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**African Expert Group Meeting
for the Establishment of an
African Iron and Steel Association**

Algiers, Algeria, 12-16 November 1989

REPORT *

* This document has not been edited.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The meeting, which was attended by African experts in view of the establishment of the Iron and Steel Association, was held at the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) headquarters from 12 to 16 November 1989 in Algiers, Algeria.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the statutes of the Iron and Steel Association (AAFA) and determine the measures to be taken with a view to convene, in the shortest time, the AAFA constitutive assembly.

The objective of this meeting is to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations issued further to the third and fourth iron and steel conference (held in Vienna, Austria), the Sao Paulo (Brazil) Meeting related to iron and steel technologies and to the application of Resolution 7 (IX) adopted by the ninth session of the conference of African Ministers of Industry (held at Harare, Zimbabwe, in June 1989). It also covers a larger scheme, the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA) and the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery in Africa (APPER, 1986 - 1990).

II. PARTICIPATION

The meeting was attended by experts of the following twelve African countries: Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Moreover, representatives of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) were also present at the meeting. Names of participants are listed in Annex I of the present report.

III. OPENING SESSION

The meeting was opened by Mr. L. LACHGAR, Secretary General of the Arab Iron and Steel Union, in the presence of the representatives of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. L. Lachgar welcomed the participants and pointed out the context in which AISU contribution to the meeting was to be place.

Further to a brief description of AISU intervention at Vienna meeting, the positive aspects of iron and steel development throughout the Arab world were emphasized. All the problems which arose and AISU efforts to give assistance to the companies in order to cope with these difficulties were also mentioned.

With regard to the present meeting, Mr. L. Lachgar said that such initiative was favourable as far as UNIDO as an international organization for the industrial development will ensure the association start-up financing. Experience proved that without any financial support any organization whatsoever is deemed to fail.

Besides, the misappreciation of the market production capacities and the human and material potentialities, a complementary policy in the field of information, technology transfer and development of underground resources should be considered as short term goal.

Before concluding, Mr. L. Lachgar reiterated that AISU was committed to put at the disposal of the future association its know-how as far as management, marketing, technical studies, training and information are concerned and to contribute modestly to the development of the African iron and steel industry.

On behalf of the Director-General of UNIDO, the representative of UNIDO greeted the participants and extended all his best wishes for the success of the meeting. He also thanked AISU for accepting to be a referee of the present meeting held in AISU headquarters and appreciated all the efforts made by AISU to ensure the best conditions for the working sessions.

Moreover, he briefly outlined the historical background of this meeting in order to emphasize its importance and impact.

The UNIDO representative said that the African Iron and Steel Association would be a very efficient instrument, the actions of which might entail a series of reactions aiming to join all efforts and experiences for the development of African iron and steel industries.

The present meeting is the result of continuous actions supported by UNIDO.

The main actions of the future association were summarized and the representative of UNIDO concluded by wishing all success to the participants. He added that their present determination will certainly group the participants in the near future in order to sign the document related to the constitution of the African Iron and Steel Association.

IV. AGENDA

The following agenda was adopted:

- Opening session
- Election of the meeting bureau
- Introduction of AISU members, visit of offices and auxilliary installations
- Presentation of the meeting basic report and provisional statutes by UNIDO consultant
- Presentation of AISU Training Department
- Technical visits to ANABIB (Tubinb) and Société nationale des vehicules industriels (SNVI)
- Approval of the reoprt
- Closing session.

V. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The participants have, unanimously, elected the representative of Nigeria, Mr. Timothy CHUKWUEMEKA EFPOBI, as President of the meeting and requested AISU and UNIDO representatives to act as rapporteur of the meeting.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF AISU

What follows is to show the usefulness of a similar organization for Africa. Mr. Mohamed Laid LACHGAR introduced AISU members before proceeding with a visit of AISU various departments.

- The Arab Iron and Steel Union is an international organization, similar to UNDP (J.O.No. 33 of 23 April, 1972).

- The international designation was acknowledged further to the agreement signed on July 18, 1979 with the Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic for the establishment of AISU headquarters.
- The union management is based on regulations stated precisely and approved by the general assembly constituted further to the first Arab conference on iron and steel.

The establishment of the Arab Iron and Steel Union proved to be a must in view of the development of mining, metallurgical and iron and steel industries.

AISU programme aims at the development of all the industries mentioned above, including any other relevant activities. AISU endeavours to stimulate its member companies in every field and give them assistance so that they may achieve their economical, technical and technological development.

AISU Objectives: Summary

- Promote co-operation, coordination and complementarity of the iron and steel industries.
- Strengthen the relations between the member companies through arab and international transfer of knowledge and experiences.
- Collect and put at the members disposal all information required.
- Promote a training and vocational policy for high supervisory level personnel.
- Collaborate with similar Arab and foreign scientific unions, organizations and associations.
- Work for international co-operation as aprt of the North-South and South-North dialogue.
- Organize international conferences, seminars and symposiums.

Visits were made at the following departments:

(a) Computer Center:

With regard to international co-operation, it should be pointed out that the Union, in conjunction with UNDP and UNIDO, has installed in its headquarters a computer center provided with a set of mini and micro computers. Thanks to this center, AISU will be able to process all the objectives they have been entrusted with. Up to date, AISU has completed the first part of a series of projects considered as top priority, namely:

- a company management integrated system
- an inter-companies data bank
- a computer-aided maintenance system
- a productivity evaluation system
- feasibility studies.

(b) Engineering Department:

This department is in charge of:

(i) **Studies:**

- feasibility studies related to industrial projects
- engineering studies
- organization studies
- studies related to the development of iron and steel studies within Arab countries and all over the world
- productivity studies.

(ii) **Assistance and consulting services:**

- consulting services for selection of technologies pertaining to specific industrial projects
- assignment of experts to solve technical problems encountered by Arab companies and plants
- elaboration of production and maintenance management systems

(c) Training Department:

Mr. SAHOULI, Head of the Training Department, outlined the main actions of his department.

- extend and improve personnel training
- encourage and repeat inter-companies exchanges:
 - (a) high supervisory level personnel meetings
 - (b) managers meetings
- organize inter-company or on-the-job seminars
- develop the following activities:
 - (a) issue of a "training" periodical
 - (b) provide didactic equipment
 - (c) provide audio-visual equipment.

The above-mentioned report was supported by the projection of a didactic film and a conference on reliability. The lecturer was Mr. OUABDESSALEM, AISU technical consultant.

VII. PRESENTATION OF AFRICAN MINES AND IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

As part of the above, the report reads successively:

(1) The concerning situation of African iron mines and steel industry:

It should be summarized by a comparison to year 1987.

- A consumption evaluated to 10 mt and over of raw steel (which represents only 17 kg/year against 19 for India and 71 in China and South America).

A production of 4 mt, including 98% distributed into 5 countries only (Egypt, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and Nigeria).

A very low increase of steel production with almost no new plants within the countries mentioned above, including Lybia. A slight decrease of African iron ore production should be noted.

(2) Evaluation of the various possibilities presently recorded for the development of the African iron and steel industry:

This evaluation shows that there are various possibilities for providing the existing companies and the future projects envisaged, with appropriate solutions to:

- types of products required in Africa
- the local raw materials.

(3) Reasons why a more developed co-operation between mining companies and African iron and steel should be encouraged:

Considering the two above-mentioned statements, it seems that a co-operation between mining companies and the African iron and steel proves to be a must. It should be aiming to:

- A better information exchange between these companies and other African countries concerning the local conditions and the development of iron and steel techniques all over the world, as well as the raw material semi-product and iron and steel product market.
- A more thorough co-operation between those companies, thanks to the information mentioned above as far as human aspects (quality personnel training, company management) and material aspects are concerned (exchange of raw materials, spare part products, etc.).
- Promote new products and activities whether on a local or sub-local level.

To this effect, the establishment of the African Iron and Steel Union would be extremely recommended. A statutes project for said association was presented, followed by discussions.

The statutes were discussed and amendments were added to the draft statutes which will be adapted further on in compliance with the international law and a final report will be issued.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

All the participants greatly appreciated AISU and UNIDO work for the establishment of the African Iron and Steel Association. They all expressed their commitments to support the establishment, within the shortest time, of AISA. As a result, the following recommendations were adopted:

- In compliance with the proposal made by one of the representatives, all the participants approved unanimously that AISU headquarters be the AISA temporary office to start its activities, until the AISA permanent headquarters is selected.
- Convene, as soon as possible and within the first six months of 1990 if possible, the constitutive assembly of the African Iron and Steel Association. The assembly will be held in an African country which should be determined after consultations between the country selected and the UNIDO/AISU Secretariats.
- In collaboration with AISU, UNIDO should jointly undertake, as soon as possible, all the necessary measures in order to convene the constitutive assembly of the African Iron and Steel Association, during the period mentioned above.

The measures will consist of:

- Preparation of the final statutes as per the international law applicable in this respect.
- Preparatio of the internal regulations of the African Iron and Steel Association.
- Consulations with interested African countries and regional organizations (ECA, OAU, etc.) for convening the AISA constitutive assembly and preparing the agenda of the meeting.
- Preparation of criteria for selecting the AISU headquarters and consultations with applicant countries.

IX. MOTION OF THANKS

The participants to the meeting expressed their thanks to the Algerian Government and to the Arab Iron and Steel Union for all facilities provided during their stay. The participants were also expressing deep sympathy to the

Algerian authorities for the recent earthquake in Algeria. They also expressed to UNIDO their best thanks and satisfaction for the excellent organization and preparation of the meeting which is a success for the African co-operation and solidarity.

The participants were also expressing to the interpreters and support staff their gratitude for contributing to the success of their deliberations.

ANNEXE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
EXPERT GROUP MEETING FOR ESTABLISHING
THE AFRICAN IRON AND STEEL ASSOCIATION
ALGIERS, ALGERIA 12 - 16 NOVEMBER 1989

1. ALGERIA

NOM. PRENOM

TAHAR RACHEDEDDINE
CHEF DE DEPT. ETUDES GENERALES
SIDER

2. ANGOLA

AUGUSTO PAULINO ALMEIDA DE NETO
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR CABINET
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY CX.P.1260 C

3. EGYPT

M. KAMEL FATHALLAH
GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR
TECH. AFFAIRS.
MICOR, 5 TOLOMBAT Str, GARDEN CITY

4. ETHIOPIA

GEBRE KIROS HABTU
PLANT MANAGER
P.O. BOX 7334, ADDIS ABABA.

5. MAURITANIA

MOHAMEDOU MOCTAR SALEM
CONSEILLER DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL
SNIM. BP.42 NOUADHIBOU

6. NIGERIA

TIMOTHY CHUKWUEMEKA EFOBI
DIRECTOR OF STEEL
OZUMBA MBADINE AVE. VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS

7. SENEGAL

FALLY DIOP
INGENIEUR A LA DIRECTION DES MINES

8. TOGO

YAWO ATSUVI SIKPA
ECONOMISTE MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE
MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DES SOCIETES D'ETAT

9. TUNISIA

HACHMI DEKHIL
SOUS-DIRECTEUR ADM. ET FINANCIER
SOCIETE EL-FOULADH ROUTE DE TUNIS Km3
MENZEL BOURGUIBA

10. ZAIRE

ASAL BOLUMBA
CHEF D'ENTREPRISE D'ETAT
SOSIDER

11. ZAMBIA

ALBERT MANGIMELA MALAMA
SENIOR METALLURGIST AND COORDINATOR, STEEL PROJECTS
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PO. BOX 31969 LUSAKA

12. ZIMBABWE

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SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TECH. BOX 8434

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ABBA
SOUS-DIRECTEUR
MAE - DRECI

LARBI DJACTA
SECRETAIRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
MAE - DRECI

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(UNIDO. VIENNA)

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PPD/AREA/ECDC
BP. 300 VIENNE AUTRICHE

YURI GREBTSOV
IO/T/MET
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CONSULTANT
BP. 300 VIENNE AUTRICHE

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SECRETAIRE GENERAL
B.P 4 CHERAGA

AISSA GHEDJATI
DIRECTEUR DE LA COORDINATION ET DES FINANCES

NADJIB SEDKAOUI
CONSEILLER

NADIR SAHOULI
CHEF DE DIVISION

ABDELAZIZ OUABDESSELAM
CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE

REVISED STATUTES FOR AN AFRICAN IRON
AND STEEL ASSOCIATION (AISA)

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT AND HEADQUARTERS

ARTICLE 1.

An African Iron and Steel Association, abbreviated as AISA, is hereby established between the African Iron ore and Iron and Steel producers and the processors of Iron and Steel products, in accordance with the present statutes.

AISA is an entity under international law in accordance with the legislation of the country in which its headquarters is located, with full and complete powers to achieve the objectives and carry out the work assigned to it.

The headquarters of AISA is fixed at... It is anticipated that there will be AISA representation in various African countries, in particular maintaining liaison with the African regional organizations.

PART II

OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE 3. General :

These objectives shall be classified into the following five categories :

- Structure of meetings (article 4)

- Technical and economic secretariat (article 5)
- Publication of bulletin (articles 6 and 7)
- Training and education (article 8)
- Co-operation and promotion (article 9),

with the overall aim of encouraging the development of the Iron ore and Iron and Steel industries and also the use and processing of Iron and Steel products in Africa.

ARTICLE 4. Structure of Meetings

The Association shall encourage its members to meet for exchanges of information and for co-operation and promotional activities through the organization of periodic meetings. These meetings may be of two types :

- An annual meeting, if possible in a different location in Africa on each occasion.
- Specialized meetings, such as seminars on specific subjects, including technical visits.

It is intended to establish permanent committees on subjects of particular importance, such as :

- Combined electric steelmaking - casting (continuous) - rolling, i.e. mini-plants;
- Iron ores;
- Scrap, DRI, Pig Iron;
- Metallurgy of Steel and quality control;
- Maintenance and problems concerning spare parts;
- Commercial aspect;
- Management;
- Advisory committee on new projects;

To assist specifically in organizing these meeting, there are plans to publish and update a full list of all African enterprises involved in these matters (directory).

ARTICLE 5. Technical and economic secretariat :

The technical and economic secretariat shall be acting as a focal point for starting up the activities of AISA, and will be responsible for :

- Publishing the complete list of its members and activities (directory)
- Organizing the annual general meeting and committees in conjunction with the authorities issuing the relevant invitation;
- Organizing specialized meetings and committees (see article 4), endeavouring, on each occasion, to decentralize their organization and follow-up by the most closely-involved and competent personages;
- Publishing a quartely bulletin or review to inform the members of the AISA (see articles 6 and 7);

ARTICLE 6. Publications :

All publications of AISA will be made in the two official languages of this Association : english and french. Publications will comprise the Technical and Economic Bulletin and, possibly, other specialized issues such as a statistical periodical review.

ARTICLE 7. Technical and economic bulletin of AISA :

The bulletin would contain, in principle :

1. General information of a technical, economic and commercial nature on the Iron and Steel industry worldwide. Such information would probably be collected not only from the specialist press but also from various organizations, such as :

- United Nations organs and specialized agencies
 - Arab Iron and Steel Union, Latin American Iron and Steel Institute and South-East Asia Iron and Steel Institute;
 - International Iron and Steel Institute;
 - National organizations in a number of countries;
2. Information on Iron mines and the Iron and Steel Industry in Africa with :
 - Statistical data
 - General information on African enterprises;
 3. Information on vocational training and specialized educational activities (see article 8).
 4. Information on position vacancies in plants of individual members of AISA and recruitment availability including expertise and consultancy.

This bulletin would be addressed to all AISA members and could also be sold on subscription or supplied in exchange for similar publications.

ARTICLE 8. Vocational training and education :

AISA shall, in principle, undertake activities in the field of training and education for the benefit of its members.

ARTICLE 9. Co-operation and promotion :

AISA shall endeavour to encourage co-operation and promotional work by introducing potential partners to one another, particularly through its meetings, its bulletin and publications by its programme of activities.

PART III

MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE 10. Members :

Membership will be decided by the organizing bodies of AISA -
In principle, members will be divided between :

Active members :

African enterprises engaged in the production of Iron ores,
Iron, cast Iron and/or Steel, and also in the processing of
Iron and Steel products.

Associate members :

- Non-African organizations or companies interested in the
work, publications or meetings of AISA;
- African enterprises or organizations interested in AISA,
although their activities are not focused on the Iron and
Steel industry.

ARTICLE 11. Membership dues :

These shall be decided by the general meeting of the AISA and
could comprise the following categories :

- Active member : integrated Iron and Steel company
- : mini-plant (semi-integrated)
- : Iron mine
- : re-rolling or finishing unit

- Associate member
- Member : individual
- : individual belonging to the staff of an active member company.

PART IV
ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE 12. Organs :

The organs of AISA shall be :

- The General Assembly of its members
- A board elected by the general meeting
- A general secretariat
- And the permanent committees.