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UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND
PRODUCTIVITY

Note by the secretariat

The Executive Secretary wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to Economic and Social Council resolution 597(XXI) and related resolutions of the General Assembly.

The relevant parts of resolution 597(XXI), entitled "Economic development of under-developed countries: A - Industrialization", read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council

"4. Suggests that the Secretary-General initiate work within available resources, bearing in mind the wishes of the less developed countries, the useful work done by the regional economic commissions and the necessity of avoiding duplication with the specialised agencies;

"7. Invites Governments, in considering instructions to their delegations to meetings of the specialised agencies and the regional economic commissions, to keep in mind the desirability of and the benefits to be obtained from an integrated and co-ordinated approach in the field of industrialization and productivity;

"8. Requests the regional economic commissions, in order to achieve a co-ordinated approach in the work in this field, to take due account, in planning and formulating their future activities, of the work programme in the field of industrialization and productivity;"

The Secretary-General's report on "Proposals for a programme of work on industrialization and productivity" (E/2832) ^{1/} and his further report (E/2895), ^{1/} which were considered by the Council in its discussions on this subject, have been circulated to States Members of the United Nations.

The General Assembly, at its eleventh session, at the request of the Council, considered the question of the industrialization of under-developed countries. In resolution (A/RES/505), it recognized "the need for suitable organizational arrangements in the United Nations under the Economic and Social Council to deal with matters relating to industrialization and productivity", and endorsed "resolution 597(XXI) of the Economic and Social Council which, inter alia, reaffirms the special responsibilities of the Council for the promotion and co-ordination of special activities in the field of accelerated industrialization and productivity of less developed countries as an essential element of balanced development programmes".

^{1/} Copies are available on request.

In resolution (A/RES/505), the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction "at the work done by the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General, the regional economic commissions, and the specialised agencies in connexion with problems of industrialization and productivity" and urged them "to continue to give priority to these questions".

Under the industrialization programme, the following co-operation arrangements have been initiated or are planned:

Under project 2 ^{2/} in the industrialization programme it is envisaged that Headquarters will contribute a paper on the subject of relative labour-capital intensity in the construction industry to ECAFE's Third Technical Conference on Water Resources Development (21-06). Also under this project, a study on the size of plant in selected industries will be made in connexion with ECLA's project 4 on economic integration and reciprocity in Central America in which the ECLA secretariat will co-operate. Project 4 has reached the stage at which plans are being prepared for certain integrated industries, and for this, determination of the size of plant is of crucial importance. It is expected that this study will also benefit countries in other regions. Under the same project on capital-labour intensity in the construction industries, broader co-operation with the regional secretariats is envisaged; in due course there will be meetings of regional working groups, organised in collaboration with the respective regional secretariats, initially ECAFE.

Also under the industrialization programme, a study on industrial financing is being planned (Area 6); this has started with a case study in a Latin American country, in which the ECLA secretariat is co-operating.

Finally, under the programme of industrialization and productivity it is proposed to issue a bulletin (Project 9) on progress and problems of industrialization. This will cover the activities of, and include contributions from, the whole United Nations family, including the regional secretariats, and it is expected that it will not only facilitate a co-ordinated approach but will also enable countries to profit from experience gained elsewhere.

^{2/} References to Projects and Areas pertain to the work programme on Industrialization and Productivity given in the Secretary-General's report to the twenty-second session of the Council (E/2895) and to the work programmes of the regional commissions (E/2821, E/2868 and E/2883).