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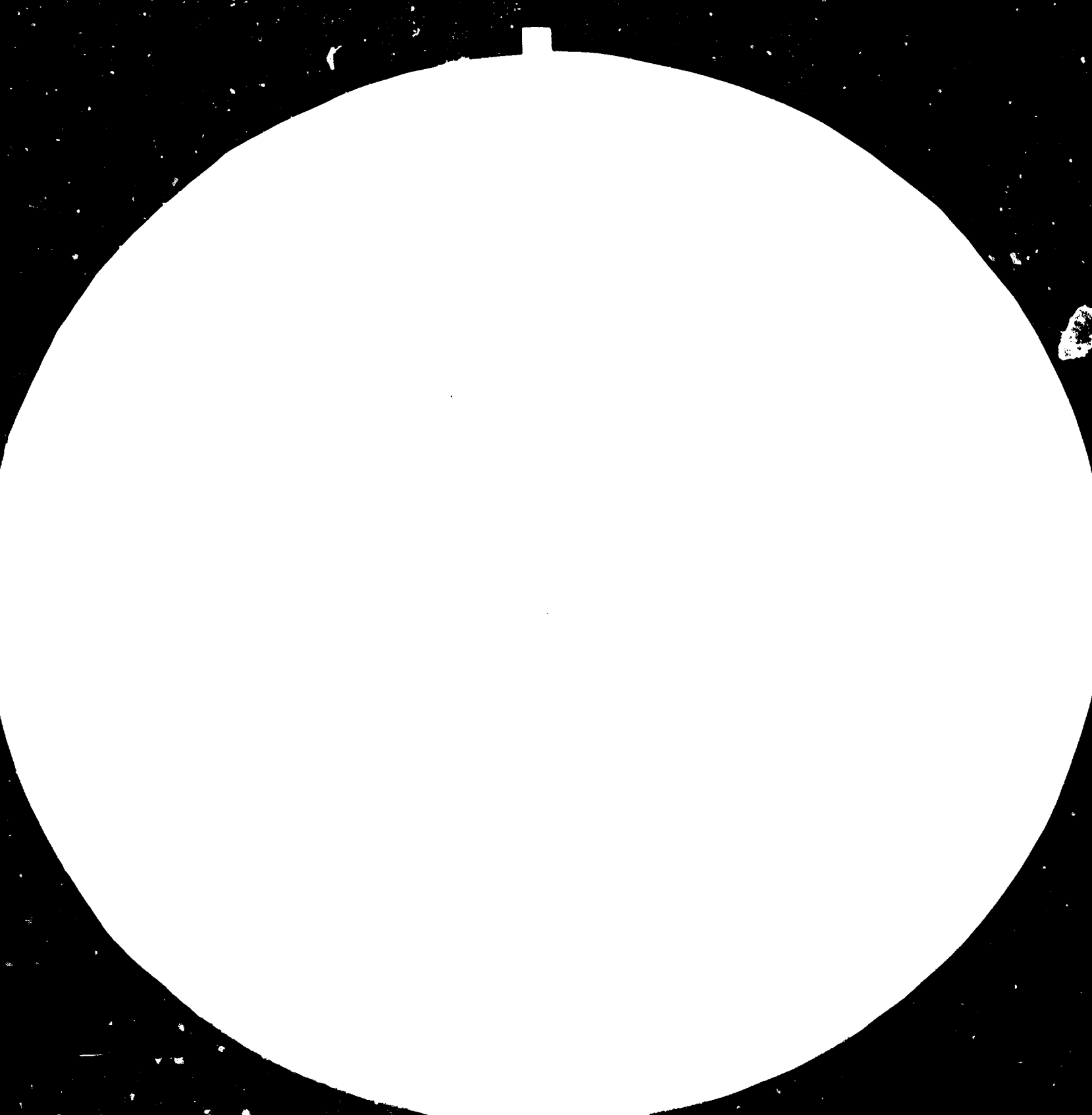
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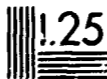
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Subregional Meeting on the Promotion of
Intra-African Industrial Co-operation
within the Framework of the Industrial
Development Decade for Africa *

Bangui, Central African Republic, 18 - 22 February 1984

FINAL REPORT ** (Meeting on industrial
co-operation, Central Africa).

* Organized jointly by ECA, OAU and UNIDO in co-operation with the Government of the Central African Republic and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC).

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INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting on the promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation in the Central African subregion within the framework of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa was held at Bangui, Central African Republic, from 18 to 22 February 1984. The meeting was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in co-operation with the Government of the Central African Republic and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC).

2. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together experts from the Central African subregion to discuss, identify and select priority areas and projects for multinational industrial co-operation. To that end, an initial integrated industrial promotion programme had been drawn up by the secretariats of the ECA, OAU and UNIDO, together with an indication of the modalities for its implementation, both of which were to be considered at the meeting.

I. PARTICIPATION

3. The experts came from the following countries : Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe. The representatives of the following organizations also participated : African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO), Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC), Common African and Mauritian Organization (OCAM), Union of African Railways (UAR), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC). The list of participants is attached as annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was opened by His Excellency Capitaine Luc Nganafei, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Central African Republic, who extended a warm welcome to the participants on behalf of His Excellency, le Général d'Armée, André Kolingba, Président du Comité Militaire de Redressement National, Chef de l'Etat, Chef du Gouvernement, Ministre de la Défense et des Anciens Combattants, Chef d'Etat Major Général des Armées and on behalf of the Government of the Central African Republic. His country was most appreciative of the fact that UNIDO, ECA and OAU had selected the capital of the Central African Republic as a venue for the meeting, since it bore testimony to the importance that the United Nations system attached to the development of the subregion. He also

expressed his appreciation for the integrated programme that had been drawn up by the three co-ordinating agencies. The Minister underscored the fact that the present meeting represented the first occasion on which experts from the member-countries of the recently established Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) had come together to discuss industrial co-operation in the subregion.

5. The Minister pointed to the economic difficulties confronting the subregion such as limited markets and financial constraints and he highlighted the great potential offered by the resources of the subregion, which could be exploited through regional industrial co-operation. He underscored the determination of the African countries to satisfy the basic needs of their populations as expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action and reaffirmed the importance of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Achievement of the objectives of the Decade called for firm political commitment in each country as well as financial and technical support at the national, subregional, regional and international level.

6. The present meeting gave concrete expression to the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and provided a unique opportunity to achieve basic understanding and community of action. He wished the participants every success in their deliberations and search for realistic solutions to the current constraints upon the development of the subregion.

7. Speaking on behalf of Dr. Abd-El Rahman Khane, Executive Director of UNIDO, who had been prevented from attending the meeting owing to illness, Mr. F. Carré, Deputy Executive Director of UNIDO, expressed his most sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Central African Republic for having agreed to host the meeting in Bangui. He paid tribute to the leading role that the country, which hosted both the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) and the Common African and Mauritian Organization (OCAM), was playing in the political and economic development of Africa and to the consistent support that the Central African Republic had lent to the activities of UNIDO. He expressed his particular appreciation for the excellent co-operation that UNIDO enjoyed with ECA and OAU and paid tribute to the support received from the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) which had provided excellent facilities for the meeting, as well as to the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) whose involvement in the meeting was fundamental to the promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation in the subregion. He also drew attention to the role that industrial co-operation could play in increasing Africa's share in world industrial production as envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action.

8. He stressed that the integrated industrial promotion programme before the meeting was strictly an initial programme that would be reviewed at regular intervals and adjusted to the prevailing needs of the subregion. He underlined the need for intensified consultations between countries : they were essential in order to avoid undue duplication of effort, to ensure the optimal utilization of limited resources, to determine mutually beneficial co-operation arrangements, and to ensure the viability of the projects agreed upon.

9. Mr. Carré pointed out that the effectiveness of the programme would hinge on the ability to translate the political will of the countries into tangible action and on the leadership role to be played by those countries selected to host the various multinational projects. Equally important were the follow-up activities to be undertaken by the countries and co-ordinating agencies. In that connection, he said, it would be necessary to conduct detailed pre-investment studies, investment promotion activities as well as technical and financial negotiations with potential investors. He underscored the crucial role to be played by the African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations as well as the financial institutions in the subregion. He pledged that within the limitations of its resources, UNIDO would continue to assist the countries in the subregion in the elaboration, promotion, implementation and monitoring of the initial integrated programme to be adopted at the meeting. He also drew the meeting's attention to the Investment Promotion Meeting that UNIDO would be organizing for the subregion in 1985, and invited the financial institutions in the subregion to join the African Development Bank (ADB), ECA, OAU and UNIDO in the elaboration, promotion and implementation of the projects in the initial programme.

10. He informed the meeting that the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO would be held 2 - 18 August 1984 in Vienna, Austria, at which particular attention would be given to the problems and needs of Africa and to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. He thus urged African countries to participate fully in the forthcoming Conference of African Ministers of Industry as well as in the General Conference of UNIDO so as to ensure that the interests of Africa were adequately taken into account in the recommendations to be made. Since a strengthened UNIDO would be of particular benefit to Africa, he also urged the African countries to continue their active participation in the efforts being made to finalize the transformation of UNIDO into a specialized agency of the United Nations. That active participation, he hoped, would also extend to the activities of the new agency, once established. In conclusion, Mr. Carré reaffirmed the crucial importance attached to the meeting and to the need for a special effort during the Decade for the Industrial Development for Africa so as to ensure that the region could secure its rightful place in the global prosperity of nations.

11. Speaking on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Peter Onu, Secretary-General a.i. of the OAU, Mr. A. Diong, Chief of the Industry Section, expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of the Central African Republic for their warm welcome. He saw the present meeting as a test of the expression of general commitment by African Governments and their oft-expressed determination to co-operate. It provided an opportunity to choose between economic independence through collective self-reliance and the continuation of past approaches and strategies that had led the countries into an impasse. Past failures should not deter the countries in the subregion from entering into multinational co-operation, but should serve as examples of the mistakes to be avoided.

12. The present meeting was aimed specifically at promoting intra-African co-operation in the development and implementation of multinational industrial projects. He anticipated that after a critical examination of the areas in which multinational core

industrial projects and related support projects could be developed, the meeting - similar to the earlier meeting for the Eastern and Southern and West African subregions - would come up with an initial integrated industrial promotion programme for the subregion as well as propose ways of implementing it. He entered a strong plea for careful reflection, realism and examination of the objectives that the Governments had set themselves, and cautioned against over-extending the concept of core industries.

13. He also drew the meetings's attention to the actions that would be required at the national level and the responsibilities that the execution of multinational projects imposed upon the participating states, in particular the lead countries. Agreement would also have to be reached on such arrangements as joint promotion and negotiation with sources of external finance in order to avoid undue duplication. He pointed to the major role that would be played by regional subregional economic groupings, in particular the African Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank, in supporting the integrated industrial promotion programme for the subregion which, through sectoral integration, would contribute to the creation of an African economic community in accordance with the Final Act of Lagos.

14. Speaking on behalf of Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. V.S. Geerjanaan, Project Officer, Engineering Industries, Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division, thanked the Government and the People of the Central African Republic for their hospitality and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) for the excellent facilities provided for the meeting which would undoubtedly contribute to its success. In outlining the objectives of the present meeting, he stressed that given the limited resources and capabilities available both to the countries in the subregion and to the secretariats of the three agencies, the choice of projects to be discussed had been restricted to those that were considered to have a maximum impact on the economy and capable of producing critical inputs in priority areas related to basic needs. In that connection, he drew attention to the criteria for selecting multinational/subregional core projects that were appended to the main document before the meeting.

15. The projects to be considered at the meeting had emanated for the most part from proposals and concepts submitted by Governments and intergovernmental organizations. The successful implementation of those and other projects would, however, hinge upon the follow-up action taken by the States and co-ordinating agencies. It would be necessary to establish a mechanism to continue the selection and promotion process and monitor the implementation of projects.

16. In conclusion, Mr. V.S. Geerjanaan, underscored the fundamental importance of intra-African industrial co-operation. If the countries of the subregion were prepared to pool their resources and implement multinational projects, they could not only overcome the current constraints upon their industrial development, but they would also contribute to the realization of self-reliant and self-sustained industrialization.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Election of officers

17. Mr. T. Ndilne (Central African Republic) was elected to the Office of Chairman, Messrs. Ph. Musansamfura (Rwanda) and N. Costa Alegre (Sao Tome and Principe) to that of First and Second Vice-Chairman respectively and Mr. G. Loyi-Lendirra (UDEAC) to that of Rapporteur.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. The agenda (see annex 2) was adopted. It was also agreed to hold all discussions in plenary and to set up working groups only when necessary.

IV. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUBREGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION PROGRAMME FOR THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA

19. In introducing the paper, a representative of the secretariat stated that the overall development and industrialization of Africa depended considerably on external factor inputs and other essential goods and services. In the Lagos Plan of Action, the importance of industrial development had been underscored.

20. The paper before the meeting had been subdivided into five parts. Chapter I gave a brief description of the overall economic structure and conditions in Africa, highlighting the salient points in the Lagos Plan of Action and the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Chapter II dealt with the existing industrial structure in the subregion and described co-operation at the subregional level.

21. Chapter III examined the concept of core industries - resource-based and engineering - which offered wide scope for multinational co-operation. Five strategic industrial subsectors - agro and agro-based, metallurgical, engineering, chemical and building materials industries - were described and summaries given of those areas and services that supported industrial development. Highest priority had been given to those industrial branches that provided inputs to the increased production and processing of food and agricultural produce.

22. Chapter IV contained the initial integrated industrial promotion programme derived from national projects, project ideas and concepts requiring multinational co-operation that had either been submitted by individual Governments or emanated from intergovernmental organizations such as UDEAC and CEPGL. Thirty strategic core projects and seven support projects had been identified, from which it might be necessary to identify priorities based on the projects' implementability within the short/medium or long term. Chapter V proposed a strategy and modalities for the implementation of the programme at the national and sub-regional level, outlining the role of Governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as that of the co-ordinating and other agencies.

23. Attention was drawn to the importance of support projects in such fields as human resources development, mobilization of financial resources, institutional infrastructure, research and development, and energy supply, and to the need to co-ordinate their implementation at the national and subregional level. It was also emphasized that the multinational co-operation projects, which ensured the effective exploitation of local resources, the introduction of larger markets, the reduction of production costs and the promotion of intra-African co-operation, would have to be selected with particular care so as to avoid drawing up a programme that was too bulky. It was pointed out that if they so desired participants could submit additional projects in the course of the debate.

24. It was also agreed that at the outset discussion would focus upon the first three chapters of the document (see ID/WG. 414/3).

Chapters I - III

25. Prior to the discussion of the chapters, the representatives of the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) and the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU) described the activities of their respective organizations and their potential contribution to the implementation of the initial integrated industrial promotion programme.

26. The meeting adopted both the introduction and chapters I - III subject to the changes described below.

27. Paragraph 18. With reference to the need to benefit fully from the economies of scale mentioned in the paragraph, it was pointed out that several national enterprises were currently operating well below capacity. Consequently, consideration should be given to expanding the markets of those enterprises to other countries in the subregion so as to ensure fuller utilization of installed capacities.

28. Paragraph 20. It was pointed out that the paragraph rightly underscored the role that State-owned enterprises could play in promoting industrial development at the national level, while at the same time pointing to certain shortcomings in the public sector which had to be overcome. It was felt more appropriate to delete reference to specific countries and to speak about the issues in general terms only.

29. Paragraph 21. The paragraph should be expanded so as to indicate the relative importance of the rural population in percentage terms.

30. Paragraph 23 (e). It was felt that the subparagraph should also include a reference to the serious transportation problems that confronted the landlocked countries most particularly.

31. Paragraphs 25 - 26. It was felt that the paragraphs had been too sweeping in their dismissal of import substitution policies. Import substitution was not inherently wrong, except in those cases where it relied on the import of both raw materials and components,

thus often reducing the operation to mere assembly and thereby failing to contribute to the processing of local resources and the development of local technological capabilities.

32. Paragraphs 30 - 32. In addition to certain syntactical changes in the paragraphs, it was pointed out that Chad was not currently a member of UDEAC.

33. Paragraph 33. The paragraph was to be expanded so as to reflect that certain projects had either been implemented or identified by CEPGL while studies had been undertaken in respect of rehabilitating and expanding the scope of enterprises with a view to lending them a regional character.

34. Paragraphs 48 - 49. It was pointed out that specific problems related to transportation and communications should also be mentioned in the paragraphs, in particular : (i) external orientation of the current network; (ii) relative isolation of the countries in the sub-region for want of effective communications; and (iii) problems of equipment maintenance and other infrastructural shortcomings.

35. Paragraph 50. It was pointed out that the paragraph should reflect the particular attention to be devoted to the better preparation of bankable projects and feasibility studies.

36. Paragraph 52 (i). The shortage of convertible currencies did not apply directly to trade within the subregion and hence should not be listed. The major currency problem facing the countries in the subregion was the under-utilization of existing compensation arrangements. It was thus suggested that non-member states should contribute to the smooth running of such arrangements and better information thereon should be provided.

37. It was also agreed to add a new subparagraph 52 (vii) reading : "Lack of production complementarity among the countries of the subregion".

38. Paragraphs 55 and 57. It was pointed out that the paragraphs should emphasize the need to strengthen and utilize more effectively existing bodies, whereafter consideration might be given to creating new institutions related to technology, training and institutional infrastructure which were currently lacking.

Initial integrated industrial promotion programme

39. Before entering into a discussion of the individual projects, it was agreed that the criteria listed in annex 1, which had found general acceptance at the two previous sub-regional meetings, were also applicable to the projects in the Central African subregion.

40. After a brief description of the project selection process, it was agreed that each project would be introduced by a representative of the sponsoring Government or in the latter's absence the secretariat would provide the back-up information at its disposal. It was also indicated that each country had the right to submit projects, although every care should be taken to avoid duplication. It was felt that it would be appropriate to consider the feasibility of the projects and their implementation within the short/medium (0-10 years) and long (10 years or more) term.

41. It was also pointed out that in most project profiles no figures were available in respect of current supply and projected demand nor had consideration been given to other related projects in the subregion, even though such information was essential to determine project viability. It was agreed that, to the best of their ability, Governments, inter-governmental organizations and the secretariat would endeavour to retrieve information for inclusion in the profiles. It was emphasized, however, that it was often difficult to obtain Government release of such data, even though they might be contained in feasibility studies. At the same time, regret was expressed at the fact that the projects profiles and other meeting documents had not been submitted to the various Governments in the sub-region for review prior to their inclusion in the initial integrated programme. It was stressed, however, that the programme was an initial programme and could thus be revised and expanded.

42. The expert from Chad made a formal statement explaining the non-inclusion of projects from his country in the initial subregional programme owing to the special situation prevailing in the country and the fact that Chad was not a member of any subregional organization. However, his country had attended at the highest level recent meetings of both UDEAC and ECCAS, thus demonstrating a desire to rejoin those organizations. Under those circumstances, he requested that Chad be permitted to submit projects for consideration at a later stage. He assured the meeting that Chad would adhere to the recommendations of the meeting and he reaffirmed the interest of his country in the projects put forward which would also be of benefit to Chad.

Agro and agro-based industries

Food-processing subprogramme

Project profile No. 1 : Rehabilitation and extension of the sugar industry, Angola

Project profile No. 2 : Upgrading of a sugar factory, the Congo

43. In the course of the presentation of the two projects, attention was drawn to the lack of certain data related to supply and demand. However, it was agreed that the question of over-capacity in the subregion did not apply to the industry in question, given the current level of sugar imports. Both projects were seen to contribute to the achievement of self-sufficiency in food production which had been accorded high priority in the Lagos Plan of Action. Both projects were recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 3 : Production of instant coffee, Burundi

44. The expert from Burundi pointed out that his Government submitted a request to UNIDO for assistance in the conduct of a pre-feasibility study. He also indicated that the instant coffee produced was for export primarily to Europe. In the light of that information it was decided to delete the project from the initial programme.

Project profile No. 4 : Establishment of a distillery, Burundi

45. In introducing the project, the expert from Burundi pointed to its close link with the establishment of a sugar factory within the context of the five-year development plan. Furthermore, the project had been submitted to the Round Table in February 1984. The sugar factory was planned to come on stream in 1986 with an annual capacity of 14,000 tons. In the light of that information, it was recommended that the project be implemented in the long term.

Project profile No. 5 : Integrated cattle product and processing complex

46. The expert from CEPGL presented the project for which an opportunity study had been conducted in respect of an abattoir and dairy. The next phase would be the conduct of a pre-feasibility study covering the complete range of products related to animal husbandry. The importance of the project was recognized and its implementation in the short/medium term recommended.

Project profile No. 6 : Integrated development of the fish-processing industry

47. The expert from CEPGL introduced the project and the need to update and expand upon the previous pre-feasibility study was recognized. The cost of such an in-depth study was estimated at US\$ 105,000. Given the current status of the project, it was recommended for implementation in the long term.

48. Three additional projects were submitted for consideration:

Rehabilitation of the Sarki farm, Central African Republic

Establishment of a Central African Cattle Authority, Central African Republic

Establishment of a cassava agro-industrial complex, Central African Republic

49. The expert from the Central African Republic introduced the first two projects which related to stockbreeding in the broadest sense. The first project which was concerned with the processing of dairy products encompassed the rehabilitation of a State-owned enterprise, while the second project was concerned with the preparation and processing of meat as well as the making of sausages. It was a private enterprise established in 1982 and based on an existing cattle farm supplied by other livestock areas. It was pointed out that both projects were primarily oriented towards national markets and it was suggested that considerations be given to extending their scope so as to serve the needs of the subregion. A change of that kind had not been envisaged, but given the importance of the sector, it was decided to re-examine both projects within the context of an appropriate comprehensive

study to be undertaken with the assistance of the secretariat that would take account of such factors as markets and supply. It was thus recommended that both projects be merged into one project for the total integrated development of the meat industry in both the Central African Republic and UDEAC countries, and that it be retained as a support project for implementation in the short/medium term.

50. The third project was also introduced by the expert from the Central African Republic who pointed out that a feasibility study had been undertaken in 1979, while technical and financial partners were still being sought. In view of the importance of cassava as a dietary staple, it was recommended that the project be included in the programme for implementation in the short/medium term.

Forest products subprogramme

Project profile No. 7 : Establishment of a wood-processing complex

51. The expert from CEPGL described the project and reported that on the basis of a preliminary study, a more detailed forest inventory and feasibility study were to be undertaken in the near future. It was estimated that those studies would soon be completed at a cost of approximately US\$ 50,000. Given that situation, the project was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Textile subprogramme

Project profile No. 8 : Extension of the Bujumbura textile plant, Burundi

52. The expert from Burundi introduced the project and drew attention to the fact that in Burundi a textile plant had been in operation since 1981. One of the main problems facing that plant was its current level of capacity under-utilization which it was endeavouring to overcome by securing new markets. With respect to the plant extension described in the project profile, the expert could not confirm that it had been discussed at the CEPGL Conference of Heads of State. He indicated, however, that plans were being mooted for enhancing current production through the manufacture of synthetic fibres and the establishment of an ancillary garment production unit for which funds had already been secured. Given that the regional character of the project had not yet been recognized, it was decided to delete the project from the initial programme for the time being.

Metallurgical industry

Aluminium subprogramme

Project profile No. 9 : Integrated development of the aluminium industry, Cameroon

53. In the absence of the expert from Cameroon, the expert from UDEAC presented the project and pointed out that it was one of five projects presented by UDEAC in respect of the integrated industrial promotion programme for the subregion and it had been approved by the UDEAC Council of Heads of State in December 1975. At a subsequent meeting, it had been decided by the Heads of State that it was incumbent upon the individual member State to initiate follow-up action and undertake further studies related to

projects in their respective countries. Since that time no information had been received by UDEAC in respect of the project in Cameroon with the exception of inputs from the Central African Republic. It was thus decided to retain the official decision reached in 1975, and the Secretariat-General of UDEAC was requested to obtain information on the current status of the project. On that basis, the project was recommended for implementation in the long term.

Project profile No. 10 : Manufacture of crown tops, Burundi

54. The expert from CEPGL reported that in 1978 the project had been officially designated a community project for implementation in Burundi. The expert from Burundi indicated that the unit had been in operation since 1982 and was complementary to a glass bottle manufacturing plant in that country. In view of the fact that the project was already in operation and the major preoccupation remained the question of locating additional markets within the subregion so as to absorb surplus production, it was decided not to retain the project in the initial programme.

Tin subprogramme

Project profile No. 11 : Expansion of a tin plant, Rwanda

55. The expert from Rwanda explained that the project constituted an extension to a tin plant producing ingots for export to industrialized countries. The activities described in the profile related to establishing downstream linkages with milling operations and the fabrication of such items as "objets d'art". Furthermore, since it was intended to extend the supply of ingots to other countries in the subregion and eventually to utilize tin deposits available in the subregion, the project was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Iron and steel subprogramme

Project profile No. 12 : Rehabilitation of the Maluku steel plant, Zaïre

56. In the absence of the expert from Zaïre, the secretariat summarized the project and pointed out that, following requests submitted by the Government of Zaïre, the ECA had carried out several studies and fielded a mission to the Maluku steel plant to diagnose the problems besetting the plant. All those activities had been aimed at rehabilitating the plant. The main problem confronting the plant was its extremely low level of capacity utilization for want of raw materials. The importance of the project to the development of the subregion which disposed of adequate resources was recognized, and it was recommended that it be implemented in the short/medium term.

Agricultural machinery and equipment subprogramme

Project profile No. 13 : Manufacture of agricultural equipment and machinery, Rwanda

57. The expert from CEPGL described the importance of the project to the community and indicated that it had been decided to implement it in Rwanda following the conduct of studies by the CEPGL in co-operation with EEC-ACP Industrial Development Centre in 1981.

The expert from Rwanda reported that the first stage of the project which related to the manufacture of small agricultural implements was already in operation and served the national market. It was intended, however, to expand the scope of the project so as to be able to supply other countries in the subregion. Studies were being undertaken in respect of the second phase related to the manufacture of more advanced agricultural machinery needed in the subregion. In view of the foregoing, it was decided to recommend the project for implementation in the short/medium term.

Electrical equipment subprogramme

Project profile No. 14 : Manufacture of electrical equipment, Rwanda

58. The expert from Rwanda presented the project indicating that it was still at the conceptual stage. He reported that his Government was negotiating a joint venture agreement with a foreign company. It was pointed out in the course of the discussion that every effort should be made to ensure that the basic inputs, in particular copper (which represented 60 per cent of the total product content) should be supplied from within the subregion, and that consultations should be initiated in particular with Zaïre. The importance of locating the project, which was still at the conceptual stage, near the source of supply was recognized. CEPGL was requested by the meeting to undertake further studies in co-operation with the Government of Rwanda and other interested countries, with the assistance of the secretariats (ECA, OAU and UNIDO). In view of the fact that the project still involved extensive study, it was decided to consider it a support project.

Precision engineering subprogramme

Project profile No. 15 : Manufacture of watches and watch components, Central African Republic

59. The project was introduced by the expert from UDEAC who indicated that the project had been retained as a Community project by the UDEAC Council of Heads of State in 1975 following a preliminary study conducted by UDEAC in co-operation with UNIDO. The expert from the Central African Republic informed the meeting that the project had first been launched in co-operation with a foreign company only to founder in the fact of strong illegal competition. It had been re-launched in co-operation with a different foreign company only to collapse once more for the same reason. However, the personnel that had been trained in the course of the first two attempts had mastered the technology and were currently endeavouring to re-launch the project on their own accord. Arrangements involving yet another foreign partner and the conduct of an updated market study were being considered and the study was scheduled for completion by the end of 1984.

60. Some participants pointed out that the project was merely the assembly of imported parts, while others underscored the fact that such projects helped to develop local technical skills and reduce the cost of imports, thus saving foreign currency. Furthermore, the fact that watch components were both small and light, their transportation to a landlocked country such as the Central African Republic was a decisive factor in establishing such an industry. In view of the above, it was recommended that the project be implemented in the short/medium term.

Petrochemical subprogramme

Project profile No. 16 : Establishment of a petrochemical complex for the manufacture of plastic products, Gabon

61. The project was introduced by the expert from UDEAC who indicated that the project was one of those that had been designated Community projects some nine years previous. In the absence of the expert from Gabon, it was difficult to assess the current status of the project; however, it appeared that a subregional market study had been conducted in 1980 by the Gabonese government. Subject to UDEAC receiving more information on the current status of the project, it was decided to recommend the project for implementation in the long term.

Project profile No. 17 : Expansion of a petroleum refinery, the Congo

62. In introducing the project, the expert from the Congo indicated that it represented an extension to a refinery with an annual capacity of 1 million tons which had been established in 1973 to serve the local market. A study would be undertaken on the possible expansion of the project so as to serve other countries in the subregion, in particular, the Central African Republic and Zaïre. Moreover, it was complementary to that described in project profile No. 16. Consequently, in view of its Community status and the fact that it would be a major supplier to the Central African Republic, the project was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Pesticides subprogramme

Project profile No. 18 : Manufacture of active ingredients for pesticides

63. The secretariat explained that the consultant who had collected the projects prior to compiling the initial integrated programme had received identical proposals from the Governments of Rwanda and Zaïre. Consequently, it had been decided to merge both projects, all the more since both were at the conceptual stage.

64. The expert from Rwanda confirmed that a national project producing pesticides, in particular for application to industrial crops (coffee, tea etc.), was already in operation : with an annual capacity of 2000 tons, it served the local market. He thus suggested separating the two projects and considering the possibility of regionalizing the national project subject to confirmation by and further information from his Government.

65. The expert from Rwanda also indicated that the project had been designed to use local kaolin for blending with imported active ingredients. On the other hand, some participants pointed out that the weight of such a project should lie on the utilization of local, not imported, active ingredients, whereupon the expert from Rwanda pointed to the availability of pyrethrum in that country. Attention was also drawn to the existence of similar pesticide plants in the subregion, primarily in Burundi.

66. Given the scarcity of information, however, it was decided that a subregional study should be undertaken examining both the demand and supply of raw materials in particular

active ingredients for pesticides and insecticides for both agricultural and household applications, whereafter a decision could be reached as to the suitability of establishing such a plant in the subregion. Consequently, it was decided to undertake the study within the framework of a support project.

Fertilizers subprogramme

Project profile No. 19 : Production of ammonia fertilizers

67. The expert from CEPGL briefly summarized the project, pointing out that it would utilize methane gas from Lake Kivu which was under the jurisdiction of both Rwanda and Zaïre. The project was part of an integrated programme for the effective exploitation of those gas resources. The feasibility study which was imminent would determine the main features of the project, including its location. Given the great demand and particular need for fertilizers in the subregion, it was recommended that the project be implemented in the short/medium term.

Pharmaceuticals subprogramme

Project profile No. 20 : Establishment of a laboratory for pharmaceutical products, the Central African Republic

68. The expert from UDEAC pointed out that the project had been retained as a Community project by the UDEAC Council of Heads of State in 1975 for implementation in the Central African Republic. The project would be based on the cultivation of medicinal plants and the extraction of active ingredients. The expert from the Central African Republic confirmed the interest of his Government in implementing the project in his country and indicated that a pre-feasibility study was being undertaken in the course of which the data obtained in the preliminary study would be updated. The project would comprise the establishment in the very near future of the basic manufacturing modules, with modules for more sophisticated production activities being added at a later date. The active ingredients produced by the unit could be distributed to other countries in the subregion. Given the inordinate need in the subregion for drugs and medicines and the availability of locally grown medicinal plants, it was recommended that the project be implemented in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 21 : Expansion of a regional pharmaceutical laboratory, Burundi

69. The expert from CEPGL introduced the project which had been accepted by the Heads of State in 1979 as a Community project to be sited in Burundi. The project was designed to expand the scope and impart to it a regional character of production and research of the laboratory. Once expanded, the laboratory would, inter alia, conduct research into the use of medicinal plants endemic to the subregion and pilot plants would be established to that end. A pre-feasibility study was to be undertaken with the assistance of the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNIDO. Since the project was primarily related to institution building in support of the pharmaceutical sector, it was felt more appropriate to include it among the support projects for implementation in the short/medium term.

Other chemicals subprogramme

Project profile No. 22 : Upgrading potash deposits for the manufacture of chemicals,
the Congo

70. The expert from JDEAC outlined the project, indicating that the plant had been operational until 1976; however, operations had been brought to a standstill by extreme flooding. The expert from the Congo added that his Government attached particular importance to this subregional project and the current five-year development plan made financial provision for the necessary feasibility studies. The project had already been submitted to the Development Bank of Central African States and potential technical partners contacted. In view of the importance of the project to the subregion, it was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 23 : Production of calcium carbide, Rwanda

71. The expert from Rwanda summarized the project which was designed to reduce oil imports by producing calcium carbide through a limestone/peat process which also offered such by-products as gas, acids and asphalt. Tests were already being run in a laboratory in France. The total cost of the plant which would be self-sufficient in terms of energy was estimated at some US\$ 25 million. It was recommended that the project be implemented in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 24 : Establishment of a methanol production plant, Zaïre

72. The expert from CEPGL described the project which was also part of the major Lake Kivu gas development programme. It had been decided to implement the project in Zaïre. Given its importance to the development of the subregion, the project was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 25 : Pilot project for the production of alcohol, Rwanda

73. The expert from CEPGL introduced the project, pointing out its direct link to the previous project. The alcohol produced could find various applications, including its admixture to petrol for use as motor fuel. In view of the close link with the implementation of the project described in project profile No. 24, it was recommended that the project be restricted to the production of methanol and implemented in the long term.

Non-metallic mineral products subprogramme

Project profile No. 26 : Expansion and diversification of production of a glass manufacturing
plant, the Congo

74. The expert from the Congo summarized the project and said it related to the expansion and diversification of an existing bottling plant in Pointe Noir, the Congo, which would serve the needs of the subregion, in particular Cameroon, the Central African Republic and

Zaire. In that connection, the expert from UDEAC reported that the Union was conducting a study to assess the need for bottles in the subregion and thus determine whether it was necessary to extend the scope of existing units or set up new plants. He also indicated that given the growing number of breweries, the project offered scope for expansion.

75. The expert from the Congo described the initial marketing difficulties his country had faced in a highly competitive international market. However, a number of breweries in the subregion had entered into commercial agreements with the glass manufacturing plant.

76. The expert from the Congo suggested that it was more advisable to extend existing plants in the subregion rather than enter into the establishment of new units. He also confirmed that the expansion of the plant included not only bottles but also other glassware, and it was part of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan. In view of the foregoing, it was recommended that the project be retained in the programme and implemented in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 27 : Expansion of a bottle and glass manufacturing plant, Burundi

77. The expert from CEPGL introduced the Community project which had been approved by the CEPGL Conference of Heads of State in 1978. The plant had gone into operation the previous year. The expert from Burundi reported that the plant which had been in operation for only five months had not yet reached full production capacity and, to the best of his knowledge, no plans existed for its extension in the immediate future. He pointed out that the major problem associated with the plant was the institution of marketing arrangements with other countries in the subregion. The expert from CEPGL also mentioned that a scheme to enter into the production of untinted glass at a later stage was under consideration. Since the plant was still at an early stage of its operations and its main problems were related to marketing, it was recommended that the project be deleted from the subregional programme and as soon as the need was felt to diversify production.

Cement subprogramme

Project profile No. 28 : Expansion of the Loutete cement plant, the Congo

78. The expert from the Congo presented the project which was designed to increase annual production capacity from 70,000 to 250,000 tons so as to meet the requirements of the rapidly expanding building sector. Studies were being undertaken and financial arrangements were being negotiated. He agreed to provide the secretariat with data related to projected demand, market and investment costs. By virtue of the significant role played by the cement industry in the subregion and the potential the project offered for trade with neighbouring countries, the multinational character of the project was recognized and it was recommended for implementation in the short/medium term.

Project profile No. 29 : Expansion of the Mashyuza cement plant, Rwanda

Project profile No. 30 : Rehabilitation of the Katana cement plant, Zaïre

79. The expert from CEPGL introduced the projects, both of which had been accorded Community status by the CEPGL Conference of Heads of State. Located close to each other and serving the same markets, the projects took on an important developmental role. As explained by the expert from Rwanda, the project described in profile No. 29 referred to the integration of ancillary units : a unit to produce sacks based on locally available papyrus and a proposed peat-fired power plant which would appreciably reduce production costs. It was reported that studies were being undertaken and financial partners sought. In the light of the above information and in view of the fact that consideration was being given to the possible expansion of production at a later stage, it was recommended that the project be retained in the programme for implementation in the long term.

80. As explained by the expert from CEPGL, the project described in profile No. 30 related to the rehabilitation of a plant that was currently shut down for lack of funds. It was decided that the project deserved support, and it was recommended that it be implemented in the short/medium term.

Multinational support projects

Institutional infrastructure subprogramme

Project profile S1 : Assistance to the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC)

Project profile S2 : Assistance to the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
(CEPGL)

Industrial manpower development subprogramme

Project profile S3 : Assistance to UDEAC/CEPGL in the development of an industrial
training programme

Project profile S4 : Development of industrial consultancy and management capabilities

Project profile S5 : Development of local industrial entrepreneurship (Directory of small-
scale industrial project profiles)

Other support projects

Project profile S6 : Development of peat resources

Project profile S7 : CEPGL five-year industrial development plan

81. The secretariat explained that while the support projects had not been formally submitted by the organizations listed, they had been introduced on the basis of past requests for assistance received from those organizations. Furthermore, similar projects involving other bodies had been adopted at the previous subregional meetings. It was recognized that the support projects listed in the document ensured the all-essential

logistical support that was needed by the intergovernmental organizations in the subregion and they should be implemented in the short/medium term.

82. Three additional support projects were submitted :

Assistance to the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) (1)

Assistance to the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) (2)

Feasibility study on the manufacture of railway equipment in the Central African subregion (3)

83. The first two support projects were introduced by the expert from AIPO who indicated that they were designed to support the implementation of the technical and commercial components of the initial industrial promotion programme not only for the Central African subregion but also for the other subregions, since AIPO was a regional organization. Given the close link between the two support projects, it was decided to merge them and include them in the initial programme for implementation in the short/medium term.

84. The third support project was introduced by the expert from the Union of African Railways who pointed out that it was part of a comprehensive study covering all subregions. The first study had been undertaken in the West African subregion, resulting in a re-manufacture of railway wagons. He also underscored the importance to the initial subregional programme of the Third Symposium of the Union of African Railways to be held in Tunis, 22-24 October 1984, on industrial development and the manufacture of railway equipment in Africa. The importance of the railway industry to the industrial development of the subregion was recognized and it was recommended that the project, like all other support projects, be included in the programme and implemented in the short/medium term.

Implementation of the integrated industrial promotion programme

85. In introducing the chapter, the representatives of the secretariat emphasized the importance of ensuring effective implementation of the programme. It was explained that formal endorsement at the national and subregional level was essential to implementation. The revised subregional programme incorporating all the modifications and additions agreed upon at the current meeting would be forwarded through the experts to the individual legislative authorities which could officially endorse the programme in keeping with their own institutional mechanisms and local procedures. It was recognized that the main responsibility for implementing the programme lay with the individual Governments and the intergovernmental organizations in the subregion. They should clearly indicate the manner in which the secretariats could be of assistance to them.

86. With reference to the need to adjust ongoing national industrial development plans to the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa and in particular to the contents of the subregional programme, it was recalled that the African Ministers of Industry had confirmed the necessity of so doing at their Sixth Conference.

87. With respect to the activities to be undertaken at the subregional level, emphasis was placed on the need to harmonize national policies, in particular those pertaining to intraregional trade. Intergovernmental organizations had a major role to play in monitoring the implementation of the programme, with the assistance of the secretariats, if so required. In that connection, consideration should be given to establishing intergovernmental expert committees in specific sectors similar to those already active in two other subregions in the field of chemical, engineering and metallurgical industries. Such committees would permit substantive assessment of and provide effective assistance to the implementation of the programme.

88. The plan for the implementation of the integrated industrial promotion programme as contained in chapter V was adopted with the following amendment :

Paragraph 108, lines 6-8: "operation with the OAU, ADB and other specialized African organizations (ARCT, ARCEDEM, AIHTTR, PATU, Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre, IDEP, etc.) can contribute to meeting those requirements and thus help to overcome the acute developmental problems of the subregion".

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

89. At its final session, the Rapporteur presented the report and described its structure. The meeting adopted the report and authorized the secretariat to finalize in the light of the amendments.

90. At that session, the expert from PATU re-affirmed the importance of the activities of his organization to the implementation of the programme for the Decade. He called for strong support on the part of Governments and subregional organizations for those activities, in particular the preparation of research and training programmes for the manufacture of telecommunications equipment in Africa based on local raw materials.

91. The secretariat underscored the need to maintain momentum in the industrial development of the subregion and to accord emphasis to industry in national development plans. In the light of the financial difficulties confronting international organizations, it was all the more necessary for Governments to ensure that in the UNDP country programme the industrial sector received the attention and appropriate financial allocations it deserved by virtue of the impetus it lent to economic development. It was also necessary to ensure that similar actions were taken within the framework of all other bi- and multi-lateral economic arrangements.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

92. At the formal closing session, the First Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ph. Musansamfura presented His Excellency, Capitaine Luc Nganafai, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Central African Republic, with a copy of the report. He described the discussions that had taken

place on the initial integrated industrial programme and highlighted the main features of the document. On behalf of the participants, he thanked the Minister for the hospitality that had been extended to them by the Government of the Central African Republic. He also extended his particular thanks to the Secretary-General of UDEAC and his colleagues for the excellent facilities placed at his disposal, and expressed his gratitude for the excellent documentation and contribution by the three secretariats.

93. Speaking on behalf of the three co-ordinating agencies, Mr. S. Ndam thanked the Minister whose presence bore testimony to the importance that he, the Government and the people of the Central African Republic attached to the industrial development of the subregion and to the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. He requested the Minister to convey to the Head of State the profound gratitude of the secretariat for having so kindly agreed to host the meeting in Bangui. He thanked the experts for the effective manner in which they had discussed the problems of industrialization in the subregion.

94. With the objectives of the meeting having been reached, he reminded the experts that it was incumbent upon them to ensure the effective elaboration of the subsequent stages of the integrated programme. Not only would they and their Governments be assisted in that task by the three lead agencies, but they would also enjoy the support of the organizations in the subregion which would co-ordinate activities and ensure full Government participation in a most important endeavour. The heads of the secretariats looked forward with particular interest to receiving the recommendations of the meeting which would contribute to the intensification of their co-operation with the countries and intergovernmental organizations in the subregion. He also thanked the Secretary-General of UDEAC and his staff, and the UNDP for the excellent support they had provided through-out the meeting.

95. The Minister remarked on the frank and fraternal discussions that had taken place since they reflected a profound concern for the future of the subregion. He was most appreciative of the quality of the experts as well as of the lucid documents prepared by the secretariat. He also expressed his thanks to the Secretary-General of UDEAC and his colleagues for their active participation in and contribution to the third subregional meeting on the promotion of intra-African industrial co-operation.

96. The viability of the 24 core projects and 13 support projects as well as their promotion hinged upon the steps taken at the national, subregional and international level. The success of the programme was also contingent upon the political commitment of each State, their approval by the appropriate authorities and the allocation of financial and human resources.

97. The Minister sought the support of UNIDO so that it might assist the countries in the subregion in all aspects of their industrial development, such as planning, harmonization of policies, studies, industrial promotion and institution building. He looked forward with particular interest to the UNIDO Investment Promotion Meeting to be held in the Central African subregion in 1985. He also trusted that international organizations would adopt

their policies and programmes so as to ensure that technical and financial assistance could be given to the implementation of the subregional programme.

98. In conclusion, he thanked the experts for having contributed to the success of the meeting which bode well for the lasting success of the programme. He wished the experts a pleasant homeward journey and declared the meeting closed.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY EXPERTS

BURUNDI	Mr. Cytille NDEGEYINGOMA, Directeur de l'Industrie, Ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie, Bujumbura
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Mr. Timothée NDILNE, Directeur du Commerce Extérieur, Ministère du Commerce (Head of delegation), Bangui Mr. Ferdinand MAYOVODE, Directeur du Développement Industriel et Artisanal, Ministère du Commerce, Bangui Mr. Amon LOUGO-DINO, Chef de Service de la Propriété Industrielle, Structure Nationale de Propriété Industrielle, Ministère du Commerce, Bangui Mr. Alphonse AMODA, Chef de Service des Projets Industriels et des Relations Extérieures, Ministère du Commerce, Bangui
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RWANDA	Mr. Photidas MUSANSAMFURA, Fonctionnaire de l'Etat (Directeur de la Promotion Industrielle), Kigali
SAC TOME AND PRINCIPE	Mr. Norbert COSTA ALEGRE, Directeur de l'Industrie et de l'Energie, Sao Tomé

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Ms. Christine TRIPOLT, Administrative Assistant,
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ANNEX 2

AGENDA

- (1) Opening of the meeting
- (2) Organization of the meeting :
 - Election of officers
 - Adoption of the agenda and programme
 - Organization of work
- (3) Development and implementation of a subregional industrial promotion for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa :
 - General considerations
 - Areas in which multinational core and other industrial projects can be developed
 - Initial integrated industrial promotion programme
 - Plan for the implementation of the programme
- (4) Adoption of the report
- (5) Closure of the meeting

