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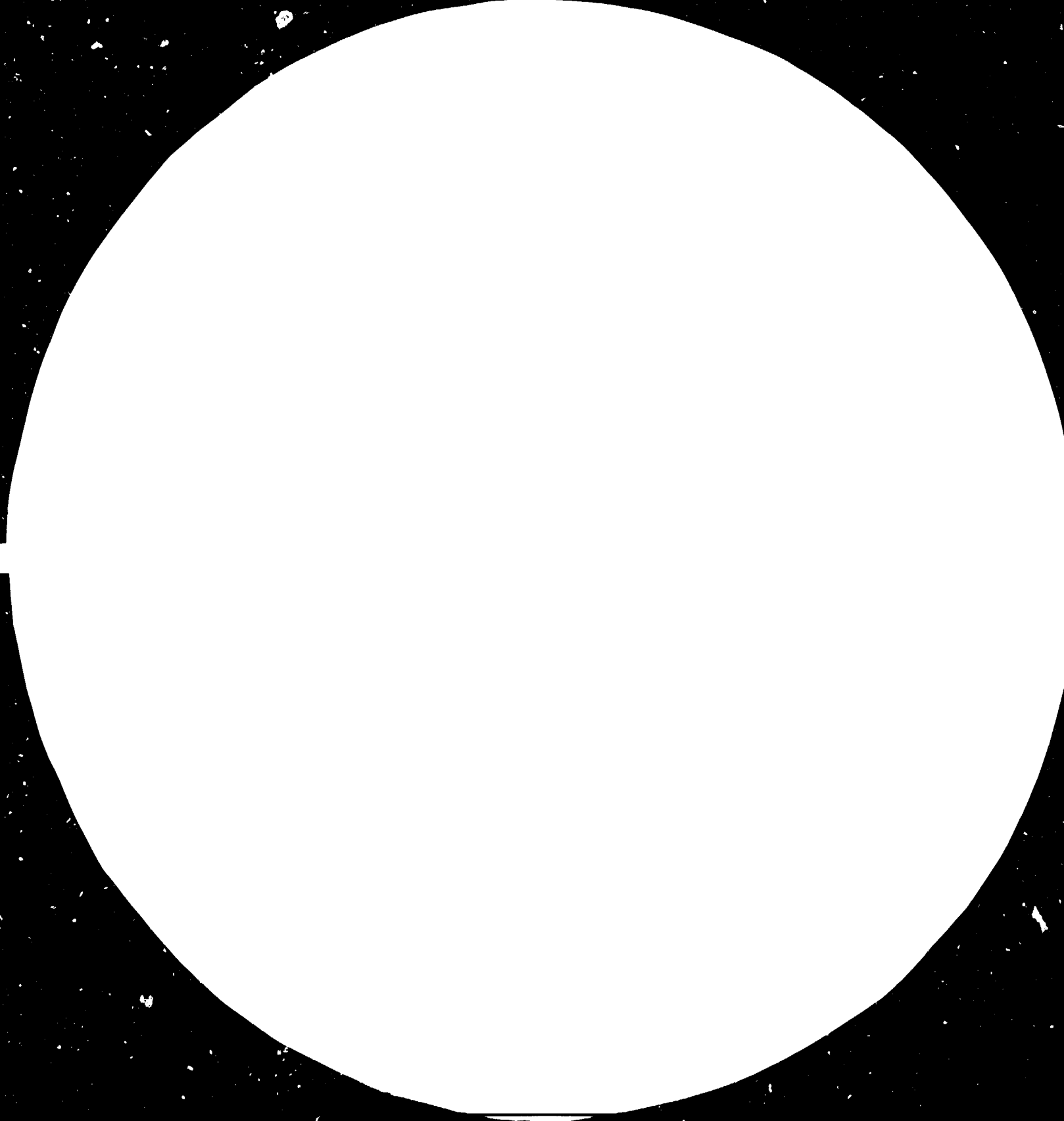
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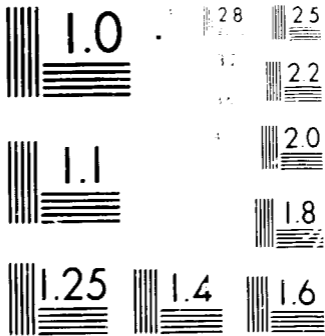
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Meeting on Co-operation among
Developing Countries

Tunis, Tunisia, 2-5 September 1983

REPORT * (Meeting on Co-operation
in pharmaceutical industry)

prepared by
the UNIDO secretariat

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PREFACE

The Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), held at Lima, Peru, in March 1975, recommended that UNIDO should include among its activities a system of continuing consultations between developed and developing countries with the object of raising the developing countries' share in world industrial output through increased international co-operation. ^{1/}

The General Assembly, at its seventh special session in September 1975, in its resolution 3362 (S-VII), decided that the System of Consultations called for by the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action should be established at global, regional, interregional and sectoral levels, ^{2/} and that UNIDO, at the request of the countries concerned, should provide a forum for the negotiations of agreements in the field of industry between developed and developing countries and among developing countries themselves.

The System of Consultations has been established under the guidance of the Industrial Development Board. Having decided in May 1980 to establish the System of Consultations on a permanent basis, the Board in May 1982 adopted the Rules of Procedure ^{3/} according to which the System of Consultations is to operate, including its principles, objectives and characteristics, notably:

- The System of Consultations shall be an instrument through which the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is to serve as a forum for developed and developing countries in their contacts and consultations directed towards the industrialization of developing countries; ^{4/}
- The System of Consultations would also permit negotiations among interested parties at their request, at the same time as or after Consultations; ^{5/}

^{1/} Report of the Second General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (ID/CONF.3/31), chapter IV, "The Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation", par. 66.

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Special Session, Supplement No. 1, par. 3.

^{3/} The System of Consultation (PI/84)

^{4/} PI/84, par. 1.

^{5/} Ibid, par. 3.

- Participants of each member country should include officials of Governments as well as representatives of industry, labour consumer groups and others, as deemed appropriate by each Government; 6/
- Each Consultation Meeting shall formulate a report, which shall include conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by consensus and also other significant views expressed during the discussions. 7/

The First Consultation on the Pharmaceutical Industry was convened in Lisbon , Portugal, from 1 to 5 December 1980. 8/

At the request of some developing countries UNIDO convened a Meeting on Co-operation among Developing Countries in Tunis from 2 to 5 September 1983. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Tunisia and was attended by 36 participants. Annex I presents the list of participants.

6/ Ibid, par. 23

7/ Ibid, par. 46

8/ Report of the First Consultation on the Pharmaceutical Industry, ID/259.

I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

In the framework of Co-operation among Developing Countries in the Pharmaceutical Industry the participants recommended that:

1. A programme of action should be carried out by UNIDO, in co-operation with the more advanced of the developing countries, for the development and establishment of pharmaceutical industry as well as for the supply of bulk drugs, packaging materials and equipment and other inputs at reasonable terms.
2. Action should be taken by developing countries towards the establishment of national, sub-regional, and regional associations/organizations of nationally owned pharmaceutical industries and/or associations thereof, with the aim of creating a Federation of Developing Countries in the field of the Pharmaceutical Industry. For this purpose, UNIDO is requested to prepare a preliminary paper on legal and organizational matters for the establishment of such a Federation.
3. UNIDO is also requested to prepare a Directory of National Producers in Developing Countries of bulk drugs, intermediates, dosage forms, and packaging materials.
4. Action should be taken by developing countries to organize meetings of TCDC on the pharmaceutical industry on a regular basis, with technical support by UNIDO.
5. On the basis of the executive summary of a feasibility study made at the request of developing countries for the establishment of an International Centre on Information, Training and Development of Pharmaceutical Technology for Developing Countries, UNIDO is invited to organize a meeting at inter-governmental level of the establishment of such a Centre.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Opening of the Meeting

1. The Meeting was opened by Mr. A. Hacini, Deputy Director and Head of the Negotiations Branch, Division of Policy Co-ordination, UNIDO. He addressed to his Excellency Mr. Ssar Rachid, Minister of Health of the Government of Tunisia and welcomed the participants to the Meeting.

2. Mr. Hacini recalled briefly the conclusions of the First Consultation on the Pharmaceutical Industry and stressed that according to the aspirations shown by developing countries this meeting would constitute an opportunity to attain the following objectives:
 - a) To be a step forward in the strengthening of industrial co-operation among developing countries for there is a consensus on the need to implement this concept. However, recommendations are often either vague or do not lead to concrete actions thus resulting in a lack of attractiveness and lack of commitment from the participating countries.

 - b) To permit a better preparation for the forthcoming Second Consultation.

Mr. Hacini referred that this meeting on South-South cooperation should constitute input to the North-South dialogue which has the same importance. In the North-South dialogue the work of UNIDO is aimed to make more transparent this relation North-South. Concerning the issues for the Second Consultation, Mr. Hacini indicated that as recommended by the First Consultation UNIDO has carried out its work with the involvement of distinguished experts both from developing and developed countries. He also pointed out that two new issues are being presented at the Second Consultation, namely vaccines and medicinal plants. He hoped that at the Second Consultation some aspects will be clarified and clear answers will come out of this North-South dialogue.

Finally, Mr. Hacinî informed those present on the preparatory work done by UNIDO for the establishment of an International Centre on Information, Training and Development of Pharmaceutical Technology for developing countries. He recalled that as stressed by developing countries on previous occasions, this is a very important step towards meeting the specific needs of developing countries.

3. His Excellency the Minister of Health of Tunisia welcomed the participants and wished them success in their deliberations. He said that Tunisia was very honoured in receiving distinguished experts from so many countries in the light of its traditional image of being a host country.

In the name of his colleagues of different ministries of health, His Excellency expressed his appreciation for the excellent work that UNIDO has done since the First Consultation in Portugal.

He specifically referred to the meetings that took place in Morocco, Paris and Vienna. He stressed that the documents prepared by UNIDO deserved a larger dissemination through universities, ministries of health, ministries of economy, business men (industrialists) and to all those which directly or indirectly are a part of the global process of developing the pharmaceutical industry. He indicated that the documents will make a useful contribution towards achieving the target of "health for all by the year 2000", since the practical application of the topics referred thereto, would entail the supply of drugs to everybody at reasonable prices.

He also stressed that in all actions to be taken by developing countries, the development of education and training are prerequisites for success in developing their pharmaceutical industry. He briefly presented the Tunisian experience in this field indicating that the main thrust of Tunisian policy is the development of human beings in their totality. He offered that the Tunisian University of Pharmacy would be at the disposal of any country that it would so require. However, cooperation among developing countries is not sufficient to achieve the full development of the pharmaceutical

industry, hence a more global cooperation with the developed countries is also required. Developing countries are not looking for confrontation with developed countries. A clear analysis of their reciprocal interests should be made, and in this world of crisis the real solutions lie in the implementation of a total and integral cooperation among all countries. In his opinion, the developed countries would find a solution to their problems by contributing to taking out developing countries from their misery, and to increase the standards of living of all peoples of the world. Finally, he indicated that within this context and in view of the health problems in developing countries, two main objectives should be attained at the end of this meeting:

- a) a clear inventory of the problems and concrete actions required for their solution, and
- b) to transmit to developed countries that what is being sought is not confrontation but an effective cooperation.

4. Mr. Hacini closed the opening by thanking His Excellency the Ministry of Health of Tunisia for his enlightening words and for the offer of Tunisian expertise to other developing countries. He renewed his thanks to the Tunisian authorities for hosting this meeting, and asked His Excellency to convey the respects of all participants to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Tunisia.

III. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS

5. Participants at the meeting requested the UNIDO Secretariat to make a brief presentation of the documents which are being submitted to the Second Consultation.

6. The Secretariat in presenting the documents indicated that they cover two different categories of issues to be dealt with at the Second Consultation as follows:

- a) Documents covering the follow-up actions recommended by the First Consultation, namely pricing and availability of bulk drugs and intermediates and transfer of technology, and those covering contractual arrangements;
- b) documents regarding two new topics to be presented at the Second Consultation, namely vaccines and medicinal plants.

After some clarifications given by the Secretariat, participants discussed the subject of cooperation among developing countries.

7. Participants were unanimous in referring that one of the main problems affecting the implementation of concrete schemes of cooperation among developing countries is lack of knowledge among the various organizations concerned either in the public or private sector in developing countries. Among others, participants from India, Egypt and Costa Rica would explore the possibility of hosting further meetings of this type.

8. A number of participants, knowing the successful experience of ALIFAR "Latin American Pharmaceutical Industry Association", requested the representative of ALIFAR to explain the creation of this regional association, its objectives and problems encountered.

The representative of ALIFAR, inter alia, mentioned that the Association was created notwithstanding the existence of different characteristics, potentials and economic development of countries in Latin America. The common factor in Latin America is that most of its markets are dominated by transnational corporations. However, nationally owned enterprises already exist in the member countries. As an example he pointed out that in Uruguay and Argentina 45 percent of the total consumption is being provided by nationally owned enterprises whilst in Columbia and Bolivia the share of nationally owned enterprises is only 15 percent. He stressed that the main

factor of achievement of this Association was that entrepreneurs, even without any support from their respective governments, were able to meet each other and discuss their problems, needs and objectives. Today a number of joint ventures with financial participation from various countries producing raw materials have been established in Latin America. Another important aspect is that nationally owned enterprises are beginning to be consulted on policy matters like price increases and local legislation, and measures are being taken to protect the nationally owned enterprises by giving them preference in the supply of their national security schemes. The industrialists feel, however, that a greater attention by governments is required wherever legislation is passed regarding mechanisms and policies on production and availability of drugs. The representative of ALIFAR indicated that they have organizations from 10 member countries and two more countries are expected during this year. He offered that the ALIFAR Secretariat would be at the disposal of any country or group of countries that would like to know more about their experience.

9. In view of this experience, several participants pointed out the need to create similar institutions in the various regions aimed at a final constitution of a Federation of Developing Countries on the Pharmaceutical Industry.

10. Many participants stressed that the main objectives of developing countries should be the development of a national pharmaceutical industry and to reduce dependency on supply of drugs and raw materials. In recognizing that this is a very slow process, a definition of the characteristics and requirements of each country is needed in order to substantiate regional agrupations. The other essential step is the systematic processing of knowledge already existing in developing countries.

11. A participant recalled that the North-South dialogue is essential in this process especially for the more advanced developing countries. However, there is also an urgent need for developing countries to

associate themselves in order that their final objectives be set-up in accordance with their real needs. To do this, it is important to systematize the needs and note the differences so progress can be made in standardizing some instruments of action.

12. Some participants stressed the need to draw the attention of governments towards this industry as a strategical one, and that special attention should be given to financing pharmaceutical projects. Other participants pointed out that wherever developing countries are able to set up their industries, careful attention should be given not only to adequacy of technology and equipment but also to problems of maintenance, spare parts, etc.

13. Several participants informed about the existence in other countries of production facilities for the bulk drugs included in the UNIDO Illustrative List. They indicated that those countries would be prepared to supply these drugs at reasonable prices and to provide technology for some of the 9 bulk drugs included in UNIDO's restricted list as having limited sources of supply.

14. Participants mentioned that one way for UNIDO to help developing countries to know each other, would be the preparation of a directory of national producers in developing countries of bulk drugs, intermediates, dosage forms and packaging material.

15. Many participants stressed that cooperation among developing countries should include trade and technology transfer. In this respect, the need for research at a global level was emphasized. No individual country can carry out alone research in the different technologies suitable for its purpose. All participants stressed their support for a centre able to inform, train and develop pharmaceutical technology for developing countries in line with the request made during the First Consultation and reconfirmed at the meeting on cooperation among developing countries organized by the Moroccan National Council of Pharmacists held in December 1981.

16. Participants expressed their appreciation to UNIDO for the work carried out so far and indicated that further steps on the above centre should be taken at governmental level.

17. Before departure, participants unanimously approved the recommendations and requested UNIDO to forward them to the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee of the Group of 77 on economic cooperation among developing countries which was held also in Tunis from 5-10 September 1983.

Closing Session

The Meeting was closed by Mrs. A. Tcheknavorian-Asenbauer, Chief of Pharmaceutical Unit and Chairperson of the UNIDO Task Force in Pharmaceuticals. She thanked again the Tunisian authorities for hosting this Meeting and on behalf of all participants she expressed appreciation to the way that Mr. Stambouli has chaired the Meeting.

She hoped that the spirit of Tunis would continue and Developing Countries with or without the help of UNIDO would continue to meet regularly since this Meeting has proved and shown how important is the exchange of reciprocal knowledge of the different responsibilities in Developing Countries.

She asked the participants to make all efforts to be present at the Second Consultation so the qualitative steps achieved in Tunis could be consolidated and continuity could be assured.

Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Tunis, Tunisia, 2-5 September 1983

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