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**UNITED NATIONS
(UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION)
and
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY**

**Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation. Signed at
Monrovia on 20 July 1979**

Authentic text: English.

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
(ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT INDUSTRIEL)
et
ORGANISATION DE L'UNITÉ AFRICAINE**

**Mémoire d'accord relatif à leur coopération. Signé à
Monrovia le 20 juillet 1979**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Classé et inscrit au répertoire par le Secrétariat le 1^{er} mars 1988.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹ ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) AND THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are united in their desire to co-operate with each other in the field of industrial development both within Africa and throughout the world. Having enjoyed continuously expanding co-operation since the early days of the establishment of UNIDO, in which the member States of OAU played a leading role, both organizations wish to intensify their collaborative efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation² to achieve in Africa the goals of the new international economic order.

2. OAU, with 49 member States, is increasingly assuming the leadership and catalytic role based on its political leverage for the economic and industrial development of the African continent. UNIDO has been entrusted with the central role in co-ordinating United Nations activities and technical assistance to the developing countries in the industrial field as well as in initiating and co-ordinating activities within the United Nations system for implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. Hence both organizations have co-operated, *inter alia*, in the joint organization with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) of the Biennium Conference of the African Ministers of Industry, the annual meetings of the Follow-Up Committee on Industrialization in Africa and preparatory activities for the establishment of regional industrial and technological centres, the African Industrial Development Fund, and sectoral industrial programmes as well as in the preparations for Africa's effective participation in the General Conferences of UNIDO. Furthermore, co-operation between both organizations has also been manifested through the joint programme carried out by UNIDO and the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (STRC).

3. The fifteenth OAU Summit held at Khartoum, Sudan, in 1978, during which a number of resolutions were adopted for joint implementation by OAU, UNIDO and other international organizations, have brought an impetus to the co-operation between OAU and UNIDO. This is in keeping with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-third Session on 1 December 1978 on Co-operation between the United Nations and OAU,³ which, *inter alia*, "requests the Secretary-General and the Organizations within the United Nations system to ensure that adequate facilities continue to be made available for the provision of technical assistance to the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity, as and when required".

¹ Came into force on 20 July 1979 by signature, in accordance with article 14.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries*, A/CONF.79/13, September 1978.

³ *United Nations, Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 45, A/33/45*, pp. 15-16.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Director of UNIDO agree to formalize and intensify the existing co-operation between both organizations in order to harmonize their efforts more effectively and to co-operate more fully for the development and implementation of industrial and technological programmes in Africa. They also re-endorse the Memorandum of Understanding between UNIDO and OAU/STRC (a copy of which is attached as an annex to this document). To this effect, the two organizations will regularly consult with each other on matters of common interest and maintain close contact on those activities which aim at realizing the objectives of the respective organizations. Co-ordination of these efforts, which will take account of the activities of OAU and other international and African regional and subregional organizations, should help to avoid undue duplication of activities and lead to a better co-ordination of efforts for the benefit of the African countries in their industrial development endeavours.

PROGRAMME OF CO-OPERATION

5. The Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Director of UNIDO recognize the need for the OAU secretariat to strengthen its operations to enable it to enhance the political role of OAU with a technical base, thus enabling OAU to provide more effective leadership in harmonizing African industrial development strategies, policies and perspectives as well as in defining an African common position on industrial and technological matters. To this end, they agree that the Programme of Co-operation between the two organizations should include areas dealing particularly with:

- Industrial and technological strategies, policies and plans
- Development and transfer of technology
- Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries
- More effective participation of the OAU member States in the policy-making organs, programmes and activities of UNIDO.

INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PLANS

6. Both organizations agree to collaborate in developing OAU activities for the harmonization of African industrial and technological strategies, policies and plans, as well as in providing guidance, co-ordination, follow-up, periodic review and monitoring of industrial activities at the regional level to ensure the implementation of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and the achievement of the 2 per cent target established for the African region as its contribution to world industrial production by the year 2000. To this end, UNIDO agrees to assist OAU in strengthening the relevant units of its secretariat, particularly the Industrialization and Industrial Policies Section of the General Economic Affairs Division, the Technology and Economic Research Sections of the Economic Research and Planning Division and OAU/STRC. UNIDO assistance will essentially consist of helping OAU with the services of its headquarters staff and recruited consultants to develop the programmes and activities of these units and to define an adequate methodology for implementing the programmes and activities; training through study tours and fellowships of the key and other relevant staff of the units; and providing UNIDO studies and other documents required for the work of the units.

7. OAU and UNIDO also agree to collaborate with ECA and other United Nations, international and African regional and subregional organizations in:

(a) Conducting action-oriented studies on the basis of which progress made within the region towards achieving the Lima target for Africa can be monitored and industrial production trends in the region projected;

(b) Preparing studies for and continuing the co-sponsoring of the Biennial Conferences of African Ministers of Industry, the Follow-Up Committee on Industrialization in Africa as well as other regional and subregional meetings for the purpose of helping to define an African common position on issues discussed at international meetings such as the General Conferences of UNIDO, the United Nations General Assembly and the UNIDO Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee and industrial consultation meetings.

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

8. OAU and UNIDO agree to collaborate in developing, strengthening, taking follow-up action, and monitoring the implementation of the relevant aspects of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and the Buenos Aires Plan of Action¹ and the relevant OAU resolutions on technical co-operation among developing countries with regard to the industrial sector. The joint OAU/UNIDO programme in this area will place special emphasis on the:

(a) Promotion of inter-African industrial projects. In this connection, both organizations agree to collaborate with ECA and other national, subregional, regional and international organizations, which would facilitate negotiations among the African countries in establishing intercountry industrial enterprises;

(b) Promotion of interregional industrial and technological co-operation;

(c) Development, co-operation, follow-up and monitoring of regional action of special industrial and technological programmes in favour of the following groups of countries:

- (i) Least developed countries;
- (ii) Newly independent countries;
- (iii) Land-locked countries;
- (iv) Island countries;
- (v) Drought and other disaster stricken countries.

(d) Promotion of industrial investment activities in close co-operation with subregional, regional, interregional and international financing and investment institutions, especially the African Development Bank, the African Industrial Development Fund, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Joint UNIDO/World Bank Investment Co-operation Programme Office and the UNIDO Investment Promotion Centres;

(e) Promotion, in the context of the All African Trade Fairs and otherwise, of inter-African and external trade in manufactures and semi-manufactures.

9. The implementation of the programme of co-operation described in paragraph 5 shall be undertaken within the framework of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action; directives from the OAU Heads of State and Government in accordance

¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, A/CONF.79/13, September 1978.

with the recommendations of the Conferences of African Ministers of Industry, the Follow-Up Committee on Industrialization in Africa, the Science Council of Africa, as well as the results and directives of the General Conference of UNIDO, the UNIDO Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee. Account shall be taken of the activities of ECA, the African Regional Centres, and other sub-regional, regional and international organizations actively involved in industrial and technological activities in Africa. Account shall also be taken of recommendations, emanating from UNIDO programmes such as the industrial consultation meetings, appropriate technology programmes, industrial co-operation and investment promotion activities and African regional and subregional meetings and programmes.

**MORE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE OAU MEMBER STATES
IN UNIDO POLICY-MAKING ORGANS, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES**

10. OAU agrees to intensify the participation of its secretariat and member States in the formulation of UNIDO policies, programmes and activities, such as the industrial consultation meetings, the appropriate technology programme, the industrial investment promotion activities by:

(a) Consolidating African common positions that should be properly reflected in:

- (i) The United Nations General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, particularly the Economic and Social Council and the Fifth Committee;
- (ii) The General Conferences of UNIDO and their preparatory activities;
- (iii) The UNIDO Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee;
- (iv) Other international forums where industrialization issues are discussed.

(b) Enhancing communication between UNIDO and the African countries by encouraging more OAU member States to be accredited to UNIDO and to establish and strengthen National Committees for UNIDO;

(c) Supporting efforts to strengthen and expand the field representation of UNIDO, particularly through the senior industrial development field adviser programme currently financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and

(d) Promoting greater African support to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund established by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second General Conference of UNIDO, to provide UNIDO with additional resources and greater flexibility in implementing technical assistance to the developing countries, from which the African countries are receiving increasing benefits.

11. OAU and UNIDO agree to invite each other to their meetings, especially to the meetings of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and Council of Ministers of OAU, the General Conferences of UNIDO, the UNIDO Industrial Development Board and its Permanent Committee, as well as other technical meetings organized under their aegis related to each other's activities, and to exchange information, reports and other documents accordingly.

MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING, REVIEWING AND MONITORING
THE PROGRAMME OF CO-OPERATION

12. OAU and UNIDO agree on the following modalities for implementing, reviewing and monitoring the Programme of Co-operation:

(a) The OAU General Secretariat and/or its authorized subsidiary organizations shall submit an official request to the Executive Director of UNIDO for assistance in implementing any aspect or component of the programme. UNIDO may be invited to assist in the formulation of such requests;

(b) UNIDO shall examine each request in accordance with its established procedures and within the limitations of its resources;

(c) Upon receipt of requests for technical assistance, the relevant staff of UNIDO and OAU shall jointly work out details of the project, including detailed costing and financing arrangements;

(d) Depending upon the financial requirements of the project, UNIDO and OAU shall undertake to promote the project for financing from donors;

(e) Once the project financing has been ensured, communication on the technical aspects of project implementation shall be undertaken directly between the substantive units of UNIDO and OAU, with copies sent to the liaison officers in each organization for information and follow-up action, as appropriate;

(f) Arrangements shall be made for the joint follow-up and the periodic review of implementation of the Programme of Co-operation;

(g) Joint reviews shall take place at least once a year to examine the progress in implementing the programme, to identify problems involved and to recommend remedies, and to recommend to the Heads of their respective organizations the future work programme.

13. The Head of each organization shall indicate the officer in his organization responsible for co-ordinating the organization's input to the Programme of Co-operation (liaison officer).

14. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature by both parties.

DONE in Monrovia on 20th July 1979.

For the Organization
of African Unity:

[Signed]

EDEM KODJO
Administrative Secretary-General

For the United Nations
Industrial Development Organization:

[Signed]

ABD-EL RAHMAN KHANE
Executive Director