

Brief history to the establishment of UNIDO as a Specialized Agency

Date	Description
30 Jul 1965	Economic and Social Council resolution 1081 F (XXXIX) at its thirty-eighth session – recommended that a specialized agency for industrial development should be established.
20 Dec 1965	General Assembly – resolution 2089 (XX) – decided to “establish within the UN an autonomous organization for the promotion of industrial development to be known as UNIDO”. It also “established an <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee on UNIDOP to ... prepare the necessary operating procedures and administrative arrangements of the organization.” “It may be noted that the Secretary-General’s report on UNIDO (A/5826) had provided the text of the draft statutes for a United Nations Agency for Industrial Development which would have conferred on UNIDO a specialized agency status if accepted by the General Assembly. The <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee did not, however, recommend the establishment of a specialized agency for industrial development, but recommended instead that UNIDO should function as an autonomous organization with the United Nations without specifying the limits of such autonomy.”
17 Nov 1966	The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 2152(XXI) (para 37) creating UNIDO “as an organ of the General Assembly” to function “as an autonomous organization within the United Nations” – ie., it would be independent, yet dependent (eg., UN Financial Rules and Staff Rules applied to UNIDO).
1 Jan 1967	UNIDO formally came into existence.
18 Jun 1971	First General Conference of UNIDO. It was proposed that UNIDO be transformed into a specialized agency. Adopted a resolution recommending that the Secretary-General appoint a small group of high-level experts to formulate a long-range strategy for UNIDO.
16 Dec 1971	<i>General Assembly</i> resolution 2823 (XXVI) endorsing resolution of the Special International Conference of UNIDO.
23 May – 2 Jun 1972	Sixth session of the Industrial Development Board. “ <i>The Board decided to refer the question of greater autonomy of UNIDO in administrative matters to the Permanent Committee to be set up during the current session.</i> ”
1972- 1973	Secretary-General appointed a “ <i>Group of High-Level Experts on a Long-Range Strategy for UNIDO</i> ” which met three times in 1972 and 1973 (the “ Group of High Level Experts ”)
7 – 15 May 1973	Seventh session of the Industrial Development Board. Report of the Group of High Level Experts considered. The Board established an <i>Ad-Hoc Committee for further consideration of the Report of the Group of High Level Experts</i> (the “ Ad Hoc Committee ”). The Board formally requested that the General Assembly consider at its 28 th session whether an industrial development fund could be established and whether UNIDO could be granted further autonomy in administrative matters such as engagement of personnel and allocation of resources.
13 May 1974	Eighth session of the <i>Industrial Development Board</i> . Report of the Ad Hoc Committee was submitted to the Board. In resolution 42(VIII), the Board endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report and submitted them to the 29 th session of the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.
1974?	57 th session of the <i>Economic and Social Council</i> (E/5546) considered the Ad Hoc Committee’s report. In resolution 1909 (LVII), the Council “recognized the important discussions and decisions contained in the report and conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee”.
11 October 1974	UN General Assembly – 29 th Session- A/C.5/1616 <u>“Report of the Industrial Development Board – Question of ... administrative autonomy for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization – Report of the Secretary-General”</u>

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15-18 Feb 1975	<p>“Group of 77” developing countries – adopted draft declaration and plan of action which will be the focal point of discussion at the Second General Conference. ...”The document of the Group of 77 spells out the “central role” of UNIDO in implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as its “crucial role” in carrying forward the provisions relating to industry contained in th General Assembly’s Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. To carry out this mandate, and to exercise effectively its co-ordinating function within the United Nations system, “it is essential that UNIDO’s autonomy, functions and resources should be increased and expanded substantially.” “For this purpose,” the document continues, “it is recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that UNIDO should be converted into a specialized agency.”</p>
12-26 Mar 1975	<p>Second General Conference of UNIDO. The General Conference recommended conversion of UNIDO into a specialized agency and the establishment of an Industrial Development Fund.</p> <p><u><i>[Agenda] Item 7: Policies and activities of UNIDO in promoting the industrialization of the developing countries</i></u></p> <p><i>(b) Long-range strategy for the activities of UNIDO: review of the recommendations of the Industrial Development Board.</i></p> <p>... 15. The main Conference document pertaining to agenda 7(b) is “Long-range strategy for the activities of UNIDO: Review of the recommendations of the Industrial Development Board” (ID/CONF.3/4 and Add.1). The addendum contains the statements made in the Second Committee at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly on a long-range strategy for UNIDO. The “Report of the Group of High-Level Experts on a Long-Range Strategy for UNIDO” (ID/B/133), the “Report and conditions of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee on Long-Range Strategy for UNIDO” (ID/B/142 and Corr.1), and the document, “Measures taken or planned relevant to the conclusions of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee on Long-Range Strategy for UNIDO (ID/B/C.3/29), should also be considered under agenda item 7(b).”</p> <p>Addendum 1 to ID/CONF.3/4 included:</p> <p><u><i>“Bangladesh:</i></u> ...His delegation concurred with the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee’s recommendation that UNIDO should have more autonomy in administrative and financial matters.</p> <p><u><i>“Cuba:</i></u> ... The Second General Conference would have to take far-reaching decisions on the funding and operations of UNIDO and the improvement of its effectiveness in terms of resources and of administrative autonomy.</p> <p><u><i>Sierra Leone:</i></u> ...whole-heartedly supported the recommendations of the <u>Ad Hoc</u> Committee on a Long-Range Strategy for UNIDO concerning greater autonomy for the organization and the formulation of a medium-term plan and programme in the light of changing world conditions.”</p> <p><u><i>[Agenda] Item 8: Institutional arrangements of UNIDO (General Assembly resolution 2152 (XXI), para 37)</i></u></p> <p>17. The basic Conference documents for this agenda item is “Institutional arrangements of UNIDO – summary of opinions expressed by Governments” – ID/CONF.3/13, prepared by the secretariat of UNIDO. It summarises views expressed at the Special International Conference of UNIDO in 1971, and contains excerpts of statements made at the eighth session of the Industrial Development Board, at the fifty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1974, at the 1974 United Nations Pledging Conference of UNIDO, and the Second Committee at the Twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly. It also includes the replies of Governments to a letter sent by the Executive Director of UNIDO, dated 21 June 1974, inviting them to express their opinions specifically on the subject of the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference (ID/B/145, para.11 (d)).</p> <p>18. The documents considered by the Preparatory Committee at its fifth session on the administrative autonomy of UNIDO and the establishment of a United Nations industrial development fund (ID/B/C.3/30 and Add.1 and Corr.1) are also referred to the Conference. They reflect the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its Twenty-ninth session:</p>

Date	Description
	<p>...To postpone, after having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the separate preparation and submission of the programme and budget of UNIDO and of administrative autonomy for UNIDO, the consideration of that matter to its Thirtieth session (Decision adopted by the General Assembly at its 2325th Plenary Meeting on 18 December 1974). The decision was made on the recommendations of the Second and Fifth Committees that the two reports of the Secretary-General (A/9792 and A/C.5/1616 and Corr.1) be transmitted to the Second General Conference of UNIDO, so that the question of the autonomy of UNIDO and of its institutional relationship with other organs of the United Nations system may be considered in all its aspects at that Conference and that the General Assembly at its Thirtieth session would thus have the benefit of, <i>inter alia</i>, the views of the Conference when considering this matter again. (A/C.5/1633 and A/C.5/L.1209)”</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Legal Unit’s copy of the General Conference documents does not include ID/CONF.3/13.</p> <p>The Second General Conference adopted the “Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-Operation” which relevantly provided:</p> <p>“68. In order that it may intensify and extend its activities in the manner indicated above and play the central co-ordinating role in the field of industrial development within the United Nations system, and in order to increase its ability to render assistance to the developing countries in the most efficient way, it is essential that UNIDO’s autonomy and functions should be increased and expanded substantially and that UNIDO should be provided with the resources for this purpose.</p> <p>“69. For this purpose, it is recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that UNIDO should be converted into a specialized agency. To this end, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Director of UNIDO, is requested to submit to the seventh special session of the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, draft statutes of a specialized agency for industrial development. ...”</p> <p>ID/CONF.3/18: Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee on the work of its Five Sessions to the Second General Conference of UNIDO:</p> <p>“The Preparatory Committee further noted that the report by the Secretary-General on the separate preparation and submission of the programme and budget of UNIDO and of administrative autonomy for UNIDO (A/C.5/161 and Corr. 1) had likewise been referred for consideration to the Conference”.</p> <p>ID/CONF.3/22 – Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-Operation drawn up by the Group of Seventy-Seven:</p> <p>“32. In order that it may intensify and extend its activities in the manner indicated above, and play the central co-ordinating role in the field of industrial development within the United Nations system, it is essential that UNIDO’s autonomy, functions and resources should be increased and expanded substantially.</p> <p>33. For this purpose, it is recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that UNIDO should be converted into a specialized agency. ...”</p> <p>ID/CONF.3/L.5 – Draft Resolution on the Strengthening of the Role of UNIDO – submitted by the Group of 77 developing countries and Romania.</p> <p>“Declares that, within the United Nations system, there is an urgent need to establish UNIDO as a specialized industrial development agency capable of becoming an organ of industrialization in the service of the developing countries ...”</p> <p>On 26 March 1975, the President proposed that the draft resolution be referred to the Industrial Development Board at its ninth session for study. It was so decided.</p>
21 Apr – 2 May 1975	<p>Ninth Session of Industrial Development Board. Some countries expressed reservations although said the decision would come down to how acceptable the statutes of UNIDO were going to be.</p> <p>ID/B/151: Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee on the Work of its Fifth Session</p>

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	<p>“72. Several delegations urged that consideration be given to organizational changes necessary to make UNIDO more effective and one delegation expressed the opinion that UNIDO should become a specialized agency with administrative and financial autonomy. Another delegation was of the opinion that the composition of the Industrial Development Board should be restructured to reflect more fully the urgent needs of the developing countries.”</p> <p>“109. In its discussion on the resolutions and decision taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, the Preparatory Committee had before it document ID/B/C.3/30/Add.1 and Corr.1 on the question of separation preparation and submission of the programme and budget and of administrative autonomy of UNIDO and the establishment of a United Nations industrial development fund ...”</p> <p>“111. Another delegation, ..., stated that the Secretary-General’s report on the separate preparation and submission of the programme and budget of UNIDO and of administrative autonomy for UNIDO A/C.5/1616 and Corr. 1 would seem to indicate that there were only two possibilities for UNIDO: it could maintain its institutional <u>status quo</u> with some minor improvements, or it could be transformed into a special agency....”</p> <p>“113. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Committee agreed that document ID/B/C.3/30/Add.1 and Corr.1 be referred. Without further formal discussion, to the Second General Conference. In this context, the Secretariat pointed out that the views expressed by Governments on institutional arrangements of UNIDO were set forth in document ID/CONF.3/13.”</p>
1975	Task force was established in UNIDO Secretariat to work on draft statutes for establishing UNIDO as a Specialized Agency.
Sep 1975	The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the UNIDO General Conference and established an “Intergovernmental Committee of the Whole” to meet in Vienna and draw up a constitution for UNIDO as a specialized agency.
19 Dec 1977	The United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 32/167 convening a conference (a Conference of Plenipotentiaries) for the establishment of UNIDO as a specialized agency.
1978	First Conference of Plenipotentiaries
1979	Second Conference of Plenipotentiaries
8 Apr 1979	Conference of Plenipotentiaries adopted the Constitution of UNIDO. Article 25.1 of the Constitution states that the Constitution would enter into force when at least 80 countries had deposited instruments of ratification.
May 1985	An instrument of ratification was received by the 80 th country.
21 Jun 1985	UNIDO’s Constitution came into effect.
Aug & Dec 1985	First General Conference of the “new” UNIDO was held in two parts.
31 Dec 1985	UNIDO ceased to exist as an organ of the United Nations General Assembly
1 Jan 1986	UNIDO assumed functions as a specialized agency.