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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Transfer of Technology
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IMPACT OF NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD WORK PROGRAMME ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY
AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK

OTHER BUSINESS

Draft resolution submitted by the representative of Algeria
on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77

The Committee on Transfer of Technology:

Recalling resolution 143(VI), of 2 July 1983.

Recalling further its resolutions 28(V), 29(V) and 30(V) adopted at its fifth session.

Noting documents TD/B/C.6/136; TD/B/C.6/137; TD/B/C.6/137/Add.1; TD/B/C.6/141 and TD/B/1111-TD/B/C.6/140 submitted to it for its consideration at its sixth session.

1. Recognizes that technology in its various forms is a permanent and complex factor of the development process and that its rapid change presents one of the greatest challenges to developing countries. In this context it is necessary to ensure that national efforts of developing countries are duly appreciated and supplemented through international co-operation.
2. Reaffirms that to cope with the rapid changes in technology, as well as to reap the benefits from conventional technologies, the technological capacity of developing countries needs to be strengthened. In this context special attention needs to be given to accelerate the technological transformation of the least developed countries.

3. Notes that recent national and international efforts to provide an adequate legal protection for the rapidly evolving technological developments have further shed light on the interrelationship between the legal protection of technological advances and the channels and mechanisms for the transfer and development of technology. Attention should therefore continue to be given to the improvement of the legal environment for the development, acquisition and transfer of technology.

4. Further notes with interest the studies on national policies, laws and regulations prepared by the Secretariat and requires that these be updated with a view to:

i) Facilitate convergent interpretation of the principles of an international code of conduct on transfer of technology and a strategy for the technological transformation of the developing countries;

ii) Analyze the influence of the legislation on the trade and development of technology and of the technological and commercial changes on the legislation.

5. Recommends that a manual on national laws and regulations conducive to the acquisition and development of technology should be prepared in order to assist developing countries in devising an adequate legal framework in this field.

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General and the President of the Conference on the Code of Conduct of Transfer of Technology on the consultations they have had with regional groups and governments. Further notes that during 1987 consultations will be continued on a more structured basis and finalized. In furtherance to this, strongly recommends the adoption of an international code of conduct on the transfer of technology containing universally applicable principles and standards taking particularly into account the special needs of developing countries.

7. Recognizes that small and medium enterprises can represent an important source of technological know-how adapted to the needs of a number of developing countries, and can contribute to technological innovation.

8. Recommends that the programme of work on the transfer of technology by small and medium-sized enterprises should continue. Seminars and workshops should be convened in co-operation with UNIDO, regional and other relevant organizations. Resources, including extra-budgetary resources, should be sought for this purpose. Such seminars and workshops should involve not only government officials but also enterprises from both developed and developing countries, with a view to making practical proposals for increasing the benefits which developing countries can derive from the transfer of technology by small and medium-sized enterprises.

9. Notes that the Meeting of Intergovernmental Group of Experts in the Transfer, Application and Development of Technology in the Energy Sector Paying Particular Attention to New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the Meeting of the Informal Group of Experts on Technology-Related Policy Issues in the Food Sector produced constructive outcomes and demonstrated the value of such meetings. Requests the recommendations of Groups of Experts be sent to the regional commissions for their further consideration; and later inform the Committee on Transfer of Technology of the commissions' response thereto.

10. Recognizes the critical importance of the capital goods sector and requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene a meeting of governmental group of experts after adequate preparation and report on the studies made on the recommendations of the group of experts for the consideration of the Committee at its Seventh session.

11. Recognizes the need for particular attention to be given to the diverse and changing needs of developing countries for technical and operational assistance. UNCTAD's responsiveness in meeting their increasing requirements should be kept under review and strengthened, as needed.

12. Notes with satisfaction the activities of the Advisory Service on Technology Transfer and recommends that the further programme of ASTT should accord priority to programmes relating to training and retraining. The training programmes should be so structured to ensure larger participation. Workshops and seminars should be organized in close co-operation with other United Nations agencies, governments or other specialized institutions. In view of the above, recommends provision of increased resources to training and human resources development. Priority should be accorded to a continued programme for the development of the human resource base and skills of developing countries, including the preparation of training materials and methodological tools such as manuals, handbooks, guidelines.

13. Recommends to undertake a survey on the types and mechanisms of technological information, including information on training, programmes contained in existing international data banks with a view to prepare a directory.

14. Notes with appreciation the preliminary studies on the impact of new and emerging technologies on trade and development. Strongly urges the Secretariat to continue such studies and ensure a wider dissemination of the studies and seek the views of the governments. The areas of impact of induction of such technologies should be analyzed with a view to alert the possible adverse effects, particularly on the developing countries; progressively, the studies should be directed to the possible ways in which developing countries can overcome those adverse effects and benefit from the emergence of those technologies. In undertaking this work, special emphasis should be placed on improving the understanding of the relationship between technological change, production and trade, and its implications, particularly as regards the export possibilities of developing countries. Further analysis should be undertaken on the factors such as labour, training and retraining affecting the absorption and mastery of new technologies, particularly microelectronics-based technologies in these countries, including their effects on comparative advantages of developing countries.

15. Recommends that further activities should be undertaken by UNCTAD as the lead agency with respect to transfer of technologies, innovations and results originating from United Nations system funded R and D, including locating and systematizing these results, and evolving suitable policies and mechanisms for their effective utilization or commercialization as a contribution to technological capacity-building of developing countries. A directory of major programmes be prepared as well as a manual of the major facilities established with United Nations funds.

16. Recognizes the divergent interests of inventors, manufacturers, users and supplying and acquiring parties in the transfer of technology, particularly with respect to the new and emerging technologies. Therefore requests the Secretary-General to make in-depth studies on the interrelationships among intellectual property relating to such technologies - including new technologies, as for example computer programmes, integrated circuits and biotechnology - transfer of technology, technological innovation, industrial competitiveness and international trade.

17. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of a Intergovernmental Group of Experts to analyze the scope, import and effects of the industrial property's recent developments and trends within international context, specially with respect to the Transfer of Technology to the developing countries. The in-depth studies prepared by the Secretariat should be completed in time for consideration of this intergovernmental group of experts. Further requests the Secretariat-General to submit the recommendations of the Group of Experts for further consideration to the Committee at its Seventh session.

18. Strongly recommends that special emphasis is to be given to defining the substantive thrust, content and funding arrangements for long-term assistance activities in support of the least developed countries.

19. Notes commendable efforts made by the UNCTAD secretariat to reinforce internal co-ordination and cross-fertilization within UNCTAD and to co-operate more actively with other United Nations organizations.

20. Requests UNDP to co-operate with UNCTAD Secretariat in financing transfer of technology projects and invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to expand co-operation with other funding sources and keep the Committee informed on possible areas of support and on activities carried out.