# GENERAL CONFERENCE

Seventh session  
Vienna, 1-5 December 1997

## REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE WORK OF ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

(6-9 May 1996)

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* * * *

Introduction

1. The report of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fifteenth session is presented to the General Conference in accordance with Article 9.4 (c) of the Constitution. The summary records of the Board (IDB.15/SR.1-6), where details of the proceedings are contained, form an integral part of the present report.

2. The following decision of the Board, reproduced in annex I, is related to the work of the General Conference at its seventh session:


3. The fifteenth session of the Board was held at UNIDO Headquarters, Vienna International Centre, from 6 to 9 May 1996 (six plenary meetings—see IDB.15/SR.1-6).

I. ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Participation

4. All of the 53 members of the Board were represented at the session: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia.

5. The following 46 Member States of UNIDO also participated in the session: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia, Norway, Oman, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

6. The Holy See participated as observer.

7. The permanent observer of Palestine also participated.

8. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Office at Vienna.

9. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and World Health Organization.

10. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Commonwealth Secretariat, League of Arab States and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

11. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization for Standardization, Soroptimist International and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises.
Opening of the session

12. The fifteenth session of the Industrial Development Board was declared open by the President of the fourteenth session, Mrs. Fügen Ok (Turkey).

Officers of the session

13. In accordance with rule 23 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected by acclamation: Mr. Seung Kon Lee (Republic of Korea) as President; Mr. Carlos Bulo Camacho (Colombia), Mr. István Posta (Hungary), Mr. Abdel Ahmed Halim Mohamed (Sudan) as Vice-Presidents and Mr. Ömür Sörelendid (Turkey) as Rapporteur.

Agenda for the session

14. The Board adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the fifteenth session.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda for the fifteenth session.

4. Policy framework of UNIDO - organizational and staff structure.

5. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee:
   (a) Review of the implementation of the programme and budgets, 1996-1997;
   (b) Update of the financial situation of UNIDO;
   (c) Ceiling of assessments.


7. UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1995 including operational activities for development.

8. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

9. Industrialization of the least developed countries.

10. Field representation.


12. Joint Inspection Unit.

13. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.

14. Provisional agenda and date of the sixteenth session.

15. Adoption of the report of the fifteenth session.

16. Closure of the fifteenth session.

15. The Board adopted a proposal by the President to ensure the maximum utilization of available conference servicing resources (see annex I, decision IDB.15/Dec.1).

16. The Board decided to set up informal, in-session consultations with the aim of facilitating the drafting of decisions and entrusted Mr. I. Posta (Hungary), Vice-President, to chair those consultations (see IDB.15/SR.2, paras. 1-3).

II. POLICY FRAMEWORK OF UNIDO - ORGANIZATIONAL AND STAFF STRUCTURE

17. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on concluding the reform of UNIDO—Action taken in the first quarter of 1996 (IDB.15/14). The debate on item 4 is reflected in summary records IDB.15/SR.2, paragraphs 5 to 114, IDB.15/SR.3, paragraphs 1 to 40 and IDB.15/SR.6, paragraphs 1 to 10. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.5) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.2 (see annex I).

III. PERSONNEL MATTERS

18. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on personnel matters (IDB.15/4) and a conference room paper containing a list of staff of the UNIDO Secretariat as of 1 May 1996 (IDB.15/CRP.P.3). The debate on item 11 is reflected in summary record IDB.15/SR.3, paragraphs 41 to 56. The Board considered a draft decision submitted orally by the President and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.9 (see annex I).

IV. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

19. The Board decided to discuss simultaneously sub-items 5 (a) to (c) of the agenda. The debate on item 5 as a whole is reflected in summary record IDB.15/SR.5, paragraphs 17 to 26.
A. Review of the implementation of the programme and budgets, 1996-1997

20. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on implementation of the programme and budgets, 1 January to 31 March 1996 (IDB.15/5) and a report by the Director-General on the composition of the Secretariat, including information on informal desirable ranges of representation (IDB.15/4, chap. II). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.2) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.3 (see annex I).

B. Update of the financial situation of UNIDO

21. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on the update of the financial situation of UNIDO (IDB.15/3) and a conference room paper of 3 May 1996 (IDB.15/CRP.6). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.3) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.4 (see annex I).

C. Ceiling of assessments

22. The Board had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat containing background information on the ceiling of assessments (IDB.15/2). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.4) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.5 (see annex I).

V. MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR UNIDO PROGRAMMES; UNIDO TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 1995 INCLUDING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

23. The Board decided to discuss simultaneously agenda item 6 (Mobilization of financial resources for UNIDO programmes) and agenda item 7 (UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1995 including operational activities for development). The debate on the two agenda items is reflected in summary records IDB.15/SR.3, paragraphs 57 to 77 and IDB.15/SR.4, paragraphs 1 to 56.

A. Mobilization of financial resources for UNIDO programmes

24. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on mobilization of financial resources for UNIDO programmes (IDB.15/7). At the suggestion of the President, the Board took note of the information provided by the Director-General in that document (IDB.15/SR.6, paras. 22 to 23).

B. UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1995 including operational activities for development

25. The Board had before it a note by the Director-General on operational activities for development (IDB.15/13) and a conference room paper containing UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1995 including operational activities for development of 3 May 1996 (IDB.15/CRP.5). At the suggestion of the President, the Board took note of the information provided by the Director-General and the Secretariat in those documents (IDB.15/SR.6, paras. 24 to 25).

VI. SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA; INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; FIELD REPRESENTATION

26. The Board decided to discuss simultaneously agenda item 8 (Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa), agenda item 9 (Industrialization of the least developed countries) and agenda item 10 (Field representation). The debate on the three agenda items is reflected in summary records IDB.15/SR.4, paragraphs 57 to 125 and IDB.15/SR.5, paragraphs 1 to 16.

A. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

27. The Board had before it a progress report by the Director-General on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDB.15/6) and a conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat on implementation of the UNIDO 1994-1995 programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa of 3 May 1996 (IDB.15/CRP.2). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.8) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.6 (see annex I).

B. Industrialization of the least developed countries

28. The Board had before it a progress report by the Director-General on implementation of the least developed countries programme (IDB.15/10). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.6) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.7 (see annex I).

C. Field representation

29. The Board had before it a report by the Director-General on UNIDO field representation (IDB.15/12 and Corr. I). The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the President (IDB.15/L.7) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.8 (see annex I).
VII. JOINT INSPECTION UNIT; MATTERS RELATED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

30. The Board decided to discuss simultaneously agenda item 12 (Joint Inspection Unit) and agenda item 13 (Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations). The debate on the two agenda items is reflected in summary record IDB.15/SR.5, paragraphs 27 to 30.

31. The Board had before it a note by the Secretariat on activities of the Joint Inspection Unit of relevance to UNIDO (IDB.15/9). At the suggestion of the President, the Board took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in that document (IDB.15/SR.6, paras. 38 to 39).

32. The Board had before it notes by the Director-General containing information on intergovernmental organizations not in the United Nations system (IDB.15/8 and Add.1) and on UNIDO cooperation with non-governmental organizations and applications from non-governmental organizations for consultative status (IDB.15/11 and Add.1). The Board considered draft decisions submitted orally by the President and adopted decisions IDB.15/Dec.10 and IDB.15/Dec.11 (see annex 1).

VIII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

33. The Board had before it a conference room paper on the provisional agenda and date of the sixteenth session (IDB.15/CRP.1). The debate on item 14 is reflected in summary record IDB.15/SR.5, paragraphs 31 to 34 and IDB.15/SR.6, paragraphs 50 to 68 and 71 to 72. The Board considered a draft decision submitted by the Chairman, Informal Consultations for Drafting of Decisions (IDB.15/L.9) and adopted decision IDB.15/Dec.12 (see annex 1).

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

34. The Board considered the draft report (IDB.15/L.1) and adopted it as a whole with the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with the task of finalizing the report (see summary record IDB.15/SR.6, paras. 73-75).

X. CLOSURE OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION

35. On 9 May, at 7.20 p.m. the Board closed its fifteenth session.
Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

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IDB.15/Dec.1 UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE CONFERENCE-SERVICING RESOURCES

The Industrial Development Board, with the aim of utilizing the available conference-servicing resources to the maximum possible effect, decided to suspend with immediate effect rule 32 of its rules of procedure relating to the quorum, for the meetings of its fifteenth session only and provided no substantive decisions were taken at those meetings.

1st plenary meeting
6 May 1996

IDB.15/Dec.2 UNIDO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.1 and Industrial Development Board decision IDB.14/Dec.2;

(b) Took note of the information provided in documents IDB.15/14 and IDB.15/4;

(c) Requested the Director-General to continue his efforts to implement and conclude the reform process in compliance with the guidelines set in paragraph 5 of resolution GC.6/Res.1;

(d) Encouraged the Director-General, in accordance with document IDB.15/14, inter alia:

(i) To expedite the process of decentralizing administrative project approval and implementation tasks;

(ii) To involve the private sector in developing countries as a beneficiary and a counterpart of the activities of the Organization;

(iii) To formulate, together with Member States, a new action-oriented programme for cooperation among developing countries;

(iv) To strengthen the Investment Promotion Service (IPS) network by a more effective coordination mechanism between Headquarters and the IPS offices;

(e) Urged the Director-General to conduct more consultations with Member States and representatives of regional groups to obtain their views on the remaining stages of the reform process and appointment of Managing Directors, without prejudice to his constitutional authority and the staff regulations;

(f) Further requested the Director-General to take into account in particular the contents of Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Constitution of UNIDO, as well as chapter V of document IDB.15/14 on the revised recruitment scheme, with a view to strengthening accountability and empowering the decision-making capacity of directors;

(g) Requested the Director-General to report to the Board at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

6th plenary meeting
9 May 1996


The Industrial Development Board, having reviewed the implementation of the programme and budgets, 1996-1997, as presented in documents IDB/S.6/2 and IDB.15/5:

(a) Took note of the intention of the Director-General to review the format of the programme and budget documents to increase their transparency and enhance the understanding of their programmatic implications, and requested the Director-General to bear in mind the need for:

(i) Reflecting thematic priorities in the programme and budgets;

(ii) Ensuring a coherent presentation of objectives, activities, outputs and resources;

(iii) Indicating relevant changes in programmatic contents and the resource levels proposed, enabling comparison over bienniums;

(b) Requested the Director-General to organize informal intersessional consultations with delegations, under the guidance of the Chairman of the Programme and Budget Committee, with a view to conducting an in-depth examination of the programmatic contents of the revised programme and budgets for the biennium 1996-1997;

(c) Took note of the adjustments to the programme and budgets for 1996-1997 contained in document IDB.15/5 on an exceptional basis, in light of the present provisions of the financial regulations relating to the review of the budget;

(d) Decided to review the provisions of financial regulations relating to the budgeting process with a view...
to assuring the necessary flexibility, by recommending, when necessary, to the General Conference the amendment of those provisions in order to facilitate the adoption of revised estimates and adjustments of approved budgets between regular sessions of the Conference as well as to ensure adequate budgetary control on the transfer of appropriations among Major Programmes.

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

**IDB.15/Dec.4 UPDATE OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UNIDO**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the report of the Director-General on the financial situation of UNIDO (IDB.15/3) containing information concerning the status of assessed contributions, advances to the Working Capital Fund, cash flow estimates and information on the regular and operational budgets;

(b) Took note of the information contained in chapter II of document IDB.15/3 on accountability and transparency on financial matters, the separation indemnity reserve and on promissory notes relating to Montreal Protocol funds;

(c) Requested the Director-General, before taking a decision on promissory notes, to inform Member States in more detail and consult with them;

(d) Decided to continue the work of the inter-sessional open-ended discussion group, open to all interested delegations, to be chaired by a representative of the Member States, with the task of studying applicable measures, including incentives, to expedite the timely payment of assessed contributions, and requested the group to submit proposals to the Board at its sixteenth session;

(e) Urged those Member States that have not yet paid their assessed regular budget contributions, including advances to the Working Capital Fund, for the bienniums 1986-1987 to 1994-1995 and for 1996, to do so without delay.

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

**IDB.15/Dec.5 CEILING OF ASSESSMENTS**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled General Assembly resolution 49/143 establishing the High-level Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations;

(b) Recalled also Article 15.2 of the UNIDO Constitution;

(c) Recalled further General Conference decision GC.6/Dec.11, paragraph (h), on the review of the relevance of the 25 per cent ceiling of assessments;

(d) Had considered the background information on the ceiling of assessments reflected in document IDB.15/2 as well as conclusion 1996/4 of the Programme and Budget Committee;

(e) Noted that the scale of assessments should be based to the extent possible on the scale most recently employed by the United Nations;

(f) Requested the Director-General to monitor closely developments in the United Nations dealing with the scale of assessments;

(g) Also requested the Director-General to update the background information on the ceiling of assessments (IDB.15/2) with respect to new developments in the United Nations;

(h) Decided to revert to this matter at future sessions of the Board.

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

**IDB.15/Dec.6 SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA**

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.11 and Industrial Development Board decision IDB.14/Dec.6;

(b) Took note of documents IDB.15/6 and IDB.15/13;

(c) Considered that the programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) should be implemented in the light of the new priority given to Africa within the seven thematic priorities of UNIDO;

(d) Urged the Director-General to take concrete measures:

(i) To continue to give high priority to the mobilization of additional funds aimed at financing projects and implementing the objectives of the programme for the Second IDDA, including the improvement of Africa's industrial quality in order to become more
competitive, taking into account the conclusions of the twelfth Conference of African Ministers of Industry and the private sector forum held at Gaborone, Botswana, from 6 to 8 June 1995;

(ii) To contribute to the establishment of national, regional and interregional information networks in African countries in order to provide industrial, trade and investment data, with a view to integrating their industries in the world economy;

(iii) To ensure a close linkage between the Second IDDA and the Investment Promotion Service network;

(e) Requested the Director-General:

(i) To elaborate further on the concept of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, and to submit a report to the sixteenth session of the Board;

(ii) To ensure the effectiveness of the IDDA Co-ordination Unit and enhance its management;

(iii) To provide a consolidated in-depth evaluation on the implementation of the Second IDDA programme and its activities;

(iv) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Board at its seventeenth session.

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

IDB.15/Dec.7 INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, New York, of 29 September 1995 and General Conference resolutions GC.5/Res.16 and GC.6/Res.8;

(b) Took note of the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Symposium on the Industrialization of the Least Developed Countries (General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.8, annex) and the information contained in document IDB.15/10;

(c) Emphasized the need to support sustainable development of the private sector in the least developed countries and to accelerate the growth of industrial enterprises for expediting their industrial development;

(d) Noted with concern the general lack of progress in the industrialization of the least developed countries, particularly in Africa, and the continued deterioration of the economic, social and ecological situation of the least developed countries;

(e) Called upon the Member States to support programmes and projects that are related to the priority sectors stated in the Industrial Action Programme for the Least Developed Countries through the creation of a special fund in UNIDO for the industrialization of the least developed countries in addition to voluntary contributions within the Industrial Development Fund, trust funds and other available sources;

(f) Requested the Director-General:

(i) To accord highest priority to the implementation of the least developed countries programme;

(ii) To take appropriate measures to implement the conclusions and recommendations of both the Second and Third Ministerial Symposiums on the Industrialization of the Least Developed Countries;

(iii) To intensify efforts to mobilize funds for industrialization of the least developed countries;

(iv) To report to the Industrial Development Board at its sixteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

IDB.15/Dec.8 FIELD REPRESENTATION

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Recalled General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.3 and Industrial Development Board decision IDB.14/Dec.14;

(b) Took note with concern of the current financial difficulties facing UNIDO in continued implementation of the programme as outlined in document IDB.15/12 and Corr.1;
Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Co-operation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE)
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)
International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

IDB.15/Dec.11 APPLICATIONS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNIDO

The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Took note of the information provided in documents IDB.15/11 and Add.1;

(b) Decided, in accordance with Article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution of UNIDO and the Guidelines for the relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.41, annex, para. 17), to grant consultative status with UNIDO to the following five international non-governmental organizations:

- Austrian Senior Experts Pool (ASEP)
- Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA)
- International Network for Environmental Management (INEM)
- International Technology Information Center (INTERTEC)
- NIMTECH

6th plenary meeting 9 May 1996

IDB.15/Dec.12 PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

The Industrial Development Board decided:

(a) To hold its sixteenth session from 20 to 22 November 1996, and
To adopt the following provisional agenda for its sixteenth session:

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Annual report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization in 1995, including progress report on specific activities
4. Implementation of the reform
5. Report of the Programme and Budget Committee:
   (a) Implementation of the programme and budgets, 1996-1997
   (b) Financial situation of UNIDO
   (d) Financial regulations
   (e) Industrial Development Fund and other voluntary contributions
   (f) Ceiling of assessments
6. Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa
7. Industrialization of the least developed countries
8. Field representation
9. Industrial investment promotion
11. Joint Inspection Unit
12. UNIDO contribution to the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control
13. Personnel matters
14. Preparations for the seventh session of the General Conference
15. Provisional agenda and date of the seventeenth session
16. Adoption of the report
17. Closure of the session.

6th plenary meeting
9 May 1996
Annex II

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD AT ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

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