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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Fifth session
25 June-6 July 1979

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:
 - (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, including a review of the progress in the preparation of the experts' report for item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Conference;
 - (b) Draft programme of action;
 - (c) Organizational matters related to the Conference;
 - (d) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system;
 - (e) Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.
3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and organization of work

The Preparatory Committee, at its fourth session, approved the provisional agenda for its fifth session. 1/

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

(a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, including a review of the progress in the preparation of the experts' report for item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Conference

The report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress in the preparatory work for the Conference will review the work undertaken since the submission of the report to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.81/PC/29). This will embrace the work undertaken in the preparation of the experts' report on 'Science and technology and the future'. As requested at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee will have before it a review of the experts' report.

By decision 10 (III) of 30 January 1979, 2/ the Preparatory Committee decided that the discussion paper to be prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference for items 1, 2 and 3 (subsequently re-numbered as items 4, 5 and 6) of the provisional agenda of the Conference should be consolidated into one report of 50 pages. This consolidated discussion paper will be before the Preparatory Committee.

Documentation

- (1) Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress of the preparatory work for the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC/39);
- (2) Science and technology and the future: a systematic review of the main points of the experts' report on item 7 of the provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC/41);
- (3) Discussion paper on items 4, 5 and 6 of the provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC/42).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth session, Supplement No. 43 (A/34/43), vol. II, para. 46.

2/ Ibid., vol. I, annex I.

(b) Draft programme of action

Following discussions at informal meetings held during the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, the Committee had before it a conference room paper (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.5) representing in summary form a record of those discussions. The conference room paper dealt with target area A and contained texts from the position paper of the Group of 77 (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2) and from statements made by various delegations, some of which were in square brackets.

Documentation

- (1) Preliminary draft programme of action (rearranged as required by resolution 6 (III) of the Preparatory Committee) (A/CONF.81/PC/28);
- (2) Position of the Group of 77 regarding a programme of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:

Preamble (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2/Add.3);

Target Area A - Strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2);

Target Area B - Restructuring the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1);

Target Area C - Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology and the provision of increased financial resources (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2/Add.2);

- (3) Text resulting from informal consultations, held from 26 April to 3 May 1979, on document A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.2, relating to a programme of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:

Target Area A - Strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries (A/CONF.81/PC/CRP.5).

(c) Organizational matters related to the Conference

By decision 16 (IV) of 4 May 1979, 3/ the Preparatory Committee approved a number of proposals concerning the organization of work of the Conference. By decision 17 (IV) of the same date, 3/ the Committee decided to postpone to its fifth session consideration of the proposed allocation of items of the provisional agenda of the Conference.

Documentation

Proposed allocation of items (A/CONF.81/PC/L.16 and Add.1).

3/ Ibid., vol. II, annex I.

(d) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

The Secretary-General of the Conference will report to the Preparatory Committee at its fifth session on the implementation of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 33/192 of 29 January 1979, in which the Assembly requested him to submit to the Committee a supplement to the "Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system", 4/ 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. 5/

By decision 19 (IV) of 4 May 1979, 6/ the Preparatory Committee decided that the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development entitled "Formulation of a harmonized science and technology policy for programmes within the United Nations system" should be circulated to its fifth session together with any available comments of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system on the report.

In addition, in response to decision 20 (IV) of the same date, 6/ the Secretary-General of the Conference is to report to the Preparatory Committee on the resources available within the United Nations system for strengthening the scientific and technological capability of developing countries.

Documentation

- (1) Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress of the preparatory work for the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC/39);
- (2) Cross-organizational analysis of United Nations programmes in the field of science and technology for development, including data on resources available within the United Nations system for strengthening the scientific and technological capability of developing countries;
- (3) Report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on the formulation of a harmonized science and technology policy for programmes within the United Nations system (A/CONF.81/PC/38), and any available comments of agencies and organizations of the United Nations system on the report.

4/ A/CONF.81/PC/19.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/33/30), chap. IV, sect. B.

6/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/34/43), vol. II, annex I.

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

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 1 (I) of 11 February 1977, 7/ requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, in co-operation with the units of the United Nations system that are responsible for implementing the decisions of recent United Nations conferences, a review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of such conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 4 (II) of 3 February 1978, 8/ specified that it should have before it at its third session a preview of the above-mentioned review paper, containing mainly references to the decisions and resolutions adopted at recent United Nations conferences having a bearing on the application of science and technology to development and, at its fourth session, the completed review paper, which would report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations, decisions and resolutions adopted at recent United Nations conferences having a bearing on science and technology for development.

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 7 (III) of 30 January 1979, 9/ took note of the conference room paper containing a preview of the review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.

In decision 15 (IV) of 4 May 1979, 6/ the Preparatory Committee took note of the documents prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference on further work done in response to its earlier request. At its fifth session, the Committee will have before it the completed review paper.

Documentation

Review paper on the implementation of recommendations of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development (A/CONF.81/PC/33/Add.1).

3. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee will adopt the report on its fifth session.

7/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/32/43), annex I.

8/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43 and Corr.1), annex II.

9/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/34/43), annex II.