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**AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
OF INDUSTRY (CAMI)  
NINETEENTH ORDINARY SESSION  
27 – 31 MARCH 2011  
ALGIERS, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**

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**REPORT OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
30 – 31 MARCH, 2011**

**REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH AU CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY (CAMI 19)**

**I. Introduction**

1. The 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI-19) was held at Ministerial level at the Palais des Nations, in Algiers, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria from 30 to 31 March, 2011. It was chaired by Algeria.

**II. Attendance**

2. The meeting was attended by the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following Regional Economic Communities (RECs), international organizations, financial institutions and private sector representatives also participated in the meeting: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat (ACP), the African Union Planning and Coordinating Agency (AU/NEPAD), the European Commission (EC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Development Bank (AfDB), ECOBANK, the World Bank, the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), and the West African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

**III. Proceedings**

**Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Conference**

***Welcoming remarks by the Minister of Industry, Algeria***

4. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Mohamed Benmeradi, Minister of Industry, Small and Medium Enterprises and Investment Promotion, highlighted the prospects for industry in Africa and thanked the participants for the confidence placed in him and in his country, Algeria, to lead the process for accelerating Africa's industrialisation.

5. He stressed that the AUC played a central role in coordinating the setting up and conduct of the process, with the support of UNIDO, as a symbol of continuity. He also commended the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa for the positive report submitted at the end of his two-year mandate.

**Remarks by the Director General of UNIDO**

6. In delivering his remarks, the Director General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, applauded the Government of Algeria for the successful organization of the Conference. He further congratulated Algeria on its election as the Chair of CAMI-19. He also commended the cooperation that UNIDO has enjoyed working with South Africa, as outgoing Chair, the African Union Commission and UNECA. He then recognized the presence of the vice president of the European Commission, Mr. Antonio Tajani..

7. Mr. Yumkella situated the Conference in the context of a very challenging time globally, amidst devastating effects of the economic crisis, fiscal policy reviews and demonstrations by youth for pluralism and jobs. He elaborated on a number of activities on which UNIDO has worked at the request of the AUC and under the South African leadership of CAMI which include the development of a global framework for the Implementation Strategy of AIDA as well as the African Agribusiness Development Initiative (3ADI). He added that the pharmaceutical industry and resource based industrialization were two other sectors that have been identified as priority sectors. He pointed out the need to also add energy and infrastructure development as a key area as no country can industrialize without affordable energy and energy access. Those areas, he stated, could lay the necessary foundation for the industrial transformation of the continent.

8. He, above all, emphasised the need to move quickly to implementation, to ensure proper follow up and carry out a fundamental structural change in order for industrialization to occur. He further reiterated the need for value addition and for redressing the issue of youth unemployment through industrial development especially taking into account that population is projected at 1.4 billion by 2025/30 and that by 2050 it will be 2 billion, 60% of which, will be below the age of 25.

9. He concluded his remarks by thanking the outgoing Chair and reiterating his continued support to the AUC and the new CAMI Chair. He further pledged specifically to provide capacity building support, hopefully with the assistance of the European Commission, to the RECs and AUC in order to move the implementation process forward.

**Statement by the Commissioner for Trade and Industry, AUC**

10. Mrs Elisabeth Tankeu, Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the AUC, thanked the Algerian Government for hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Industry (CAMI-19) and for all the facilities placed at the disposal of participants to ensure the success and smooth conduct of the Conference.

11. She stressed the significance of industrialization as a factor of wealth and job creation in any development process. The sub-industrialization of Africa inclined towards an economy of raw materials traded without further processing makes it

difficult to ensure effective integration of the Continent into the value chains of the global economy.

12. She invited the Conference of Ministers of Industry, as the policy organ of the African Union for industrialization, to express its views on the documents annexed to the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and its Implementation Strategy. She added that Africa would only benefit from industrial relocation if it provides an enabling business environment free from the major constraints that continue to loom over it.

13. Mrs. Elizabeth Tankeu gave an overview of the main issues contained in the draft agenda which focused on concerns linked to the effective implementation of the Industrialization Plan, access of African populations to pharmaceutical products using the flexibilities and exemptions provided by the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, funding modalities of the initiative for agro-industries and agribusiness development in Africa, and the expected contribution of the Conference to the theme of the 2010 AU Assembly, which will focus on intra-African trade.

14. In conclusion, Mrs. Tankeu thanked the Chairman of the outgoing CAMI Bureau, the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Africa, UNIDO, the UNECA and all other partners for their contribution to the success of the Conference.

***Statement by Outgoing Chair of CAMI Bureau, the Minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa***

15. In his address, the outgoing Chair of CAMI Bureau, H. E. Dr. Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa expressed his gratitude to the Government of Algeria and to the International Institutions involved in the preparation of the 19th edition of CAMI.

16. He recalled the background and context of the Conference, characterized by the new challenges African countries are facing and the challenges and/or opportunities presented by the recent economic crisis. He observed that the center of gravity of the world economy is now shifting to the South and it is up to Africa to seize this opportunity to develop internationally competitive industries. The outgoing Chair also presented a review of the achievements of the CAMI Bureau under his tenure and observed that there is need to identify specific actions to start the effective implementation of AIDA and to design strong implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. He emphasised the importance of value addition to natural resources and to socio-economic development, and underscored the need for Africa to develop requisite capacity.

17. While elaborating on developments during his tenure, he identified the limited participation of Member States and RECs as one of the challenges faced. In light of this, he urged the incoming Bureau of CAMI to address this issue and also called on Member States and partner institutions to collaborate effectively with the incoming Bureau.

18. In closing H.E. Minister Rob Davies invited the incoming Chair to take over, assuring him of the permanent availability of South Africa to assist the Bureau.

***Address by the Vice-President of the European Commission***

19. In his address, Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, first highlighted the fact that CAMI-19 was taking place in the context of a rapidly growing African economy where the rate of consumption increases faster, and which is endowed with a potential that will enable it to increase the volume and value of its agricultural production and develop related trade activities.

20. He presented the main thrusts of the European SME Policy contained in the *Small Business Act* for Europe, adopted in 2008 and revised in 2010, as the main driving force of the economy. He recalled that access to third country markets was one of the priorities of the policy and that there was a need to increase the percentage of exporting SMEs by intensifying cooperation with African countries. In that respect, he called on Africa to appoint its SME Minister to engage with the European SME Minister with a view to tightening the links between African and European SMEs and enhancing exchange of good practice, knowledge, methods and tools first with Mediterranean countries, and subsequently, with other African countries.

21. Concerning trade in agricultural products to support sustainable development, Mr. Tajani expressed the hope that ACP countries would rapidly conclude economic partnership agreements with the European Union in order to ensure their safe and full access to the European market. He then focused on the issue of social responsibility, which pharmaceutical companies should address in order to create an appropriate environment that would ensure access to drugs. In this connection, he called for the promotion of an ACP-AU brainstorming forum, as part of a pilot project for Africa, on the inputs, added value as well as the challenges facing European companies in value addition.

22. Mr. Tajani then called for an open and transparent raw material market where sustainable mining exploitation could contribute to sustainable development and create win-win situations both for developed and developing countries as provided for in the Africa-EU Joint Strategy concluded in Tripoli, in November 2010. He added that in the same vein, the EU intended to promote natural resource governance, share best practices in the negotiation of mining contracts and cooperate in other fields such as tourism and space applications. In conclusion, he informed the Conference that in the course of next year, the EU intended to organize, jointly with UNIDO and the AU, a High-Level Conference on Industry.

***Statement by the Guest of Honour***

23. In his opening address, delivered on behalf of His Excellency, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Mr. Mohamed Boughazi said the holding of CAMI-19 in Algeria reflected the willingness of Member States to consult on the development of industry in Africa in order to speak with one voice as regards development issues. He also emphasized the challenges facing the Continent, following the global financial crisis and its effects on the economy of African countries in general, while stressing the need to address them in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This,

he said, required the mobilization of all possible efforts to develop infrastructure and enable the African economy to attract more investment and accelerate growth.

24. Mr Boughazi also indicated that the current impact of the global economic crisis underscored the crucial role played by industry as a growth sector. Consequently, meeting industrial challenges was once again a priority on the agendas of Governments and international institutions.

25. In conclusion, Mr. Boughazi stressed the importance of mobilizing active forces and enlisting the contribution of all stakeholders with a view to promoting economic development, focusing on the role of Governments in identifying social priorities, ensuring incentives and creating an environment conducive to development. He ended by emphasizing the role of local investors as promoters of economic growth and leaders in the renaissance of the Continent.

### ***Decoration bestowed on DG UNIDO***

26. The opening ceremony was graced by the decoration of the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, for his services as a son of Africa, his continued support for human values and his promotion of industrial development of Africa.

### **Agenda Item 2: Election of the Bureau**

27. Following consultations within the regions, the following Member States were elected to the Bureau:

- Chair : Algeria (North Africa)
- 1st Vice-Chair : Kenya (East Africa)
- 2nd Vice-Chair : Gambia (West Africa)
- 3rd Vice-Chair : Malawi (Southern Africa)
- Rapporteur : Republic of Congo (Central Africa)

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

28. The Conference adopted its agenda without amendment as well as the following working hours :

Morning: 09h00 – 13h00  
Afternoon: 14h30 – 18h00

### **Agenda Item 4: Interactive Session on Mobilizing Resources for AIDA with emphasis on the 3ADI with the participation of IFIs, Donors, Private Sector, Bilateral and Multilateral Partners**

29. In this session, the financial institutions present in the meeting, namely the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Ecobank, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), reiterated the importance of mobilizing resources for the implementation of AIDA, especially Africa's Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI). The institutions endorsed the 3ADI and expressed their availability and willingness to fund its projects through granting of loans and technical assistance to Member States. It was pointed out that some Member States are already receiving support from financial institutions in

some sector-specific industrial activities and projects in order to develop resource-based industrial growth. The financial institutions stressed the need for collaborative partnership between themselves and Member States, as a vehicle for promoting rapid industrial development on the Continent. They further reiterated the availability of financial resources in their respective institutions for financing of industrial projects and called upon Member States to use the opportunities offered by their institutions.

30. In the discussion that ensued, it was pointed out that since African private financial institutions are not sufficiently developed to finance industrial development, there was a need for the intervention of multinational financial institutions that could provide long term capital for that purpose. The meeting further underscored the need for collaboration between Governments and financial institutions within the framework of public-private partnership (PPP) for the benefit of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The problem of stringent conditionalities normally attached to loans by financial institutions and which tend to undermine its purpose was raised and the financial institutions were urged to be more flexible in the conditions of granting loans for industrial development projects.

**Agenda Item 5: Presentation of the Report of Senior Officials**

31. Under this Agenda item, the Rapporteur of the Meeting of Senior Officials presented the Report of their meeting to the Conference of Ministers.

**Agenda Item 6: Consideration of the Report of Senior Officials**

**A. Adding value to commodities through agribusiness value chain development: The Africa Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative (3ADI)**

32. The Ministers took note of the report of the Senior Officials on the Round Table on Agro Industries and agreed that it was high time for Africa to move towards the implementation of specific projects under the Africa Agribusiness and Agro Industry Development Initiative (3 ADI). In order to facilitate the process, they reiterated the need to invest in transport and communication infrastructure as well as strengthen internal markets by facilitating free movement of goods and persons.

33. Thereafter, the Conference adopted the following recommendations:

- i. Encourage full participation of Regional Economic Communities in the implementation of 3ADI taking into account existing regional agro-industry development programmes;
- ii. Define the modalities for integrating regional financial institutions into 3ADI implementation ;
- iii. Encourage the reduction of the proportion of land for biofuel production in Africa and its reallocation to crop cultivation;
- iv. Promote an information sharing mechanism by establishing an Inter-African Information System for AU Member States and African operators through a database of African agricultural products used in the processing industry;

- v. Create a Regional Integration Award at the level of the African Union Commission to recognize leading enterprises which are actively involved in building regional value chains and fostering integration;
- vi. Establish in collaboration with UNIDO and other partners, an Agro-Industry Observatory, the headquarters of which could be in Algiers;
- vii. Create growth poles among countries to facilitate trade and agro-industrial processing of products from neighbouring countries;
- viii. Encourage the creation of regional value chains for strategic products through tax incentives;
- ix. Encourage regional banks to provide lines of credit and other financial facilities, such as guarantees, to finance the establishment of regional value chains in sectors of strategic importance for Africa;
- x. Harmonize norms and standards at sub-regional level and accordingly strengthen the control, testing and certification system;
- xi. Develop highway and railway lines for the promotion of regional and inter-regional markets;
- xii. Create corridors that could develop regional and inter-regional markets.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Consideration of the Report of Senior Officials (Continued)**

##### **B. Mineral Resources Processing in Africa.**

34. The Conference took note of the report of the Senior Officials on Mineral processing and adopted the following recommendations:|

- i. Accelerate the creation of mechanisms to strengthen power pooling arrangements to address the energy deficit at national, sub regional and continental levels. In addition, efforts should be deployed towards mobilizing resources for financing the development of the continent's energy resources to power industrial development including value addition;
- ii. Member states should align the promotion of value addition in the minerals industry to the overall industrialization strategy. In that regard, concrete projects targeting specific minerals should be developed and implemented. At continental level, the African Mining Vision should be unpacked into a coherent value addition and industrialization strategy in harmony with Africa's industrialisation strategy;
- iii. Member States should impose a resource rent tax and use the additional revenue to invest in R&D, innovation, infrastructure and HRD as part of strategies for value addition in the minerals sector within the framework of an overall industrialization strategy;
- iv. Member States should consider a sub regional approach to R&D and science, technology and innovation in order to benefit from economies of scale and from the sharing of technical capacities;
- v. The AU should spearhead the development of frameworks to assist Member States in renegotiating and negotiating mining contracts so as to ensure that value addition requirements are incorporated. Work already underway under the operationalisation of the African Mining Vision should be accelerated;
- vi. Member States should adopt a common approach in EPA negotiations to deal with impediments of the export of value-added mineral products such as tariff and non-tariff barriers;

- vii. Accelerate the creation of the African Economic Community as provided for by the Abuja Treaty in order to create a larger market and enable value addition products to benefit from economies of scale.

**C. Improving access to essential medicines – what role for African pharmaceutical industry?**

35. The Conference took note of the report of the Senior Officials on Pharmaceutical industries and adopted the following recommendations:-

- i. Explicitly include the pharmaceutical industry as a priority sector in the AIDA implementation Strategy;
- ii. Support the revision of the AU Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) in the light of action taken and insights gained at different levels in recent years in promoting the industry on the continent, particularly, initiatives pursued by the NEPAD Agency and the RECs as well as ensure the incorporation of industrial development considerations in the business plan envisaged for the operationalisation, advocacy, funds mobilization and implementation of the PMPA;
- iii. Support the strengthening of the governing structure of the PMPA to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate;
- iv. Jointly, with AU Ministries of Health, provide leadership in developing the local pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, with a view to bridging an observed disconnect, and thus to mobilizing synergies, between public health and industrial development actors and perspectives;
- v. Foster the involvement of, and coordinate the inputs from the wider stakeholder community, notably the private sector, in the formulation and implementation of pharmaceutical industry development strategies, policies and programmes, geared at the furtherance of a commercially viable local pharmaceutical industry as a supplier of quality essential medicines and other health commodities;
- vi. Encourage African operators to exploit the availability of existing production capacity in Africa (the example of the capacity held by the Group SAIDAL in Algeria) in manufacturing, according to international standards. of essential drugs to Africa;
- vii. Undertake, with the support of relevant partners such as UNIDO, WHO, African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), a detailed assessment of the existing initiatives on local pharmaceutical production on the continent, with a view to identifying, documenting and disseminating good practices, planning/supporting and scaling up the development and implementation of sub-regional (REC) strategies/business plans within the framework of the PMPA;
- viii. Member States should combat trade in counterfeit drugs.

**D. Resource Mobilization Strategy for the AIDA programmes and projects**

36. After taking note of the report on Resource Mobilization Strategy of AIDA, the Conference decided that all Member States should ensure putting aside part of their national budget for industrialisation. Some Member States were of the view that the

Conference should agree on an indicative and non binding minimal level of national budget allocation towards industrial and infrastructural development. Others believed that fixing a specific percentage could be counterproductive. Other sources of financing should also be identified in addition to national budget allocations for industrial and infrastructural development. The meeting then recalled the decision of CAMI 18 that Member States should allocate 1% of GDP to industrial development and urged Member States to implement the decision. The Conference advised that benchmarking instruments could be developed to monitor the industrial performance of Member States. It was pointed out that prioritization of projects for implementation under AIDA should be undertaken at REC level taking into account existing programmes.

37. The Conference then adopted the following recommendations:

- i. Member States should be mobilized for industrial development through a regional strategy which channels resources to a regional fund for promoting the development of the prioritized projects;
- ii. There is need for industrial policy harmonization at the regional and sub-regional level taking into consideration mechanisms already underway in the sub-regions on industrial development;
- iii. The AIDA resource mobilization strategy should take into account work already underway in the different sub-regions on resource mobilization and industrial development to facilitate learning and also avoid duplication;
- iv. There is a need for internalization of the AIDA annexes at the regional and sub-regional levels. Member States through the RECs should prioritise flagship projects with a direct link to development;
- v. Member States should channel resource rents to industrial development;
- vi. There is a need to create opportunity to engage African companies and Diaspora in accelerating project implementation and opportunity to leverage regional industrial development championed by major economies in the region;
- vii. Member States should establish an AIDA Finance Facility under which financial resources will be mobilized through existing development finance institutions in Africa;
- viii. The East African Community (EAC) should be included in AIDA and in all its Annexes;
- ix. Member States should establish an Industrialisation Fund with a mechanism for its management.

**Agenda Item 8: Consideration of the Report of Senior Officials (Continued)**

**E. Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy of the AIDA**

38. The Conference took note of the report of Senior Officials on the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy of the AIDA and adopted the following recommendations:

- i. The Timelines proposed for the implementation of the AIDA program should be adopted for monitoring and evaluation of the programme; and
- ii. RECs should internalize the monitoring and evaluation process of the AIDA programme.

#### **F. Steering Committee Framework of AIDA**

39. The Conference requested clarifications on the process which would be followed for the designation of members of Steering Committees. It was specified that at the level of the AU, the CAMI Bureau would initially represent Member States, and then it would be strengthened by financial institutions, Chambers of Commerce and the private sector. In addition, the Bureau would carry out the necessary consultations within three months for the establishment of the complete structure.

40. After the discussions, the meeting adopted the following recommendations:

- i. RECs should be better represented at pan-African level of the Steering Committee;
- ii. Enhance the composition of the steering committees by incorporating African financial institutions and other development agencies such as NEPAD in their structure;
- iii. Align the steering committees structure with the existing institutions in Africa for optimum utilization;
- iv. Include a representative from the private sector in the Pan-African Steering Committee for the Implementation of AIDA;
- v. Manage information systems, effective means for communications and information technology as a necessity for the success of the steering committees;
- vi. The Chair will undertake, within the next three months, the necessary consultations with a view to putting in place the steering committees.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Interactive Session on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade: The Challenges of Production in Africa**

41. In her introductory remarks, the African Union Commissioner for Trade and industry informed the Conference that the theme of the 2012 January Summit of Heads of State and Government will be “Boosting Intra-Africa Trade”, and that CAMI had an important contribution to make in its preparation.

42. She highlighted that Intra-Africa trade is less than 10%, which can be attributed, among others, to similarities in production structures of many African countries that lead to lack of complementary import and export profiles. Africa has resources and opportunities that can allow both diversification and specialization in such sectors as cotton, leather, wood, oil and gas.

43. In the discussion that ensued, the Conference identified the following as some of the major challenges of industry in boosting Intra- Africa Trade:

- Lack of adequate transport, communication, and other trade support infrastructure;
- Lack of competitiveness due to high production costs such as energy, among others; and
- Lack of technological innovation.

44. The Conference also noted the importance of producing commodities that meet international standards and norms, improving the doing business environment in Africa and legislative support to bilateral trade, and development of regional infrastructure. It further highlighted the sensitivities surrounding regional specialization.

45. After the discussions, the Conference adopted the following recommendations:-

- I. Member States, in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities, need to develop industrial policies that are based on priorities with clear time frames;
- II. Member States should ensure that trade agreements with third parties should serve their long term objectives on industrialization and assist in promoting inter and intra regional Trade;
- III. RECs should set up trade and industrial information portals to provide information on the available raw materials, intermediate, and finished goods;
- IV. The African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities should implement the Arusha Plan of Action on Commodities to promote Value Addition;
- V. The African Union Commission and the Regional Economic Communities should work towards the strengthening of Africa's Free Trade Areas and Common Regional Market;
- VI. Member States should develop the human capacity for dealing with domestic and international trade defence instruments and mechanisms used to protect domestic markets from excessive global competition.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Consideration of the Draft Conference Declaration**

46. The Conference considered the draft Algiers Declaration on Enhancing the Competitiveness of African Industries through increased and improved Value Addition and adopted it with amendments.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Date and Venue of 20<sup>th</sup> CAMI**

47. The Conference accepted with gratitude the offer of the Republic of Kenya to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of CAMI. Consultations will be undertaken among stakeholders to determine the date of the Conference.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Any Other Business**

48. The Conference considered and adopted a vote of thanks to the President, Government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. It also adopted a vote addressed to the Government of the United Kingdom to reconsider its decision to withdraw from UNIDO. It was agreed that the Chair would submit the

vote to the Government of the UK and report to the 20th Ordinary Session of CAMI on its outcome.

**Agenda Item 13: Consideration and Adoption of Ministerial Report**

49. The Conference considered and adopted its report after amendment.

**Agenda Item 14: Closing of the Conference**

50. In his closing remarks, the Chair expressed the satisfaction of the Bureau for the work accomplished in accordance with the commitments made. He added that the issue was now to work for the proper implementation of the programmes in order to transform the endowed Africa in resources into a place for industrial production. He called on Member States to create links with partners in order to build their capacity for implementation. Finally, he thanked the Ministers, the organizers and the partners for their valuable contribution to the success of the Conference and brought the Conference to a close.