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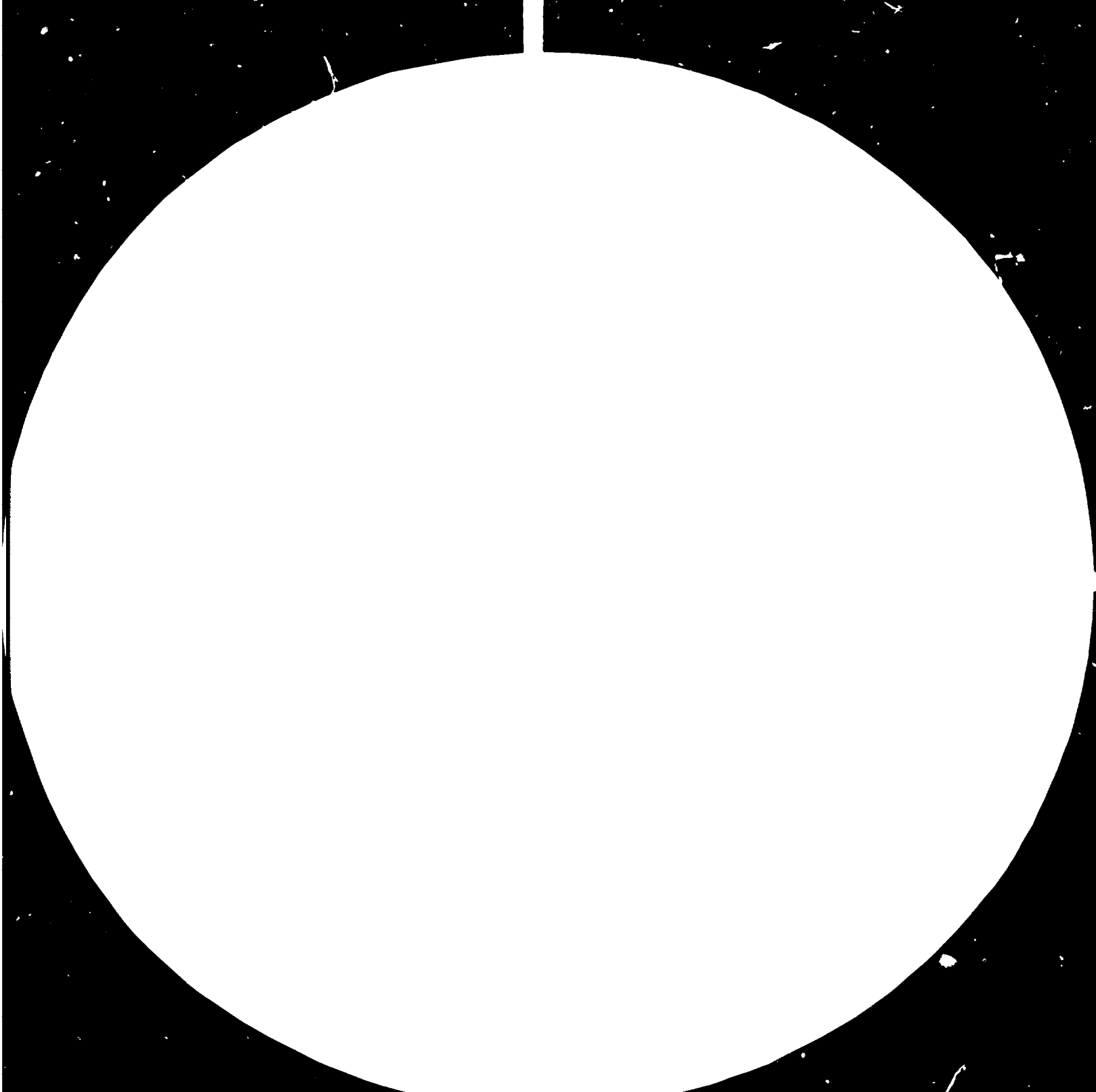
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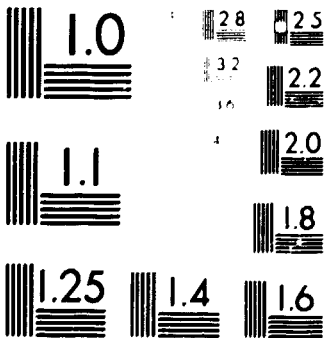
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Agenda items 5 (b), 5 (d) and 5 (f)

INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Note by the secretariat of UNIDO

06036

Note: Since the Executive Director will submit to the Industrial Development Board at its fourteenth session a progress report on the integration of women in development, the present document limits itself to those aspects of the question that should be drawn to the attention of the Third General Conference of UNIDO.

1. The Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation adopted by the Second General Conference of UNIDO in March 1975 stated, in paragraph 30, that "in order to render really effective the full utilization of their available human resources, conditions should be created by the developing countries which make possible the full integration of women in social and economic activities and, in particular, in the industrialization process, on the basis of equal rights." That same year, the Industrial Development Board adopted resolution 44(IX) on integration of women in development.
2. Since then, the secretariat has been paying increasing attention to the role of UNIDO in furthering the participation of women in development, as evidenced in the annual progress reports submitted to the Industrial Development Board. However, as mentioned in these reports, the multifaceted process of integrating women in development can only take place gradually, particularly in view of the complexity of the subject and the diversity of socio-economic factors at work in individual countries. The magnitude of the problem thus calls for an integrated approach by both national Governments and the international community.
3. Nevertheless, in recent years, it is believed, an awareness has been created within the UNIDO secretariat and the rest of the international community of the potential contribution of UNIDO in this field.
4. The Preparatory Meeting on the Role of Women in Industrialization in Developing Countries, organized by UNIDO in November 1978, laid the basis for the development by the organization of more concrete and coherent programmes geared specifically towards the integration of women in industrial development.
5. Drawing on some of the recommendations of this meeting, the Industrial Development Board at its thirteenth session requested the Executive Director
 - (a) To undertake studies related to selected industries, such as electronics, food processing, and pharmaceutical and textile industries, and their impact on women, taking into account reports on these subjects by other agencies, such as FAO, ILO and WHO;
 - (b) To take into consideration the possible impact of industrial redeployment on women;

(c) To submit the preliminary results of those studies to the Third General Conference of UNIDO under sub-items 5(b), 5(d) and 5(f) of its provisional agenda.

6. Furthermore, the Second Committee of the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session recently approved a draft resolution entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development", which in paragraph 3 requests the Third General Conference of UNIDO to consider the question of integration and participation of women in the process of industrial development, giving particular attention to:

"(a) The impact of new technology and deployment of modern industries on women's traditional skills and occupations which may be endangered;

(b) Identifying ways and means to enhance and facilitate the equal participation of women in industrial development, both in rural and urban areas." (A/C.2/34/L.29/Rev.1)

7. In relation to this request, the secretariat has initiated the action described below.

Studies related to selected industries

8. Although a number of important studies have been carried out on the subject of women's work and economic development, including their participation in industry in general, an initial review of past and current studies has revealed that very little research has been carried out that is directly related to specific industrial sectors.

9. Such studies should concentrate on the contribution - present and potential - of women in the development of selected industrial sectors and on the impact these industries have had on women employees, with the main aim of identifying "means to enhance and facilitate the equal participation of women in industrial development both in rural and urban areas", as requested by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

10. The secretariat is concentrating initial research on two sectors: food processing and textiles. The full contribution of women in the area of agro-industry, and in particular in the food processing industry, would seem to

deserve special attention in view of the high priority the developing countries accord in their development strategies to the promotion of agricultural productivity, agro-based industries, and integrated rural development programmes. As for textiles, women are already intensively employed in the textile industries in the developed countries. Practically all weavers in these countries are women, and their wages are usually equal to those of men. Furthermore, at present the majority of students in technical universities in this field are women, which guarantees that women will play an important role in the development of the industry in the future. The picture is unfortunately altogether different in the developing countries.

11. The purpose of UNIDO studies is to review and assess, within the framework of full and effective participation of women in the national development efforts of developing countries, the current and potential contribution of women towards the development of the food processing and textiles industries in these countries.

12. The studies will seek to (a) identify areas where the contribution of women to the development of the food processing and textile industries is particularly important; (b) analyse special factors - positive or negative - relevant to the female work force in those industries; (c) assess the impact of the food processing and textile industries on women employees; and (d) provide guidance as to policies and policy measures to increase the contribution of women to those industries.

13. The studies will also aim at developing project concepts and proposals for effectively involving women in the food processing and textile industries.

14. Consultations are currently under way with FAO and ILO concerning possible areas of collaboration in these research projects.

15. It is expected that the findings of these studies will be available for submission to the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session.

The impact of industrial redeployment on women

16. The UNIDO secretariat is focusing attention on the impact of the industrial redeployment process on women in developing and developed countries (ID/CONF.4/9, pp. 20-21). A preliminary study is being undertaken on the nature, extent and implications of the participation of women in the industrial production processes redeployed to the developing countries. The results of the study will be made available to the Conference.

