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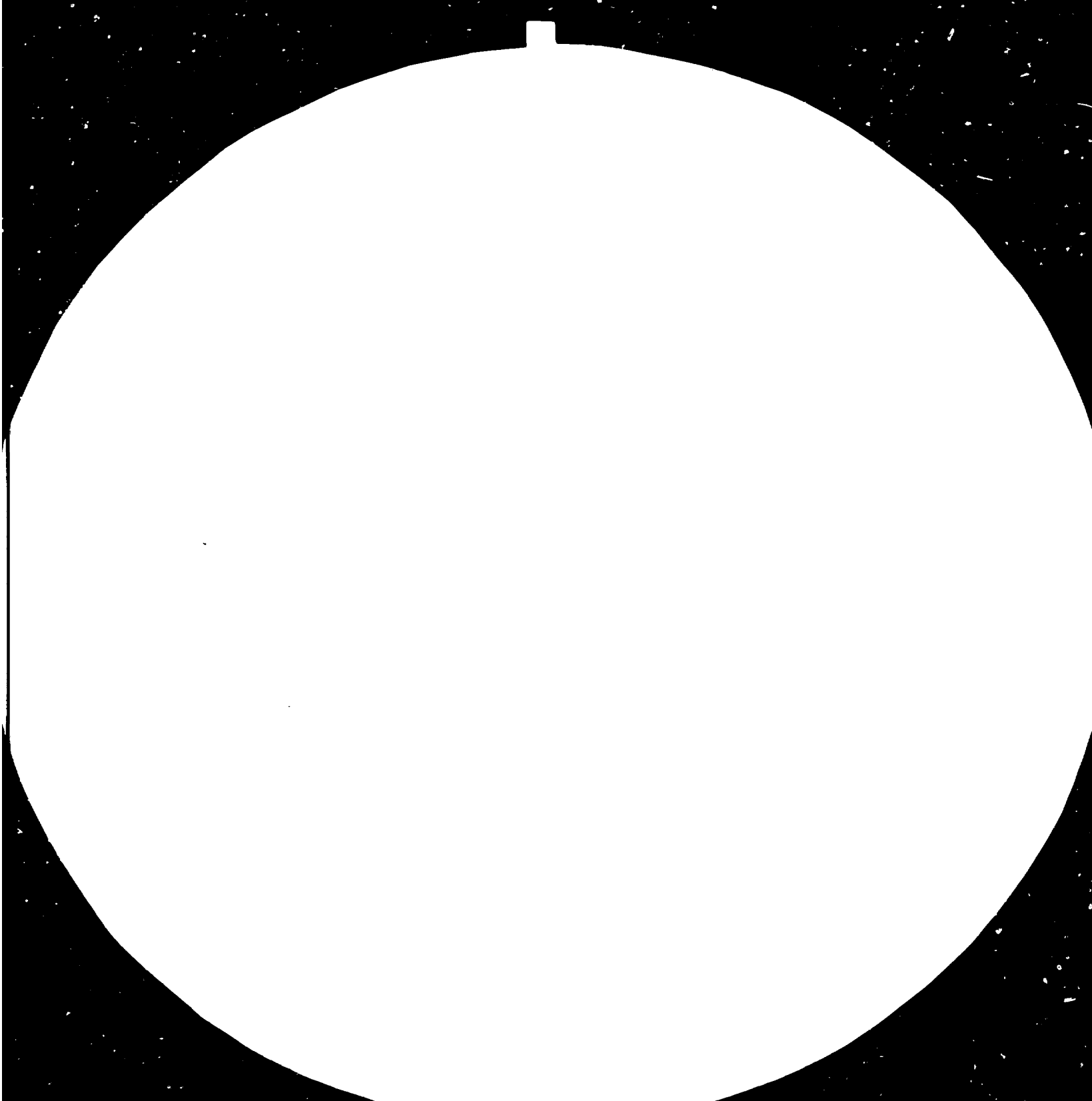
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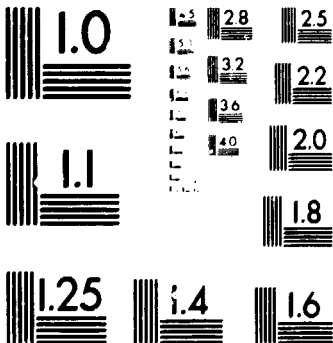
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REPORT\*

on the

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO STRENGTHEN  
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR UNIDO .

May through December 1982 .

by

Governments and Intergovernmental  
Organizations Relations Section

2823

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A N N E X

- I. Minutes - Directors Meeting of 26 March 1982

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Directors meeting of 26 March 1982 after considering in depth the recommendations adopted by the Expert Group Meeting on "Review of the Scope of Responsibilities of the National Committees for UNIDO in the light of the New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action and of Present and Future Programmes/Activities of UNIDO" held at Vienna, from 15 to 17 December 1981, reached certain conclusions to strengthen the programme of National Committees for UNIDO, which are detailed in Annex I. of this report.

## II. MEASURES TAKEN

Intense efforts were made by the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section to implement the recommendations adopted by the Directors meeting through contacts with Permanent Missions of countries having National Committees, National Committees themselves, as well as through continuous exchange of correspondence with Resident Representatives and Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers. The objective was to underline the importance which UNIDO accorded to having active and well-functioning National Committees. It involved communicating to the field the recommendations adopted by the Directors meeting, as well as those adopted during the Expert Group Meeting of December 1981. These contacts, among others aimed at attending to the queries of the National Committees, following up with the field on various subjects related to UNIDO activities like widespread dissemination of industrial information, setting up display corners and re-activating dormant committees. The Section made efforts to convince UNIDO staff members as well in making full use of the National Committees in the implementation of UNIDO programmes in the field as this would be the one way through which UNIDO and the developing countries stand to gain.

### Dissemination of Information

Keeping in mind the importance which the Directors meeting accorded to widespread dissemination of information regarding purposes and activities of UNIDO in developing countries, this Section contacted the Resident Representatives and SIDFAs in order to determine the extent to which this objective was carried out. From responses received from the field and after discussions

in the House, it was discovered that only the Board documents, newsletter, staff journal, list of documents etc. were being delivered to these offices. Documents were supplied only on request. In order to remedy this situation, it was arranged with Documents Distribution that all Resident Representatives, SIDFAs, United Nations Information Centres as well as active National Committees be supplied regularly with UNIDO documentation, excepting that which was expressly restricted.

#### Display of UNIDO documentation

Another result achieved by this follow-up action was that many Resident Representatives and SIDFAs demonstrated willingness to establish either a kind of library in the UNDP offices or arranged for a corner in the existing United Nations Information Centres where UNIDO documentation could be permanently displayed. Only in three countries so far, did the Resident Representatives and SIDFAs suggest financial assistance to buy shelves, panels etc. for the purpose of improving the existing facilities. This matter is still being considered by this Section.

Furthermore, in response to a request from the provincial authorities of Sind in Pakistan, a representative selection of UNIDO documents was sent to the Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser for display in Karachi, Pakistan. The reception accorded to this display by the business community was enthusiastic and, on their request, the provincial authorities of Sind have been included in the UNIDO mailing list. A similar request for documents display was received from Zimbabwe on the opening of a new United Nations Information Centre and from Zambia.

#### Re-activation of National Committees for UNIDO

As many Resident Representatives and SIDFAs became convinced of the importance of National Committees for UNIDO due to the continuous follow-up undertaken by this Section, they contacted the relevant governmental authorities on this important subject. As a result, several countries where the National Committees had become dormant, i.e. Burundi, Iran, Morocco and Nicaragua nominated focal points in their Governments for UNIDO activities, to carry out the functions of the National Committees pending the restructuring of these Committees. Subsequently, the Burundi Government reestablished the National Committee for UNIDO.

Creation of new National Committees for UNIDO

On the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Directors meeting of March 1982, some of the Resident Representatives, SIDFAs and JPOs took initiative and tried to convince the governmental authorities of how the establishment of National Committees for UNIDO could assist them in their industrialization efforts. This led to the creation of new National Committees for UNIDO in Angola and Colombia.

Furthermore, in Gabon, Mauritius, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zambia the Government has agreed in principle to the establishment of National Committees for UNIDO, while in Guinea, Indonesia, Mauritania, Kenya and Uganda the process of establishment has reached an advanced stage. These developments are being continuously followed-up to achieve concrete results.

First Round of Discussions with National Committees, May 1982

Pursuant to the recommendation adopted by the Directors meeting that representatives of selected National Committees be invited to visit UNIDO Headquarters annually, a first round of discussions was organized during the sixteenth session of the Industrial Development Board. Although several National Committees were contacted, only three could send participants to these discussions due to very short notice, as this decision was taken in March and funds approved early May. However, as certain members of the delegations attending the Board Sessions were at the same time members of National Committees of their countries, they willingly joined. Thus, eight participants from five National Committees attended the first round of these discussions from 24 to 27 May 1982.

The participants enthusiastically welcomed the decision taken by UNIDO as they received a thorough briefing on UNIDO programmes and activities. They emphasized the usefulness of these discussions and hoped that they would be organized at regular intervals. They also observed that due to these discussions they were in a better position to take advantage of all possibilities offered to them by UNIDO.

When the report on this meeting was distributed to National Committees, Resident Representatives and SIDFAs, it was welcomed as a comprehensive introduction to UNIDO. Certain SIDFAs even suggested that it be given a wider distribution, as it would be useful for all key personnel in charge of UNIDO programmes.



### Role of National Committees in the Fourth General Conference

A number of SIDFAs requested information as to how the National Committees for UNIDO could be instrumental in the preparation for the Fourth General Conference for UNIDO. This point was brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Task Force for the Preparation of the Fourth General Conference.

### III. REACTIONS FROM THE HOUSE

In order to secure co-operation at the Headquarter's level, the Directors recommendations were communicated to all Divisions/Branches/Sections/Units. Their views and comments were requested on how best they could be implemented within the House. The following suggestions were received from a number of Branches and Sections.

The Programme Development and Evaluation Branch proposed that country desk officers should call on National Committees while on mission and the members of the National Committees could also contact these officers during their visit to UNIDO. It also recommended that copies of important communications originating in that Branch could be sent to the National Committees for their information.

The Negotiations Branch considered in depth the recommendations contained in the consultant's report - "National Committees for UNIDO - past experiences and future prospects". It suggested that the Senior Industrial Development Field Advisers should be able to contact qualified officials to serve on the National Committees and that the UNDP office could be approached for training them at local institutions.

The Development and Transfer of Technology Branch welcomed the annual rounds of discussions with the National Committees as the best way to keep the National Committees in touch with UNIDO activities. They also supported the recommendations that staff members while on mission should contact the National Committees to inform them on the latest activities in UNIDO. Finally, they agreed to include the more active National Committees on their mailing list for the various Newsletters the Technology Group publishes.

The Industrial Information Section considered furnishing each National Committee with a computer print out but were doubtful whether it would serve its purpose.

As the Division of Industrial Operations would be most concerned with keeping in touch with the National Committees in order to involve them in the implementation of projects, several Branches/Sections of IO came out with their comments.

The Investment Co-operative Programme Branch decided that staff members of this Branch while on mission should contact the National Committees and convey the results obtained during these contacts to the CPE/REL.

The Industrial Planning Section would try to keep all National Committees informed of any important events in their Section. During his visit to the United Republic of Cameroon, Mr. Latortue gave information about the creation of an Interministerial Committee having the same aims as the National Committee for UNIDO. Efforts will be made in the near future, that this Committee assumes the functions of a National Committee for UNIDO.

The Institutional Infrastructure Branch would brief their project experts on the National Committees for UNIDO. This could lead to co-operation in implementation of projects, project development and follow-up.

From the Training Branch, a project proposal has been initiated - "Seminar on UNIDO Activities", where priority of participation would be given to Permanent Secretaries of National Committees for UNIDO. Another valuable suggestion was that these Committees could become active if only they could undertake surveys on training needs, identification and assessment of industrial training capabilities, recommendation, placement and organization of fellowships.

The Factory Establishment and Management Section sent copies of their reference documents to all National Committees and proposed to brief all Chief Technical Advisers or experts in those countries where they have operational projects to maintain liaison with the National Committees

Doubts were expressed by a Branch in this Division regarding the practical implications of involving the National Committees actively in the implementation of technical assistance projects in developing countries.

From the Division of Administration, the Secretariat Recruitment Section on its part started sending copies of vacancy announcements to all National Committees for their information and possible action.

A suggestion received from the Co-ordination Unit for the African Industrial Development Decade was regarding the National Co-ordinating Committee. The Sixth Conference of African Ministers jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Organization of African Unity (OAU) and UNIDO in Addis Ababa from 23 - 25 November 1981 concluded that ... In addition, each member State should establish a national co-ordinating committee composed of high-level representatives of relevant ministries, financial, research and

professional institutions... The Unit proposed that the functions of these national co-ordinating committees for the African Industrial Development Decade could best be performed by National Committees in those African countries which had already established them, while in others the National Co-ordinating Committee might become in course of time a permanent National Committee for UNIDO.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Due to recent efforts, the process of reactivation of National Committees for UNIDO has taken a step in the right direction and gained in momentum during 1982. It became evident that the National Committees for UNIDO will only assume a meaningful role, when they become involved in UNIDO activities.

Realizing this fact the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section has, in collaboration with the Divisions/Branches/Sections of UNIDO compiled a brief summary of major UNIDO programmes and activities which could be used as a brief reference document by National Committee members.

As the National Committee for UNIDO is a national instrument, it will be absolutely essential for UNIDO to contact and convince the appropriate authorities of member States of the importance of carrying out the implementation of UNIDO programmes through the National Committees for UNIDO, so that they could be more involved in UNIDO activities.

Furthermore, the Directors meeting expressly recommended that UNIDO secretariat staff on mission to these countries should make efforts to contact National Committees members and report on their contacts upon their return to Vienna. The REL Section would require more feedback as to the activities of these Committees.

Finally, to clarify in the mind of Headquarters staff the significant role which the National Committees could play to further UNIDO's objectives, it would be advantageous to have a briefing session on this subject for the benefit of staff members at large.

D R A F T

Minutes of Director's Meeting 26 March 1982

Under the chairmanship of the Executive Director, a Director's meeting was held the morning of 26 March 1982 to consider the recommendations made by Mr. Ganao in a memorandum of 11 March 1982, circulating a consultant's report on the National Committees for UNIDO. Those present included Messrs. Carré, Butaev, Correa da Silva, Ganao, Gouri, Holmes, Siddiqui, Hacini, Islam, Karlsson, Luçman and Patterson.

In introducing the topic the Executive Director referred to the difficulties the UNIDO secretariat had experienced despite its best efforts in making full and effective use of national committees. UNESCO had apparently achieved more satisfactory results, but with considerable means (some US\$ 3½ million). Nevertheless, it might be possible for UNIDO to achieve a great deal with relatively little money once a steady flow of communications has been established between the secretariat and the national committees. The preparation for UNIDO IV might offer a good opportunity to start with some activities and build upon them.

In the ensuing discussions, the recommendations on pages 13-17 of the consultant's report were considered in some detail, taking into account the resources available to UNIDO, the fact that the composition and character of national committees varied from country to country and the importance of widespread dissemination of information concerning the purposes and activities of UNIDO. The following conclusions were agreed upon:

1. Steps should definitely be taken to try to strengthen national committees - at least on a selective basis.
2. Consideration should be given to establishing within the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section a senior GS post specifically devoted to co-operation and liaison with national committees.
3. As a first step, CFE/REL should review the present list of national committees and select 25-30, covering all geographic regions, which seem to be most promising to work with in terms of the criteria proposed by Mr. Gouri (importance of country, extent of interest in UNIDO's activity, level of activity of the Committee); the section

should then inform the UNIDO secretariat staff of the countries selected and begin communicating with these committees.

4. The SIDFA or JPO in the country concerned should be a channel of communication only, unless otherwise requested by the national committee itself; the SIDFA should keep the committee well informed about current UNIDO activities.

5. In the countries in which measures are to be taken to strengthen the national committees, there should be some centre of information concerning UNIDO and its activities - if not in a special part of UN Information Centres then as a kind of library within UNDP offices. These centres should have all UNIDO publications plus any special UNIDO papers of interest to the country but not given public distribution.

6. UNIDO secretariat staff on mission to these countries should be instructed as a routine part of their mission to contact the chairman and other members of the national committee and inform them of the nature and purpose of the mission. Senior UNIDO officials should, in particular, meet with the national committees and report on these meetings upon their return to Vienna.

7. The chairmen of two or three national committees should be invited to come to UNIDO Headquarters for a few days for briefing purposes each year. Such visits might coincide with IDB sessions (although the visit would not be for the full duration of the IDB).

It was also agreed that Mr. Luqman should distribute a list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Chairmen of the national committees.

There was then a short discussion of the need for a more systematic and thorough approach in briefing those outside the Organization on the purposes and work of UNIDO. It was recognized that a lot of material and very sophisticated means of communication are available; the problem is to use them correctly and effectively. More should be done with films, slides, videotapes etc.

