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 CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
 DEVELOPMENT

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda.

Preparation for the United Nations
 Conference on Science and Technology
 for Development: (a) Progress report
 of the Secretary-General of the
 Conference

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

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"UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT" (A/33/516)

INTRODUCTION

1. The present document responds to the decision taken by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development at its second session, requiring the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Committee at its third session a progress report describing action taken in respect of preparations for the Conference. 1/
2. Attention is drawn to earlier progress reports of the Secretary-General presented to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1978 (E/1978/82) and to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session (A/33/298), in response to resolution 32/115 of the General Assembly of 15 December 1977.
3. The present document consolidates the information contained in documents E/1978/82 and A/33/298 and elaborates on action taken in respect of the preparation for the Conference that has been detailed in the A/CONF.81 information series.

I. CO-OPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES

4. As at 1 December 1978, 134 countries - including 100 developing countries - reported that they had established focal points with the function of overseeing and co-ordinating preparations for the Conference at the national level, including the preparation of national papers (A/CONF.81/INF.2/Rev.5).
5. By 1 December, 107 national papers and 102 summaries had been received. The 32 countries classified as least developed by the General Assembly will contribute, or have already contributed, a total of 27 papers.
6. The secretariat of the Conference has co-operated with Governments by providing technical advisers to assist in national preparations. As at 1 December, some 60 such advisers had been in the field; a detailed list of their missions is presented in information paper A/CONF.81/INF.4.
7. It was noted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session, 1978 that the expert assistance needed for the preparation of national papers had far exceeded original expectations. The Council therefore decided, in resolution 1978/4 of 4 May 1978, that it was essential that "sufficient funds be made available from the regular budget to respond to requests from developing countries for assistance in the elaboration of national reports". As a result, the Secretary-General of the Conference was able to continue to provide technical advisory services in response to national requests.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43 and Corr.1), annex II, decision 4 (II), sect. II, para. 5.

8. As a contribution towards broader participation by representatives of developing nations in meetings and seminars, a number of organizations in developed countries have provided supplementary travel funds for this purpose. In addition, the secretariat has co-operated with those developed countries that have made advisers available under bilateral agreements by arranging briefing sessions at United Nations Headquarters for such advisers prior to their going on mission.

9. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have, on behalf of the secretariat of the Conference, continued to collaborate with Governments, focal points and other co-ordinating authorities in national preparations.

10. The programme of seminars and other meetings as drawn up by the Conference secretariat has been completed with the participation of the regional commissions, organs of the United Nations system and other organizations, in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2035 (LXI). Member States have reported that the programme has been extremely valuable not only in helping each country present its point of view on matters relating to science and technology for development but also in making possible a comparison of views with those of other countries, whether developed or developing.

11. The Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1978 in decision 1978/60 of 3 August, postponed the third session of the Preparation Committee of the Conference from September 1978 to 22 January-2 February 1979. At the same session, the Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Conference (E/1978/82) and, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to arrange consultations with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and interested delegations during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 2123 (LXIII) (see annex I). Such consultations took place on 12 and 13 June 1978, prior to the thirty-third session, and also on 23 and 24 October, when views were exchanged on the necessary steps to be taken in order to maintain the momentum of the preparatory process and to ensure the participation of concerned specialized agencies and organizations.

12. Regarding other co-operation with Member States, the Second Committee of the General Assembly adopted a comprehensive resolution on matters relating to Conference preparations (see annex II). Furthermore, it adopted a draft decision whereby it was agreed to dispense with the provision of summary records for the Conference (see A/33/516, para. 13).

II. CO-OPERATION WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

13. The organization of arrangements for the Conference at Vienna is well in hand. To facilitate planning, the Government of Austria has instituted an interministerial commission under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor. For its part, the secretariat of the Conference has arranged that representatives of

concerned departments of the United Nations meet regularly to aid in the planning of the Conference and its associated activities at Vienna. Representatives of the Austrian commission have visited United Nations Headquarters on two occasions in order to discuss Conference preparations; further discussions will take place at Vienna in February 1979.

III. CO-OPERATION WITH THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

14. As emphasized by the Secretary-General of the Conference at regional meetings, despite serious constraints of time and resources the regional commissions have exerted every effort to organize two rounds of meetings and to draft the regional papers requested by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

15. The second round of regional preparatory meetings for the Conference took place as follows:

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	Bucharest, 26 to 30 June 1978
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Bangkok, 17 to 21 July
Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)	Panama City, 16 to 21 August and Montevideo, 29 November to 1 December
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	Cairo, 24 to 29 August
Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)	Amman, 12 to 14 September

16. At the Latin American regional meeting held at Panama City, it was decided that a resumed session of the regional meeting would be held in November and December 1978. The regional paper and the recommendations for action of that region were accordingly completed at the resumed session in Montevideo.

17. At Amman, Bangkok, Bucharest, Cairo and Montevideo, the representatives of States members of the regional commissions adopted recommendations for action which, together with those contained in national papers, have provided input both to the draft outline of the programme of action and also to the preliminary draft programme called for in the draft resolution contained in the report of the Second Committee to the General Assembly (A/33/516; see annex II).

18. Furthermore, the regional papers presented at these meetings which have been revised in the light of the discussions at the regional meetings are now before the third session of the Preparatory Committee and will be submitted to the Conference itself. 2/

2/ For the reports of these regional meetings, see: ECE-A/CONF.81/PC/14; ESCAP-A/CONF.81/PC/15; ECLA-A/CONF.81/PC/16; ECA-A/CONF.81/PC/17; ECWA-A/CONF.81/PC/18.

19. All regional meetings held in developing areas emphasized the need for the continuance of preparatory activities at all levels during the remaining period leading up to the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee and to the Conference itself. Formal resolutions to this effect were unanimously adopted at the meetings held at Amman, Cairo, Montevideo and Panama City. Such a continuance of activities was considered to be of critical importance, especially in view of decision 1978/60 taken by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1978, postponing the third session of the Preparatory Committee to 22 January-2 February 1979. Accordingly, the Second Committee of the General Assembly took appropriate action on this matter at the thirty-third session (see para. 12 above).

IV. CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PAPERS:
PREPARATION OF OUTLINE OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME
OF ACTION

20. At its second session, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference decided that a draft outline of the programme of action should be prepared on the basis of national and regional inputs received in due time, and submitted to the Committee at its third session, while the draft programme of action itself, consisting of a synthesis of the action proposals presented by Governments in the national papers and in the reports of the regional meetings was to be presented to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. 3/

21. In considering the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Conference, the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1978 decided by resolution 1978/70 of 4 August 1978 to request the Secretary-General of the Conference to convey the draft outline of the programme of action to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session for consideration, together with the Secretary-General's progress report, under item 70 of the Assembly's provisional agenda for that session. The Council also requested the Preparatory Committee at its third session to give careful consideration to the substantive issues and particularly to the draft programme of action which will be dealt with by the Conference, bearing in mind the principles of the new international economic order.

22. In response to these decisions, the Secretary-General of the Conference prepared a draft outline of the programme of action based on 86 national and four regional papers received by 28 August. The draft outline was accordingly submitted to the General Assembly as requested (A/33/303 and Add.1).

23. The draft resolution adopted by the Second Committee on 13 December 1978, requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare for the third session

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43 and Corr.1), annex II, decision 4 (II), sects. II and III.

of the Preparatory Committee: (a) an updated draft outline of the programme of action consolidating recommendations put forward by Governments at the national and regional levels; (b) a preliminary draft programme of action containing a theoretical and conceptual framework and recommendations for concrete measures for action at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels covering the items of the agenda of the Conference and, in particular, the development, adaptation, application and transfer of science and technology for development for developing countries; (c) a report of the possible alternatives for the final structures for the draft programme of action to be submitted to the Conference; and (d) a synoptic table classifying recommendations into those that are common to some regions and those that are common to one region, with the indication of their origin (see annex II).

24. In accordance with this draft resolution, the updated draft outline, the synoptic table and the requested preliminary draft programme of action are now before the Preparatory Committee at its third session. The last-mentioned document as informally requested by the Second Committee of the General Assembly, has been sent to the permanent missions, executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system and the focal points, as of 21 December 1978.

V. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT,
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND OTHER INTERESTED
PROGRAMMES AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

25. As the Secretary-General of the Conference has emphasized in previous reports, the Conference should not be regarded as an isolated exercise but rather as part of a broad framework for translating into action the agreed principles of the new international economic order.

26. To that end, a close working relationship has been established between the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation who is providing pertinent advice on all matters relating to the substance of the Conference.

27. Among the offices of the United Nations Secretariat that are continuing to co-operate with the secretariat of the Conference are: the Department of Administration and Management, the Department of Conference Services and the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters. A day-to-day working relationship is also maintained with the Centre for Economic and Social Information of the Office of Public Information.

28. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs provides full co-operation and the services of two officers continue to be made available to the Conference secretariat by the Office for Science and Technology which, inter alia, supports Conference-related activities in its role as secretariat to the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

29. The Advisory Committee continues to offer its counsel to the Secretary-General of the Conference and at its twenty-fourth session, held at Geneva from 31 July

to 11 August 1978, it finalized two reports relating to the Conference. The first, a report on obstacles to the application of science and technology for the development of developing countries, was prepared at the request of the Economic and Social Council under resolution 1978/5 for submission to the Preparatory Committee at its third session. The second paper, dealing with the elaboration of a United Nations harmonized science and technology policy, was prepared for the Committee on Science and Technology for Development which requested that it also be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for information. This second paper will be circulated to the Preparatory Committee after the incorporation of consolidated comments by the agencies of the United Nations system. At its twenty-fourth session, the Advisory Committee constituted a steering committee to prepare for a colloquium on Science, Technology and Society: Needs, Challenges and Limitations, to be held at Vienna in the week preceding the Conference. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee which is serviced by the Office for Science and Technology of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, as its secretariat, continues to play a role in Conference-related seminars and meetings.

30. For its part, the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations has provided assistance to the Conference secretariat in matters relating to the participation of international enterprises in science and technology activities associated with development.

31. Formal co-ordination among interested organizations of the United Nations system regarding preparations for the Conference continues to be undertaken through the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. An interagency drafting group was set up to prepare an overview paper describing the manner in which their respective activities have linked science and technology to socio-economic development and international co-operation. The ensuing draft was adopted by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its seventy-second session when it was also agreed that the paper would be presented to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference at its third session and to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at the second part of its eighteenth session (28 August-17 September 1978).

32. In accordance with a decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, representatives of the organizations, agencies and other concerned bodies of the United Nations system met informally at United Nations Headquarters on 18 and 19 December 1978, in order to exchange views on the documents to be presented to the Preparatory Committee by the Secretary-General of the Conference.

33. In addition, the organizations of the United Nations system have been invited to contribute documents setting out their position with regard to the specific items and subitems of the Conference agenda and a number have accordingly begun preparation of such background documentation as required under decision 4 (I) of the second session of the Committee.

34. Other contributions to Conference preparation have been made by: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). These organizations have either made staff members available to join the Conference secretariat at United Nations Headquarters or have designated staff members to serve as liaison officers at their own headquarters. In addition, organizations of the United Nations system have participated in and have sponsored meetings at the regional, subregional and international levels within the framework of the Conference or have contributed to its preparation. Such activities include: the second session of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, held at Geneva from 4 to 15 December 1978; a ministerial-level International Forum on Appropriate Industrial Technology, convened by UNIDO at Anand, India, from 28 to 30 November 1978; MINESPOL II, organized by UNESCO and held at Belgrade in September 1978, involving ministers responsible for science and technology in the European and North American regions; and the twentieth session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris in October and November 1978. At this meeting it was requested that the secretariat of UNESCO work closely with the Preparatory Committee of the Conference in order to associate the Conference directly with the International Year for Science and Technology (1980), as a follow-up and a reinforcement to the recommendations of the Conference.

35. The Administrator of UNDP has so arranged that resident representatives have been assisting in co-ordinating the contributions of local organizations and in encouraging their active participation in national preparations. Furthermore, the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, organized by UNDP at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, is closely involved with many issues to be taken up at the Conference on Science and Technology for Development (see A/CONF.79/13/Rev.1).

VI. CO-OPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

36. Contacts with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system are being maintained and expanded, in order to ensure these organizations' full participation in preparations for the Conference in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Preparatory Committee. The following cites but three examples of action taken in respect of preparations for the Conference by intergovernmental organizations.

37. The Ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Dakar in April 1978, decided to convene a scientific conference of its member States in order to draft a common position paper for presentation to the Conference (see A/33/151, annex III, 8).

38. Furthermore, in accordance with the spirit of decision 1 (I) of the Preparatory Committee at its first session, 4/ it was decided at the Conference

4/ Ibid.: Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/32/43), annex II.

of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade in July 1978, that a meeting of representatives of all developing countries should take place in the period between the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself, the purpose of the meeting being to adopt a common position on substantive issues that will be raised at Vienna (A/33/206, annex I, para. 195 (k) and annex II, para. 22).

39. Also, in accordance with resolution 2023 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council, the Latin American Economic System, at a meeting held at Montevideo on the occasion of the resumed session of the ECLA regional meeting, examined the implications of the Latin American contribution to the Conference.

VII. CO-OPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

40. The Secretary-General of the Conference continues to promote co-operation with the scientific and technological communities at the national, regional and global levels by participating in appropriate governmental and non-governmental meetings, bilateral discussions and briefings and by making documentation and information material available to interested individuals and organizations.

41. In order to encourage the involvement of those organizations that may be in a position to contribute constructively to the Conference in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 31/184, the secretariat of the Conference maintains a close working relationship with the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO). The CONGO Committee on Science and Technology for Development is currently arranging for relevant activities to take place concurrently with the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee and with the Conference itself. Representatives of the Secretary-General of the Conference attended a meeting convened by CONGO at United Nations Headquarters from 25 to 29 September 1978. This body has prepared a paper giving its comments on the outline of the programme of action for circulation to the Preparatory Committee at its third session.

42. The Secretary-General of the Conference is represented at a symposium organized by a consortium of 19 international scientific organizations, convened by the International Council of Scientific Unions on the subject of science and technology for development, being held at Singapore from 22 to 26 January 1979.

43. Another meeting will be held early in 1979, in Africa under the auspices of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat. Others have taken place or shall take place in Jamaica, organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development, and at Mexico City under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development with the support of El Colegio de Mexico and with the co-operation of the National Committee for Science and Technology.

44. In a number of other instances, Governments are encouraging the involvement of the scientific and technological communities in the Conference. For example, the State Committee of the Council of Ministers for Science and Technology of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics sponsored an international symposium on Trends and Prospects in Development of Science and Technology and their Impact on the Solution of Contemporary Global Problems at Tallin, USSR, from 8 to 12 January 1979.

45. In addition, the secretariat of the Conference maintains close contact with officials of the Vienna Institute for Development, the focus for non-governmental activity in the host country.

VIII. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE (ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE)

46. A number of authors are now preparing contributions to the experts' report called for under item 4 of the provisional agenda of the Conference, according to the general guidelines for the report as agreed upon at a meeting of experts held at Geneva from 21 to 25 November 1977. These contributions, when consolidated, will form the major part of the report itself. Arrangements are also being made, at present, for the preparation of a shorter paper providing an overview of the issues involved to form part of the expert group's report.

47. A number of meetings convened by Governments or non-governmental organizations, and referred to in the present document, will concern themselves with the subject-matter of Conference agenda item 4, and the Secretary-General of the Conference expects that reports from these meetings will be available at the time of the Conference. They will also be considered as contributions to the discussion of the issues involved under this agenda item. Such reports will not form an integral part of the report of the expert group itself, but it is intended that summaries of them should be appended to the expert group report.

48. An advisory committee made up of an illustrative segment of the productive sector from a broad spectrum of countries has been established and is preparing a report outlining the views of that sector on the questions involved in item 4; it is intended that the advisory committee's report will be available at the time of the Conference and a summary will be appended to the experts' report on agenda item 4.

49. Arrangements are also being made for a similar contribution from organized labour for the documentation to be presented to the Conference under this agenda item.

Annex I

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1978/70,
ENTITLED "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY"

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, also General Assembly resolutions 32/115 and 32/184 of 15 and 19 December 1977, respectively,

Recalling also Council resolutions 2028 (LXI) and 2035 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, which concern in particular the preparatory arrangements for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and Council resolution 2123 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 referring to the co-ordination of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,

Bearing in mind the need for greater co-ordination among the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system concerned, with a view to determining the necessary operational and institutional links between science, technology and development, within the context of the New International Economic Order,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development; a/

2. Urges all specialized agencies and other bodies concerned in the United Nations system, and also organizations outside the system, to ensure that the documents required for the future sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and for the Conference itself contain clear and specific recommendations, and that their efforts are effectively co-ordinated, in order to make the best use of available resources towards attaining the goals of the Conference;

3. Requests the Preparatory Committee at its third session to give careful consideration to the substantive issues, and particularly to the draft programme of action which will be dealt with by the Conference, bearing in mind the principles of the New International Economic Order;

a/ E/1978/82.

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) To complete work as soon as possible on the documentation requested in resolution 4 (II) adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its second session; b/

(b) To transmit the documentation to the national focal points for consideration by Governments, in order to facilitate preparations for the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

(c) To convey the draft outline of the programme of action to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session for consideration, together with the Secretary-General's progress report, under item 70 of the Assembly's provisional agenda for that session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to arrange consultations with the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and interested delegations during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, in accordance with Council resolution 2123 (LXIII), in order to maintain the momentum of the preparatory process and to take steps to ensure the participation of the specialized agencies and organizations concerned.

b/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43), annex I.

Annex II

DRAFT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION, ENTITLED "UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT" (A/33/516)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling further section III, paragraph 7, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, in which it decided that a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development would be held in 1978 or 1979,

Recalling its resolutions 31/184 of 21 December 1976, 32/115 of 15 December 1977 and 32/184 of 19 December 1977,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolutions 2028 (LXI) and 2035 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and 1978/70 of 4 August 1978,

Taking note of the report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, a/

Taking note also of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the Conference preparations b/ including its annex as well as of the draft outline of the programme of action, c/

Having in mind the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee concerning the date of the convening of the Conference,

1. Decides that the Conference will be held from 20 to 31 August 1979 at Vienna;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference for submission to the third session of the Preparatory Committee and for its consideration:

(a) To update the draft outline of the programme of action c/ consolidating recommendations put forward by Governments at the national and regional levels by incorporating those which have not yet been included;

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43 and Corr.1).

b/ A/33/298.

c/ A/33/303 and Add.1.

(b) To prepare a preliminary draft programme of action containing, on the basis of an analysis of the information contained in the document mentioned above, a theoretical and conceptual framework and recommendations for concrete measures for action at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels covering the items of the agenda of the Conference and, in particular, the development, adaptation, application and transfer of science and technology for development of developing countries, in order to facilitate negotiation and achievement of maximum possible agreement on substantive issues, prior to the Conference;

(c) To prepare a report on the possible alternatives for the final structures of the draft programme of action to be submitted to the Conference;

(d) To prepare a synoptic table classifying recommendations into those that are common to all regions, those that are common to some regions, and those that are specific to one region, with the indication of their origin;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee a supplement to "Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system" (A/CONF.81/PC/19) analysing outputs, gaps and/or overlap of present United Nations activities in the area of science and technology for development as a background document for the consideration of the draft programme of action, bearing in mind the views expressed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America to submit to the Conference secretariat, if possible by 15 December 1978, the conceptual and action-oriented proposals from the Latin American Regional Meeting;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to make all efforts to ensure the early availability to Governments for their timely consideration the documents requested in paragraph 2 above prior to the convening of the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

6. Decides, in view of the time constraints and of the desirability of reaching maximum agreement on substantive issues before the convening of the Conference, that necessary facilities should be provided to enable the Preparatory Committee if it so decides to hold a further meeting or to extend the duration of its currently scheduled meetings;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary arrangements, including the requisite financial provisions, are made for the continuation of national, regional and interregional preparations for the Conference including a meeting of the developing countries, members of the Group of 77;

8. Invites the regional commissions as well as other concerned organs of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

to continue to give full support to the Secretary-General of the Conference in the preparatory work for the Conference;

9. Endorses the decision of the Preparatory Committee at its second session to include Arabic as an official language of the Preparatory Committee. d/

d/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43), para. 83.