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Industrial Development Board

Seventeenth session
Vienna, 26 April - 13 May 1983
Agenda item 15

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE

Report by the Executive Director
CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. BACKGROUND AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</td>
<td>1 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. APPROVAL OF THE NEW PROJECTS</td>
<td>10 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. CURRENT SITUATION</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes | 7 |

Summary

Information is provided on the recent developments of the UNIDO technical assistance programme to the Namibian people, the status of project proposals submitted to UNDP and the approval by UNIDO of certain projects under the United Nations Industrial Development Fund.
Industrial Development Board
Seventeenth session
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE

Report by the Executive Director

Corrigendum

Paragraph 1, table, last line
For Industrial development co-operation read Industrial development corporation

Paragraph 10, lines 9 and 17
For Commission for Namibia read Council for Namibia
I. BACKGROUND AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. In compliance with General Assembly resolutions 31/153 of 20 December 1976 and 32/9A of 4 November 1977, a comprehensive blueprint of technical assistance to Namibia was prepared by the Secretariat, covering assistance to the pre-independence, transitional and post-independence phases of the country. The preliminary programme contained in the blueprint was subsequently adopted by the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session, in May 1978. In 1979, the following project proposals, based on the blueprint, at a value of $16.78 million were included in the UNIDO programme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project proposals</th>
<th>Cost (000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondment of Namibian students to UNIDO projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study tour by Namibians</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondment of Namibian officials to UNIDO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training in industrial strategy and development</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance in the formulation of a legal framework to regulate industrial activity</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and expansion of the industrial entrepreneur sector</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource-based industry-oriented study</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional and post-independence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment of experts for management of existing industry</td>
<td>12,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory group on industrial development</td>
<td>1,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial development co-operation</td>
<td>1,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>15,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>16,782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The three projects proposed by UNIDO for urgent implementation entitled "Secondment of Namibian students to UNIDO projects", "Study tour by Namibians" and "Secondment of Namibian officials to UNIDO" were completed in 1982. These projects were financed jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIDO with initial inputs of $44,500 and $57,500 respectively. During the period of implementation, the UNIDO input was subsequently increased to $80,000 to cover the secondment of trainees to UNIDO. In the absence of a final decision from the United Nations Council for Namibia, the other projects to be implemented in the pre-independence phase were suspended.
3. In October 1981, the UNIDO programme was discussed with the representatives of UNDP in Vienna. As mentioned in the report (ID/B/276 and Corr.l and Add.1) submitted to the Board at its sixteenth session, consultations subsequently took place with UNDP, the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia and the Council for Namibia, in New York, Lusaka and Dar-es-Salaam, as well as with representatives of the South West Africa People’s Organization (SWAPO). UNIDO also participated in an evaluation exercise of UNDP assistance to the African national liberation movements (MLMs) recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

4. In December 1981, UNIDO attended a UNDP interagency meeting in Dar-es-Salaam where a new priority list of projects was drawn up for the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. At the interagency meeting, the following four project proposals were considered for further action:

- Resource-based, industry-oriented study for Namibia for the elaboration of a national industrial development programme;
- Training in industrial and technological development;
- Formulation of a legal and policy framework for accelerated national industrial development; and
- Assistance in the management, operation and full utilization of installed production units.

5. With a view to preparing the new programme of technical assistance to the people of Namibia, a mission to the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia was fielded in March 1982. In-depth discussions were held with the Council for Namibia, the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN), the UNDP offices at both Lusaka and Dar-es-Salaam and with the SWAPO representatives and the OAU Committee for the Liberation of Africa at Lusaka with the purpose of:

(a) Reviewing on-going UNIDO assistance to Namibia;
(b) Discussing details of the project proposals presented by UNIDO at the UNDP interagency meeting in Dar-es-Salaam in December 1981; and
(c) Formulating and updating a comprehensive programme of UNIDO assistance to Namibia and drafting project documents for submission to UNDP.

The date of arrival of the UNIDO Headquarters team coincided with the visit to Lusaka of the SWAPO Secretary for Economic Affairs, who provided a briefing on the approach adopted by SWAPO in developing its economic activities.

6. During its meeting with the Director of UNIN and other staff members of the relevant departments, the UNIDO team received an exhaustive briefing on the work of the Institute and its relationship with the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. During discussion of the four project proposals submitted by UNIDO at the UNDP interagency meeting held in Dar-es-Salaam in December 1981 (see para. 4 above), the Director stated that with regard to the Nationhood Programme SWAPO supported three of the four project proposals, namely preparation of a resource-based industry-oriented study for Namibia for the elaboration of a national industrial development programme; training in industrial and technological development; and the formulation of a legal and policy framework for accelerated national industrial development. The project proposals, however, required reformulation. The UNIDO Headquarters team accordingly took the opportunity to reformulate all project proposals under the instructions of the Co-ordinator of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. The Director of UNIN, on behalf of SWAPO, cleared the project proposals...
prepared by the UNIDO Headquarters mission and emphasized the need to intensify co-operation between UNIDO and UNIN. It was agreed that a project proposal for UNIDO assistance to Namibia in the pre-independence period would be formulated to make provision for UNIDO Headquarters and field staff and - where necessary - consultants, to work jointly with the staff of UNIN in carrying out various activities of mutual interest.

7. During the UNIDO programming mission, five project proposals were prepared:

(a) Training in industrial and technological development

The project aims at extending and expanding the pre-independence programme already initiated with the implementation of the three projects mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Potential Namibian policy makers nominated by SWAPO in selected areas of industrial and technological development will receive training under this project.

Estimated cost: $490,000 Duration: 3 years

(b) Formulation of a national industrial development plan and legal framework for independent Namibia

Two proposals, originally presented by UNIDO, have been merged in this project:

(i) Resource-based industry-oriented study on Namibia for the elaboration of a national industrial development programme; and

(ii) Formulation of a legal and policy framework for accelerated industrial development. The immediate objective of the reformulated project proposal is to prepare, on the basis of available studies on Namibia, alternative national development plans, a legal framework, and project profiles for consideration by the Government of Namibia when it attains independence.

Estimated cost: $379,000 Duration: 2 years

(c) Assistance in the establishment of a mechanical workshop in Angola

Formulated at the request of the SWAPO Secretary for Economics, this project aims at establishing a mechanical workshop (wood and metal-working) for the production of simple agricultural tools and implements; repair and maintenance of construction equipment, vehicles and agricultural tools and equipment; production of household and school furniture; and the training of SWAPO technical staff.

Estimated cost: $550,000 Duration: 2 years

(d) UNIDO pre-independence assistance to Namibia

The project aims at reinforcing co-operation between UNIDO and UNIN. Activities include the provision of UNIDO experts and consultants to the Institute to carry out identified joint activities.

Estimated cost: $80,000 Duration: 2 years

(e) Project of common assistance to SWAPO, African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)

The project will assist the three African NLMs recognized by OAU to enable them to participate in the activities of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The object is to facilitate the continuous involvement of the NLMs, as well as the Namibian people, in a series of activities to be undertaken at the regional and subregional levels for the formulation and implementation of the programme of the Decade by meeting the travel and subsistence costs of the NLM staff.

Estimated cost: $50,000 Duration: 4 years

8. During the UNIDO programming mission, all project proposals mentioned above were endorsed by the UNDP offices in Lusaka and Dar-es-Salaam and have the support of the OAU Committee for the Liberation of Africa. With the exception of the project entitled "UNIDO pre-independence
assistance to Namibia" which has been approved under the United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDO) (see para. 6 above), the projects were submitted to UNDP, New York, for approval by the UNDP Resident Representative in Dar-es-Salaam, co-ordinator of the United Nations technical assistance to NLMs.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS

9. It will be recalled that under the project combining "Industrial development training" (TF/NAM/79/002) and "Technical assistance to Namibia" (UF/NAM/78/063) training was provided in the field of industrial management and industrial administration for five SWAPO nominees of UNIN. Under the same project three fellows received training at the National Productivity Centre of Ethiopia from March to September 1982. The programme included preparation of financial statements; production management; production steering sub-systems and on-the-job training. One fellow received training from January to April 1981 at the Textile Development Centre in Egypt within the framework of project DP/EGY/77/008 while another was trained at the Leather Product Institute in the United Republic of Tanzania from November 1980 to September 1981, within the framework of project DP/URT/77/010. In consultation with the UNDP Office in Lusaka, the five fellows were assigned, on completion of their training, to various projects in Zambia (DP/ZAM/78/005 - Strengthening of the Department of Industry, DP/ZAM/80/004 - Assistance to the Mainilunga cannery, and DP/ZAM/78/006 - Industrial project identification survey in nine provinces) where they received additional training. Subsequently, in accordance with the suggestion made during the fifteenth session of the Board that UNIDO should assist Namibians in becoming familiar with industrial development policies in other developing countries in Africa and Asia, a study tour was organized in India, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Trainees visited industrial development institutions, small-scale industrial units and Government departments concerned with industry in India and Kenya during January and February 1982. In March and April 1982, a similar programme was completed in the United Republic of Tanzania followed by secondment to UNIDO Headquarters where the Namibian fellows had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Organization.

III. APPROVAL OF NEW PROJECTS

10. As mentioned in paragraph 8 above, it was decided to submit to UNDP the following four project proposals for financing under the indicative planning figure (IPF) for Namibia:

- Training in industrial and technological development
- Formulation of a national industrial development plan
- Assistance in the establishment of a mechanical workshop in Angola
- Common assistance to SWAPO, ANC and PAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>US dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training in industrial and technological development</td>
<td>490,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulation of a national industrial development plan</td>
<td>379,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance in the establishment of a mechanical workshop in Angola</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common assistance to SWAPO, ANC and PAC</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total UNDP contribution requested: 1,469,000

The four project proposals submitted for IPF financing were reviewed by the Commission for Namibia and UNDP, together with the SWAPO delegation in a meeting held from 20 to 23 August 1982.
in New York. During the meeting it became evident that, owing to the current constraints facing UNDP, the UNIDO project proposals could not, for the time being, be accommodated. The highest priority was assigned to two projects of UNIN itself involving UNDP inputs of the order of $4.8 million and to a SWAPO project for vocational training, with UNDP inputs amounting to $2.5 million. At a subsequent review meeting at the Senate of UNIN, it was decided that a comprehensive study on Namibia would be undertaken by UNIN in co-operation with SWAPO, the Commission for Namibia, UNDP and United Nations organizations such as UNIDO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) subject to the availability of additional technical assistance funds.

11. In the meantime UNIDO has approved under UNIDF, an amount of $80,000 for the project "UNIDO pre-independence assistance to Namibia" which will lead to co-operation with UNIN in industrial and technological fields. It will be centred around the organization of fellowships with emphasis on the practical application of knowledge and acquisition of skills and attitudes required to meet the multitude of tasks that independence will entail.

IV. CURRENT SITUATION

12. The 1981 UNDP interagency meeting in Dar-es-Salaam provided an opportunity for UNIDO to reactivate a certain number of project proposals and initiate a new dialogue on assistance to Namibia during the UNIDO programming mission to the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. UNIDO has been able to implement specific priority training projects in the area of industrial management and industrial administration. The new project proposals submitted to UNDP are still pending. It is hoped that, in 1983, a positive decision will be taken by the relevant authorities for the approval and implementation of those proposals. In the meantime, UNIDO has continued to provide assistance from its own sources.

V. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

13. The Industrial Development Board may wish to take note of the present report.

Notes

1/ See "Technical assistance to the Namibian people" (ID/B/C.3/65) annex.


