adoption of the agenda

5. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Second Consultation:
 - (i) Report of the Industrial Working Group on ground rules for the rationalization of world production, marketing and trade in leather, leather products and footwear;
 - (ii) UNIDO draft checklist for the tanning industry;
 - (iii) Progress report on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the fifth session concerning the International Hides and Skins Development Scheme; developments on the improvement of statistical intelligence.
5. Health and safety problems in the leather and leather products industry
6. Environmental problems of the leather industry
7. Other business

Documentation

6. The documents issued for the session are listed in annex II.

II. FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND CONSULTATION
(Agenda items 4(i)-4(iii))

Report of the Industrial Working Group on ground rules for the rationalization of world production, marketing and trade in the leather and leather products industry

7. Based on the report of the Industrial Working Group and the UNIDO document UNIDO/PC.58, the Panel concluded that:

(a) It was not possible at present to establish a globally acceptable set of ground rules for the rationalization of world production, marketing and trade in the leather and leather products industry;

(b) Because the growth patterns and industrialization levels of the developing countries in different regions varied widely, further examination and analysis on a regional basis was necessary. The regional approach could identify specific areas and problems for regional and international co-operation and negotiation;

(c) Should the regional analysis reveal common problem areas of global interest, these could form a basis for ensuing global discussions.

Draft checklist for contractual agreements in the tanning industry

8. The UNIDO secretariat presented the draft checklist for contractual agreements in the tanning sector between enterprises interested in international co-operation (UNIDO/PC.60). The Panel discussed the checklist in detail and recommended several modifications and additions. The UNIDO secretariat was advised to release the checklist for general circulation, in combination with the checklist for the footwear industry, after the inclusion of the comments made by the Panel.

9. There was considerable discussion of a UNIDO proposition to test the efficacy of some of the concepts for international co-operation as put forward in the checklist. The Panel welcomed this step, although it made note that none of the individual modes of co-operation contained in the checklists should be recommended as being preferable over the others.

International hides and skins development scheme

10. A project-level report, presented by a representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), covered the action taken by FAO in several developing countries. The Panel welcomed the action taken by FAO and UNIDO at the project level to assist developing countries in identifying problems and taking action designed to improve the quality of hides and skins. The Panel reiterated its desire that the momentum achieved in this area should be maintained. It was recommended that this issue should be raised at the regional level.

11. A representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) briefed the Panel on recent developments at the intergovernmental level to include hides and skins as a commodity eligible for development funding through the Second Account of the Common Fund. The Panel recognized this as an important step and (a) proposed that the concerned Governments include hides and skins and leather as a separate commodity (as opposed to being treated as a meat by-product) in the Integrated Programme for

Commodities; and (b) pointed out that programmes proposed for the Second Account funding should place emphasis on improving of the basic conditions of supply of this commodity, as well as its industrial processing and marketing.

Statistical intelligence for the hides and skins, leather and leather products sector

12. A representative of FAO reviewed that Organization's work on this topic and drew the Panel's attention to a few new initiatives being undertaken in this area, including, inter alia, the possible compilation of a 20-year historical time series of price data on hides, skins and leather. The Panel was informed that the World Statistical Compendium might be updated by the summer of 1983.

Health and safety problems in the leather and leather products industry

13. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) briefed the Panel with regard to the work undertaken by that Organisation on recommendations for the health and safety of workers in the leather and leather products industry. Specifically, the Panel's attention was called to report III of the ILO Second Tripartite Technical Meeting for the Leather and Footwear Industry, which was held in Geneva in 1979, and the relevant conclusions of that Meeting. A series of ILO instruments on occupational safety and health was made available to the Panel.

14. The ILO representative called the Panel's attention to the decision by its governing body to hold the Third Tripartite Technical Meeting for the Leather and Footwear Industry in 1984/85. Two agenda items for this meeting were pointed out as being of particular relevance, i.e.:

(a) Manpower development and retraining in the leather and footwear industry;

(b) The impact of employment and income of structural and technological changes in the leather and footwear industry.

Environmental problems in the leather industry

15. The UNIDO secretariat presented a consultant's study entitled "Draft techno-economic study on measures to mitigate the environmental impact of the leather industry, particularly in developing countries". The study was an update of an earlier United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/UNIDO study on environmental considerations for the tanning industry.

16. The study had been completed only shortly before the Panel session and could not be circulated in advance of the meeting. Panel members were requested to supply their comments to the UNIDO secretariat by the end of January 1983.

Technical assistance programme for the leather and leather products industry

17. The UNIDO secretariat presented a summary report on its technical assistance programme to the leather and leather products industry. The secretariat pointed out that its portfolio of technical assistance projects in the sector had reached \$10.6 million. However, the 1983 programme was confronted by the prospect of lower growth owing to the probable reduction of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funding. This shortfall was being

compensated to a large extent by increased United Nations Industrial Development Fund contributions and by special purpose funds allocated by some member Governments.

18. The representative of the International Trade Centre (ITC) also briefed the Panel on existing and prospective projects being undertaken by that agency. The Panel expressed interest in ITC's efforts in marketing assistance for reptile skins.

Regional consultation for Africa

19. In the light of the conclusions under agenda item 4, the Panel requested the UNIDO secretariat to undertake work on a regional basis. As the first step for the regional approach, the secretariat was requested to initiate action to convene a regional consultation for Africa. This was considered a priority because:

(a) Africa contains the greatest number of least developed countries, and this move would be in keeping with the African Development Decade;

(b) Global consultations and related discussions on the leather and leather products industry have already defined certain issues that could be examined in the African context;

(c) The African continent has a substantial raw material base, but it has the least developed leather and leather products industry, thereby giving it considerable potential for industrial growth in this area.

20. The objectives of the regional consultation should be, inter alia, to define a set of measures and to identify potential for international, regional and subregional co-operation in the development and trade in the leather and leather products industry. The consultation should be held as soon as possible.

UNCTAD study on the leather and leather products industry

21. The Panel's attention was drawn to a recent UNCTAD study entitled "A case study on the leather and leather products (except footwear) industry: trade implications for developing countries" (TD/B/C.2/210, 15 October 1982).

Annex I

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a/ Member of the Industrial Working Group.

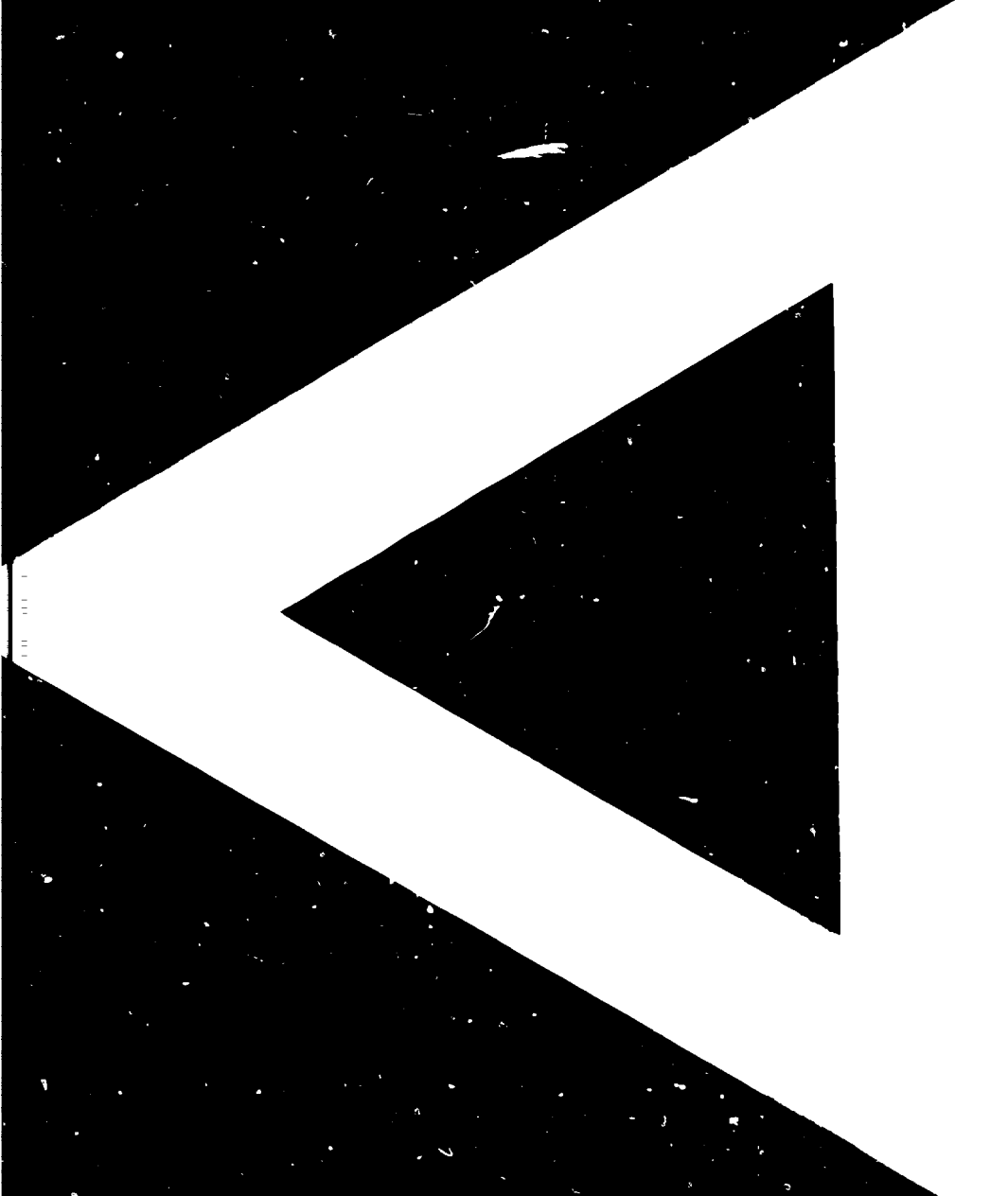
b/ Attended the Meeting of the Industrial Working Group only.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda	ID/WG.386/1
Occupational safety and health in the leather and leather products industry, Introductory note Karl H. Ebel, International Labour Office	ID/WG.386/2
Provisional list of participants	ID/WG.386/3
Provisional list of documents	ID/WG.386/4 and Corr.1
Background paper for the Second Meeting of the Industrial Working Group of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel UNIDO secretariat	UNIDO/PC.58
Draft checklist for contractual agreements in the tanning sector between enterprises from developed and developing countries UNIDO secretariat	UNIDO/PC.60
Second Tripartite Technical Meeting for the Leather and Footwear Industry ILO/Report III	
Draft techno-economic study on measures to mitigate the environmental impact of the leather industry, particularly in developing countries David Winters, Consultant	
UNIDO technical assistance activities in the field of leather and leather products as at end September 1982 UNIDO secretariat	





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