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THE ROLE OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF NATIONS AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICO-
SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Leandro I. VERCELES (Philippines)

1. By a letter dated 12 July 1970 (A/7995), Romania requested the Secretary-General to include in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic and technico-scientific co-operation among States".*
2. At its 1343rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda and to allocate it to the Second Committee for consideration and report.
3. The Second Committee considered this item at its 1346th, 1347th and 1348th meetings, held on 20 and 23 November 1970.^{1/}
4. At the 1346th meeting, on 20 November 1970, the representative of Romania, on behalf of the delegations of Canada, Chile, France, Ghana, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Tunisia, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1132) which read as follows:

* The original translation of the item from French into English, as it appeared in document A/7995, read "The role of modern science and technology in national development and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States". The correct translation was incorporated in the provisional agenda (A/8000).

^{1/} A/C.2/SR.1346-1348.

"The General Assembly,

"Convinced that science and technology is one of the main pillars of economic and social development,

"Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations, particularly under Articles 55 and 56 of its Charter, and taking into account the need for increased international co-operation in bringing the benefits of science and technology to all peoples of the world,

"Recalling paragraphs (60) to (64) of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade which, inter alia, underline the need for international co-operation in science and technology and the implementation of a programme for promoting the transfer of technology to the developing countries,

"Noting the contribution made in their respective fields by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, particularly its work in formulating a World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and the competent organizations of the United Nations system to the promotion of international programmes of scientific and technical co-operation,

"Recalling its resolutions 2082 (XX) of 20 December 1965, and 2318 (XXII) of 15 December 1967, on the strengthening of international co-operation in the application of science and technology to the economic and social development of the developing countries,

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1454 (XLVII) and 1544 (XLIX) on future institutional arrangements for science and technology,

"Recalling further resolution 74 (X) of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the transfer of technology, including know-how and patents,

"1. Recognizes the interest of all countries in benefiting from the achievements of modern science and technology for the acceleration of their economic and social development and in having access to the world's intellectual and technical resources, having regard to the special needs of the developing countries;

"2. Calls upon Governments to give due attention to the promotion of science and technology in their national policies and to encourage increased international technical and scientific co-operation, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, and to look for new ways and means to develop this co-operation;

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"3. Recognizes the importance of establishing direct channels of co-operation among universities, research institutes, laboratories and similar institutions, within countries and among countries, irrespective of their level of economic development and their political and social systems;

"4. Invites the competent organs and organizations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other appropriate organizations to take further action aimed at strengthening economic, scientific and technical co-operation within their existing and contemplated programmes, and to support the efforts of Member States, especially the developing countries, to utilize science and technology in furthering the major objectives of their economic and social development;

"5. Invites the United Nations Development Programme and the international financial institutions to give priority, in accordance with requests by Governments to projects directly concerned with the application of science and technology to development, including the financing of bilateral links between research and educational institutions of countries at different levels of economic development, bearing in mind the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade and the need to strengthen the scientific community in the developing countries and the promotion of indigenous technology;

"6. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council, and particularly to the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development that they should continue to give consideration to the long-term economic and social implications of science and technology having due regard to the special needs of the developing countries;

"7. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut intensify their efforts to widen and diversify technical and scientific co-operation among countries within the various regions;

"8. Recommends to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other competent organizations that they continue and intensify their efforts for the transfer of operative technology to the developing countries, including assistance for the promotion of indigenous technology;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and with whatever other collaboration may prove necessary, to prepare a study which would:

"(a) Evaluate the main implications of modern science and technology particularly for development, and, on this basis, appraise the results

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achieved within the framework of the United Nations system and the difficulties encountered in promoting science and technology and their application to development, since the first United Nations Conference on this subject in 1963;

"(b) Suggest practical ways and means of strengthening international co-operation in the new applications of science and technology in the economic and social fields;

"(c) Suggest forms of international action within the framework of the United Nations system, to ensure that scientific and technical achievements are more effectively applied to the needs of all countries, giving special consideration to the situation of the developing countries;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit his study to Member States and to the competent organs of the United Nations system for analysis and discussion so as to facilitate the submission of the study to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to enable it to be considered at the time of the first biennial review of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

"11. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session, of the progress made in preparing his study."

5. Australia and Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 1346th meeting, the Committee heard a statement by the Secretary of the Committee concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.^{2/}

7. At the 1347th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Madagascar proposed a new text (A/C.2/L.1134), to replace operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"2. Calls upon Governments to give all due attention to the promotion of science and technology in their national policies, to encourage, on both a bilateral and multilateral basis, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, increased economic, technical and scientific co-operation which should culminate in specific proposals aiming essentially at the local exploitation and development of their natural resources, and to seek new ways and means for intensifying this co-operation."

8. At the 1348th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Madagascar withdrew his amendment. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia, on behalf of the co-sponsors, now joined by Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria and India, submitted a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.2/L.1132/Rev.1).

9. Madagascar joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.
10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution without objection (see paragraph 11 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic and technico-scientific co-operation among States

The General Assembly,

Convinced that science and technology constitute one of the main pillars of economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the responsibilities of the United Nations, particularly under Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, and taking into account the need for increased international co-operation in bringing the benefits of science and technology to all peoples of the world,

Recalling paragraphs 60 and 64 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade^{3/} which, inter alia, makes provision for the measures to be taken by the developing and developed countries and appropriate international organizations for international co-operation in science and technology and for the implementation of a programme designed to promoting the transfer of technology to the developing countries,

Noting the contribution made in their respective fields by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, particularly its various recommendations and its work in formulating a World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and the competent organizations of the United Nations system to the promotion of international programmes of scientific and technical co-operation,

Recalling its resolutions 2082 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and 2318 (XXII) of 15 December 1967 on the strengthening of international co-operation in the application of science and technology to the economic and social development of the developing countries,

^{3/} General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit his study to Member States and to the competent organs of the United Nations system for analysis and discussion so as to facilitate the submission of the study to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to enable it to be considered at the time of the first biennial review of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session of the progress made in preparing his study.
