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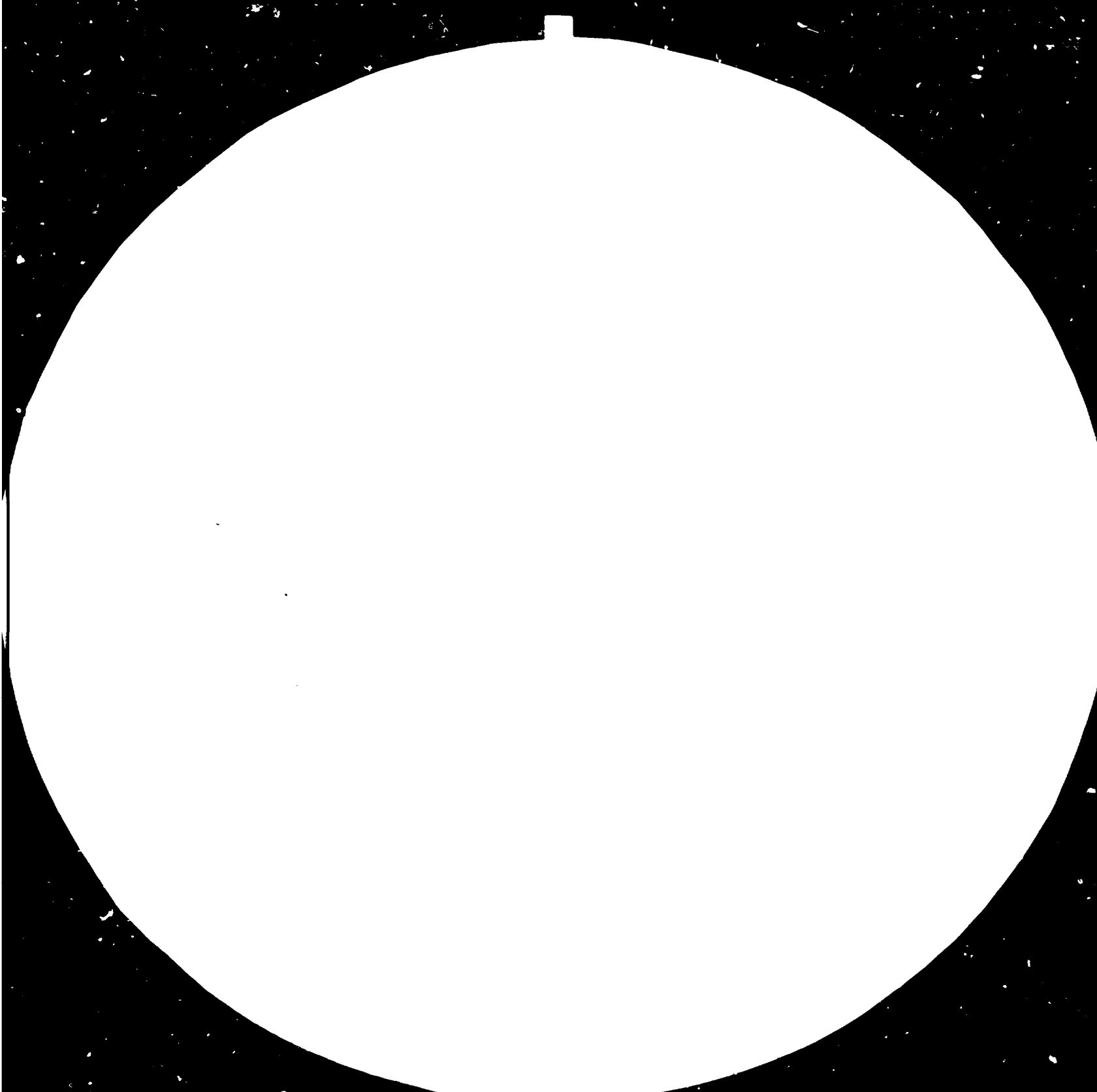
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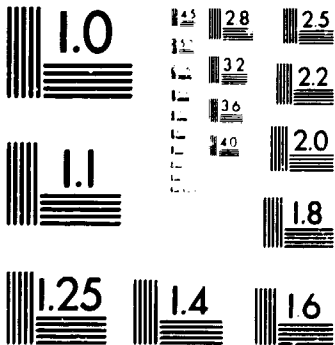
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Second Round of Discussions with the
National Committees for UNIDO
Vienna, Austria, 3-6 May 1983

REPORT* (Meeting with national
committees for UNIDO)

Prepared by the UNIDO secretariat

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I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Since December 1981, when the Secretariat convened 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 of Present and Future Programmes and Activities of UNIDO", the situation regarding the National Committees for UNIDO has taken a decided turn for the better.

One of the concrete results was that UNIDO decided to give priority to this programme and, inter alia, decided to organise annual rounds of discussions with a limited number of National Committees for UNIDO. The First Round of Discussions held in May 1982 resulted in more emphasis being given to the dissemination of information regarding UNIDO programmes and activities to the National Committees. Subsequently the National Committees started receiving more UNIDO documentation. Furthermore, a majority of the United Nations Development Programme Offices agreed to maintain a permanent display corner for UNIDO publications in their offices or in the United Nations Information Centres.

Pursuant to this new policy emanating from the Directors decision of March 1982, the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section organised a Second Round of Discussions with representatives of selected National Committees from 3 to 6 May 1983. The purpose of these discussions was to thoroughly brief the participating National Committees on UNIDO programmes and activities, to encourage them to become more involved in all UNIDO activities and to seek their assistance for realizing UNIDO's mandate on a national level in a more effective way. Furthermore, it was to allow an exchange of experience between representatives and to facilitate discussions on problems faced by the National Committees in the discharge of their functions.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The criteria for inviting National Committees to these discussions was the importance of UNIDO programme in the country, the extent of the National Committee's interest in UNIDO activities as well as its degree of involvement. On this basis, invitations were extended to the National Committees from Angola, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mongolia, Norway,

Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand. However, only the National Committees for Angola, Mongolia, Pakistan, Somalia and Thailand were able to participate. Moreover, as an indication of increased interest in the National Committees for UNIDO, delegates from the Permanent Missions of the People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Zambia also participated actively in the discussions. A list of participants is attached as annex I.

The meeting was opened by Mr. D. C. Ganao, Director, Division of Conference Services, Public Information and External Relations, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Director. He informed them that these discussions were held primarily to make the National Committees more aware of the range of activities of UNIDO and to make them conversant with the proceedings of the Industrial Development Board. He wished that the discussions took place in an informal atmosphere to facilitate a frank exchange of views and hoped that as a result of this dialogue the National Committees could play an increasingly important role in their own countries.

The Acting Head of the Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations Relations Section, being the focal point for National Committees in the Secretariat, gave a brief background to the present discussions between the National Committees and the officials of UNIDO. He outlined the development and establishment of National Committees in various countries from 1967 till the present. Moreover, he touched briefly on the recommendations and suggestions made by the Meeting of Selected National Committees, Sofia, May 1977; the Expert Group Meeting of National Committees in Vienna, December 1981 and finally, the First Round of Discussions with the National Committees for UNIDO, held in Vienna last May. Elaborating on the functions of the National Committees, he concluded by presenting the recent documents prepared for the National Committees to the participants. Finally, he requested that they keep the secretariat informed of their activities so that they could be reported in the next issue of the proposed News Bulletin for the National Committees for UNIDO.

During the course of the meeting, Heads and Chiefs of all Branches/Sections of interest to the participants from the Divisions of Policy Co-ordination; Industrial Studies; Industrial Operations and Administration presented their programme in a comprehensive manner, greatly appreciated by the participants, and requested the assistance of these Committees to achieve still better results. A list of the officials who spoke and the subjects of their statements is contained in annex II.

The participants also gave a detailed information on the activities and functions of their National Committees and the role which their National Committees play on the national scene. Summaries of these statements is attached as Annex III.

The participants paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Director of UNIDO, Dr. Abd-El Rahman Khane, who bid them welcome and expressed his conviction that the National Committees for UNIDO could assist this Organization by disseminating information about its programmes and activities. Assuring them that all public information and documentation published by UNIDO would be supplied to them regularly, he informed them of arrangements made for UNIDO documentation being displayed in the United Nations Information Centres.

III. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

The National Committees participating in the discussions expressed their thanks for receiving UNIDO documentation regularly. However, it was remarked by the representative of the Pakistan National Committee that this information though invaluable was not reaching the end-users in the developing countries. To make the general public more aware of the possibilities offered by UNIDO, he suggested that the National Committees, themselves, should institute a newsletter of UNIDO activities, preferably in the national language, which should include such items as fellowships, seminars, meeting announcements, studies recently published etc. This newsletter, he added, should focus on the global level activities of UNIDO and should be mailed to the Departments interested, Chambers of Commerce, Associations, Universities, Libraries and Institutes. However, in view of the meagre resources of UNIDO, printing and copying facilities, he requested, be allowed to them at the local United Nations Development Programme Offices.

This suggestion was also supported by the representative of the Thai National Committee who even stated that his Committee would try to get a small fund at the national level in order to realize this suggestion and to promote UNIDO activities to the general public.

IV. NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME OF
UNIDO

During the presentation of the activities of various Branches/ Sections of the Division of Industrial Operations, mainly responsible for the implementation of the technical co-operation programme, it was recognized that the National Committees for UNIDO could become an active partner in carrying out the objectives of this Organization.

1. It was pointed out that each National Committee could appoint a liaison officer, who, inter alia, could follow-up on the implementation and thus assist in eliminating unnecessary and costly delays, by noticing shortcomings and informing the secretariat about it. This would help in promoting quick and effective action, and could supplement the present formal working counterpart.

2. UNIDO programming missions would contact members of the National Committees during their country visits in order to get a better overview of the problems which might be existing. At present, the programming missions met only with the officials of the United Nations Development Programme offices of the relevant country.

3. The National Committees could assist in defining future projects of their countries. Furthermore, UNIDO could have a clearer picture while preparing projects for a given country, if it would receive more information on the bilateral and multilateral programmes in the country. This task could be facilitated through the National Committees for UNIDO, which could also assist in evaluating UNIDO's work and offering constructive criticism to improve performance.

4. An important aspect where the National Committees could help is in accelerating the decision making process regarding approval of experts. This would assist in reducing the implementation time of projects and reduce costs, as with delay, costs continue to increase due to inflation.

5. It was suggested by a senior UNIDO official that National Committees could enter into joint programmes with UNIDO/ Through this programme, UNIDO and the National Committees could undertake joint activities in the country. This could benefit the developing countries by providing free advice and technical services.

6. It was also suggested that if UNIDO received information about existing institutions and establishment of new ones, it might be possible to extend invitation to participate in seminars, workshops or training programmes.

7. In the field of training, National Committees could carry out a survey of human resources in their country.

8. UNIDO lacks information on the range of articles available in the developing countries, as well as experts who could be contracted by UNIDO. Information of this nature would assist UNIDO to increase the share of developing countries in this field.

V. NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND VARIOUS UNIDO PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

During the course of discussions, several suggestions were made on how the National Committees could assist concretely in realizing UNIDO's mandate in a more effective manner.

1. Assistance of the National Committees was sought to encourage wider and continuous participation in the Consultations held as well as to see that the participants from developing countries were well-briefed on the subject.

2. The National Committees could identify those non-governmental organizations in their country who would be willing to enter into co-operation with UNIDO, for assisting in the development of the developing countries.

3. Regarding the programme of Industrial Studies of UNIDO, it was suggested that UNIDO could send a checklist of the same, to enable the National Committees to select those of interest, which could subsequently be supplied to them. It was also mentioned that the Secretariat would appreciate receiving feedback on these studies from the National Committees.

4. The Secretariat has been sending vacancy notices for secretariat posts to the National Committees and would request that these be brought to the notice of suitable candidates, who could then apply for recruitment in the secretariat.

5. It was recommended that in order to have an effective National Committee, membership should preferably be at the Permanent Secretary level.

VI. NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND THE FOURTH
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO

Due to the importance attached to the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, and as it will take place next year, Mr. G. Gouri, Director Division of Industrial Studies and the Chairman of the Task Force for the Preparation of this Conference was invited to address the participants. Mr. Gouri painted the background against which this Conference was going to take place. The economic reality of today has brought out a negative trend in the development of the third world which was also resulting in increased national debt, shrinkage of markets, reduced flow of resources and restricted technology transfer. In view of this situation, Expert Group Meetings on strategies and policies for the 1980s and 90s, technology's role in industrialization, energy and industrialization, development of human resources, and industrial co-operation among developing countries were being organized. He informed the meeting that documents for UNIDO IV will be distributed six months before the Conference takes place to encourage discussions and preparation.

The National Committees could assist in the following ways:

1. They should organize national discussion seminars once they receive these papers in order to crystallise their country's position. He added that the Secretariat would be pleased to send an official to assist in such a discussion if requested.
2. He promised that the National Committees would receive copies of all invitations that are sent to the country so that they could ensure that their country participates in the Expert Group Meetings which are being held as preliminary meetings to permit an exchange of views.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to note that following the decision taken to give prominence to the activities of the National Committees, certain significant developments for the better have taken place. While a number of countries have decided to re-activate their National Committees, others have established focal points in already existing institutions, and still others have decided to create new National Committees. If this positive trend continues, the National Committees for UNIDO would become fully as effective as the National Commissions of UNESCO. The National Committees for UNIDO could then become an extended arm of UNIDO in the country, and thus be instrumental in accelerating industrialization in the developing countries. They would in due time become indispensable to their own Governments. The National Committees definitely could assist the Secretariat provided that this assistance is requested. Quite a number of active National Committees are in one way or another involved in the implementation of or in the evaluation of the UNIDO technical co-operation programme.

As interest in the National Committees has again gained momentum, the UNIDO Secretariat, particularly the Division of Industrial Operations and the Programme Development and Evaluation Branch will have to take advantage and maintain very close contacts with them.

The representatives of the National Committees participating in these discussions were impressed by the present range of activities performed by the Secretariat and expressed their particular interest in the new technologies related to the Development and Transfer of Technology, and Energy-related activities. They were keenly interested in making their National Committees more effective and thus recommended the following measures:

- a. Recognising that the information channel from UNIDO to the Ministry of Industry was functioning well, but that this information was not being disseminated to a wider public, they suggested that the National Committees themselves could initiate a newsletter on UNIDO activities for domestic distribution.

- b. The National Committee for UNIDO should receive information about all important UNIDO activities like the Fourth General Conference for UNIDO, Consultation Meetings, Training Programmes etc. simultaneously with the recognised channels of communication so that it could take preparatory action;
- c. There should be a continuous dialogue between the Secretariat and the National Committees for UNIDO;
- d. Once the documentation for UNIDO IV is received, the National Committees for UNIDO would arrange for seminars to discuss issues which have been identified;
- e. The representative of the National Committee in Mongolia requested that documents and correspondence be addressed to it in Russian, if practical.
- f. In view of budgetary restraints of UNIDO, and to encourage wider participation in these discussions, official delegations to the deliberations of the Industrial Development Board could, if possible, include a member of the National Committees in their countries.

The delegates from the Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO, who actively participated in the discussions, appreciated the detailed information they had received on UNIDO programmes and activities and indicated that they could have benefited more, had it not been for the Industrial Development Board, which was taking place at the same time.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. Jose Pedro de Morais Secretary
National Committee for UNIDO in Angola

Mrs. Tserennadmid Tungalag Secretary
National Committee of Mongolia for UNIDO

Mr. F. I. Malik Secretary
Pakistan National Committee for UNIDO

Mr. Musa Duda Samatar Permanent Secretary
National Committee for UNIDO in Somalia

Mr. Dhawatchai Tangsanga Director
National Committee for UNIDO in Thailand

Delegates from Permanent Missions

Mr. Liu Lianke Adviser to the Permanent Representative of
People's Republic of China to UNIDO

Mr. H. Sadighi Alternate Permanent Representative of Iran
to UNIDO

H.E. Mr. E. Molitor Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to UNIDO

Mr. K. Bin Abdul Latiff Adviser to the Permanent Representative of
Malaysia to UNIDO

Mr. G. Musigazi Alternate Permanent Representative of Rwanda
to UNIDO

Mr. G. de Kalbermatten Adviser to the Permanent Representative of
Switzerland to UNIDO

LIST OF SENIOR UNIDO OFFICIALS WHO MADE STATEMENTS ON
SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

<u>Title of official</u>	<u>Subject of Statements</u>
Mr. A. Hacini, Deputy Director Division of Policy Co-ordination; Head, Negotiations Branch	System of Consultations
Mr. E. Epremian, Special Assistant to the Executive Director on Energy	Energy-related programme
Mr. S. Nanjundan, Deputy Director, Division of Industrial Operations and Head of Factory Establishment and Management Section	Industrial Management and Improvement of Production Techniques
Ms. I. Lorenzo, Head, Training Branch	Industrial Manpower Training
Mr. H. May, Deputy Director, Division of Industrial Operations and Head, Chemical Industries Branch	UNIDO Technical Assistance Programme/ Implementation process/Chemical Industries
Mr. H. W. Tanaka, Head, Development and Transfer of Technology	Technology Transfer
Mr. H. Pichler, Head, Financial Service	Financial Management
Mr. P. Cuevas-Cancino, Head, Industrial Information Section	Industrial Information
Mr. W. Behrens, Head, Feasibility Studies Section	Project Preparation and Evaluation
Mr. K. Sepic, Head, Agro-Industries Branch	Agro-Industries Branch
Mr. M. Delos, Head, Engineering Industries Section	Engineering Industries
Mr. A. G. Evstafiev, Head, Institutional Infrastructure Section	Institutional Infrastructure/Small Scale Industries and Rural Development
Mr. G. Latortue, Head, Industrial Planning Section	Industrial Planning
Mr. E. T. Balazs, Acting Head, Metallurgical Industries Section	Metallurgical Industries
Mr. R. Aguilar-Bolaños, Chief, Project Personnel Recruitment Section	Field Experts Recruitment
Mr. M. H. A. Handy, Chief, Non-governmental Organizations Section	UNIDO Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organizations

<u>Title of official</u>	<u>Subject of Statements</u>
Mr. J. Gomez-Saenz, Chief, Section for Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries	Co-operation among Developing Countries
Mr. M. Islam, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Investment Co-operative Programme Branch	Investment Promotion Activities
Mr. S. Morozov, Officer-in-Charge, Contracts Unit and Mr. H. Stelling, Officer-in-Charge, Purchases	Purchase and Contract Service
Mr. E. Ivan, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Division of Industrial Studies	Industrial Studies
Mr. Gian Piero T. Roz, Secretariat Recruitment	Secretariat Recruitment
Mr. B. Jamilla, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Programme Development and Evaluation Branch	UNIDO Programme Development/Sources of Financing

STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THEIR NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The National Committee for Angola, established in November 1981, held its inaugural session on 27 October 1982. This Committee has been given consultative, executive and informative functions. It also acts as the Co-ordinating Committee of the African Industrial Development Decade and in this capacity it plans to hold a national seminar to incorporate ideas and concepts of the Decade into Angolan national planning. It will try to mobilise financial and other resources for the execution of principal industrial projects.

The National Committee has been given the task of following up on the regional plan for development of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) which aims at providing minimum needs for nationals of member countries.

Executive functions of the Committee include -

- a. Co-ordination of projects with the SIDFA to improve implementation;
- b. Prepare participation in the System of Consultations;
- c. Improve country participation in Training programmes and seminars.

It keeps national institutes and organisations up-to-date with industrial problems, and in close co-ordination with the Centre of Industrial Information makes it possible for the public to benefit from UNIDO documentation.

These functions are performed by its members who are from various Ministries. The National Committee plans to hold two General Assemblies each year, and the rest of the time the Executive Commission deliberates on important questions requiring the approval of the National Committee.

The Mongolian National Committee was established in 1979 to expand co-operation with UNIDO, to assist in implementing UNIDO policy in the field and to secure technical assistance from UNDP and UNIDO. The governing body of the Committee is a general meeting of all its members. Between meetings the work of the Committee is carried out by the Presidium of the Committee consisting of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Secretary.

The Mongolian National Committee is directly involved in all aspects of co-operation between the Mongolian People's Republic and UNIDO. Particularly, it assists in the preparation of project documents and feasibility studies for new projects, implementation of approved projects in due time, dispatching delegates of Mongolia to the Permanent Committee and the Industrial Development Board, selecting participants for international courses and seminars within UNIDO framework and submitting their fellowship nomination to UNIDO. It distributes UNIDO documents to appropriate ministers and organizations for follow-up, assists in accelerating approval of UNIDO experts for industrial projects and widely publishes general information on UNIDO activities.

The National Committee took an active part in the preparation of country programme for 1982-86.

In the future, the Committee envisages the following measures:

1. Strengthening the role and participation of the Committee in various UNIDO sponsored activities;
2. Preparation for the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO and ensuring active participation;
3. Ensure timely preparatory measures for projects for 1982-86, financed by UNDP and UNIDO;
4. The role and responsibility of the National Committee to be increased in the implementation of the present five-year plan;
5. Ensure training of national specialists for work in UNIDO Secretariat and as UNIDO experts in foreign countries and to expand participation in UNIDO training programme.

The National Committee for UNIDO in Pakistan, established in 1980, advises Government on UNIDO activities, on matters relating to priority areas for industrialization and on implementing decisions of the Industrial Development Board and the General Conferences of UNIDO. Other objectives include promotion and establishment of joint UNIDO/country centres for co-operation between developing countries and developed countries and among the developing countries themselves, publicize UNIDO activities and to advise on programmes of UNIDO assisted projects. It also promotes closer contacts between UNIDO and public and private sectors of Pakistan.

In the two annual meetings of the National Committees, discussions were held in the functioning of UNIDO assisted projects. Reports of the sub-committees of the National Committee, appointed for this purpose, helped in improving the working of the Centres in question.

The National Committee plans to publicise UNIDO activities for the benefit of the general public by issuing a newsletter with UNIDO assistance if possible as well as to establish an appropriate monitoring mechanism for reviewing implementation and functioning of UNIDO-assisted projects.

The Somalia National Committee was re-established in May 1981 having the objective to advise the Government on all UNIDO matters concerning industrial development, to review and co-ordinate activities to promote industrial development. The Committee consisted of six members from the Ministries of Industry, National Planning, Education, Finance, Labour and Social Affairs, and Agriculture. However, as this National Committee did not become active, the Ministry of Industry is considering the idea that the National Committee should be composed of Directors of various Departments of the same Ministry. Also the Research Institute of the University, the Chamber of Commerce, private sector and the Ministry of Planning should be represented in this Committee. In this way Somalia would have an active National Committee.

The Thai National Committee has a permanent secretariat consisting of 15 officials, known as the Office of the National Committee. Although the National Committee has not met for more than two years, the Office of the National Committee performs co-ordinating activities. As the Department of Technical and Economic Co-operation has been appointed as the focal point for UNIDO activities in the Government, the National Committee is very often bypassed. In addition, the National Committee has no direct control over the process of selecting experts and screening projects etc. The Thai representative requested more concrete support of National Committees by the UNIDO secretariat and that it should be kept informed of all UNIDO activities in Thailand, so that it could assist in follow-up.

