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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Fourth session

23 April-4 May 1979

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting
the role of science and technology for development

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, in co-operation with the units of the United Nations system responsible, a review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development. 1/ At the second session of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference was further requested to prepare a "preview" of the review paper containing references to the decisions and resolutions adopted at recent United Nations conferences having a bearing on the application of science and technology to development. 2/

2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General of the Conference submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee a conference room paper entitled "Preview of the Review Paper on Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations of Recent

* A/CONF.81/PC/27.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/32/43), annex II, decision 1 (I), para. 9.

2/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43), annex II, decision 4 (II), sect. II.4.

United Nations Conferences Highlighting the Role of Science and Technology for Development." 3/ At the third session, the Preparatory Committee took note of the paper. 4/

3. In the preview paper submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee, it was pointed out that, following consultations with agencies and organizations concerned, agreement was reached that only global conferences on specific subjects should be covered and not regular meetings of governing bodies. Moreover, the term "recent" was defined to include the five-year period beginning in 1972. 5/ Also, it was agreed that only those recommendations which clearly highlighted the role of science and technology should be included. On the basis of the criteria designated, 21 conferences were listed for coverage, and of these the recommendations of 19 were contained in the document. Only the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology could not be included in the document submitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee because those two conferences had not yet taken place at the time of the drafting of the document. 6/

4. Thus the addendum to the original paper made available to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee 7/ includes the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and of the UNIDO International Forum on Appropriate Industrial Technology, as the latter also meets the criteria set forth for the selection of conferences. However, the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology have not been included as these have not yet been finalized.

5. As mandated by the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference has co-operated with the units of the United Nations system concerned in the preparation of the review paper. Contributions for this paper were requested - and obtained - from all 13 organizational units concerned. They will be submitted together with an analytic introduction, as required in the review paper, during the second week of the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. 8/

3/ A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.1.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/34/43), annex II, decision 7 (III).

5/ This was adhered to with only two minor exceptions.

6/ See A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.1, p. 6.

7/ A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.1/Add.1.

8/ A/CONF.81/PC/33.