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CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Executive Secretary

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Annex - Decisions of the High-Level Committee
adopted at its second session.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The consideration of the issue of co-operation among developing countries as a priority area in the secretariat's proposed Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989) and its inclusion in ECWA's workprogramme constitute a major development in the Commission's support for strengthening regional co-operation and integration. For the first time, a specific programme element appears in ECWA's 1982-1983 workprogramme 1/ particularly designed to enable the secretariat to focus on the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries.
2. Following its resolution 70(VI) on co-operation among developing countries, the Commission in its Eighth Session adopted two other related resolutions, namely, 97(VIII) and 105(VIII).
3. Resolution 97(VIII), deals with co-operation between the Economic Commission for Western Asia and specialized Arab and regional organizations with a view to the co-ordination of their joint projects. This resolution recommended, in its operative paragraphs 1 and 2, that the secretariat of the commission should:
 - (a) Hold prior consultations with the specialized Arab and regional organizations jointly concerned before preparing draft proposals for studies and activities in its short and medium-term work programmes and should collaborate with them in order to avoid the repetition of these studies and activities;
 - (b) Co-operate with specialized Arab or regional organizations in the undertaking of studies and activities of a joint nature.
4. The above resolution also requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to put the contents of these recommendations into effect (operative para 4) 2/.

1/ This programme element falls under the subprogramme dealing with programme planning and co-ordination.

2/ Specific information and details on follow-up to this resolution is covered in document (E/ECWA/139) to be discussed under item 6 (b) of the provisional Agenda.

5. Resolution 105(VIII) on defining and strengthening the functions of the Commission within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system requested the Executive Secretary, in its operative para (6), to:

(a) Identify and expand his efforts to promote regional co-operation and integration;

(b) Pursue consultations with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions, with a view to strengthening economic and technical co-operation among developing countries at the interregional level.

6. In line with ECWA work programme for the biennium 1982-1983 and in follow-up to the above mentioned resolutions, this report aims at reviewing briefly ECWA's activities and measures taken in support of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries at both the regional and interregional levels. It also brings to the attention of the Commission the discussions of the High-level Committee on Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries (New York, 1-8 June 1981).

II. RESEARCH, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES

7. As part of the over-all effort of the United Nations system within the framework of the pertinent international resolutions and those of ECWA, the secretariat continued to monitor, review and undertake promotional, operational and supporting activities, with a view to intensifying co-operation among developing countries and regional integration.

8. The Commission's work programme, in its major components of research, training and advisory services, is strongly oriented towards activities that have a regional dimension and impact. In this context, a number of periodicals were issued and research studies were undertaken under the Commission's substantive programmes. These activities are covered in document E/ECWA/138 to be discussed under item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda.

9. Spreading awareness of the capabilities and potentials of member countries for co-operation is an important means for the promotion of TCDC at the regional level. As a first step in this direction, the secretariat has embarked on a research project to develop a directory of training and research institutes and programmes and consultancy services available in countries of

the ECWA region. This project is well underway: the directory is expected to be published before the end of 1982. Comprehensive information from governments, universities, regional and international organizations was collected through questionnaires, interviews, visits and published material. The information collected includes details on the objectives and services of training and research institutions as well as particulars of training courses and programmes. It also provides some details on consultancy firms available in the ECWA region.

10. This TCDC information project, is one in a series of directories planned as a nucleus for developing a regional information system that will contribute to:

(a) Promoting collective self-reliance among countries of the ECWA region by accelerating the development of closer links among themselves through TCDC action;

(b) Raising awareness of potential and existing capabilities of ECWA member countries and assisting in strengthening communication and knowledge among developing countries regarding the scope and possibilities for technical co-operation.

11. One immediate TCDC operational objective is to identify the most practical TCDC activities which are potentially feasible and cost-effective to implement. Another objective is to define those impediments to adequate and effective co-ordination of actual TCDC programmes and projects in the ECWA region. Within this framework, a project proposal on the identification and co-ordination of regional activities for the promotion of TCDC has been formulated. This project consists of a research study followed by an expert group meeting. The study of TCDC problems and prospects in the region shall cover:

(a) Research and analysis of TCDC co-ordination problems through questionnaires outlining various aspects of the work prepared and sent to various TCDC focal points and economic groupings in the ECWA region;

(b) Travel to the region and the establishment of direct contacts with various public and private organizations; and

(c) Examining relevant publications relating to TCDC activities in order to determine the extent of co-ordination of the ongoing TCDC projects in

the ECWA region. This study and its conclusions will form the background information for the planned expert meeting to which participants from the ECWA region, the United Nations organizations and other economic groupings will be invited. The report of the meeting and its recommendations will be considered possibly by the forthcoming Session of the Commission.

12. This major project for the promotion of co-operation among developing countries will be implemented upon securing extra-budgetary financing.

13. A number of meetings and seminars were held by ECWA during 1981 and constituted a major means for promoting regional co-operation and establishing a basis of self-sustaining co-operation and integration. ECWA's activities and follow-up action with regard to these meetings are covered under item 7 of the provisional agenda 1/. Below is a list of those meetings convened in 1981:

(a) Expert Group Meeting on Management, Conservation and Development of Agricultural Resources in the ECWA Region (Damascus, 9-15 May, 1981);

(b) Conference on International Migration in the Arab World (Cyprus, 11-16 May, 1981);

(c) Expert Group Meeting on the Development of the Petrochemical Industry in the ECWA Region (Vienna, 9-12 June 1981);

(d) Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Projects for Regional Co-operation in Capital Goods and Heavy Engineering Industry (Vienna, 15-19 June 1981);

(e) Expert Group Meeting on Foreign Trade and Industrial Statistics (Amman, 5-10 September 1981);

(f) Expert Group Meeting on Feasible Forms of Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia (Beirut, 14-18 December 1981);

(g) Seminar on Technology Policies in the Arab States (Paris, 14-18 December 1981).

1/ Documents E/ECWA/145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150 and 151.

14. ECWA continued to provide technical advisory services to countries of the region, which covered in 1981 the following: development planning; industrial projects identification; public finance; financial management; national accounts; household surveys and transport and communications 1/.

III. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

15. ECWA has continued to support regional training and research institute. It has been acting as an executing agency for the following two UNDP-assisted projects: the Arab Planning Institute for Development in Kuwait (RAB/77/002) and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics in Baghdad (RAB/79/028). It has participated in preparations for the establishment of the Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies. Furthermore, a regional training programme for the development of industrial technological capabilities in the petroleum-based industries in Western Asia is now operational 2/. This programme is funded by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

IV. REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

16. ECWA continued its efforts to intensify its co-ordination and co-operation with regional organizations. Thus, pursuant to a number of resolutions, the Commission has worked out arrangements varying from formal agreements, memoranda of understanding, agreements of co-operation to statements of joint meetings with a number of those organizations and institutions 3/.

1/ For further details of ECWA advisory services and technical assistance, reference should be made to document E/ECWA/138/Add.1 to be discussed under item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda.

2/ For further details on ECWA's support to these institutions, reference is made to document E/ECWA/138/Add.1.

3/ These arrangements cover the following regional intergovernmental organizations: the Arab Funds for Development (AFESD, KFAED, ADFAED); the League of Arab States (LAS); the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS); the Arab Labour Organization (ALO); the Arab Planning Institute (API); the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); the Arab Organization for Administrative Science (AOAS); the Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (AOSM); the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU); the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); the Arab Federation for Iron and Steel (AFIS); the Arab Tourism Union (ATU); the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Land and Dry Areas (ACSALDA); the Arab Towns Organization (ATO); the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC).

17. Prior to ECWA resolution 97(VIII) mentioned earlier in this report, consultations on work programmes and medium-term plans between specialized Arab and regional organizations and the ECWA secretariat proceeded on an ad hoc basis. The Commission's most important policy document on its Medium-Term Plan 1984-1989, constituting the framework for biennial budgets, was submitted for comments to all specialized Arab and regional organizations 1/. This document takes into consideration the relevant global and regional resolutions and directives concerning long and short-term objectives of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. In addition, regional and Arab organizations have been invited to participate in the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Committee to be held in Baghdad from 2-5 May 1982. This Committee, which will consider development priorities for the forthcoming medium-term planning period, will also look into institutional measures for prior consultation and co-ordination between ECWA and regional organizations through the establishment of a "Committee for the Programme" as a subsidiary body of the Commission.

V. INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

18. The Commission made substantive inputs and actively participated in the following United Nations World Conferences: 2/

(a) United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981).

(b) United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris, 1-14 September 1981).

19. ECWA continued to undertake consultations and establish contacts with other regional commissions with a view to developing new joint activities. A number of activities were jointly undertaken in the past and common positions were held. The exploration of further joint endeavours for the benefit of developing countries and regions is an on-going process. In this context and in co-operation with other regional commissions, ECWA is making efforts to be associated with the UNDP/UNCTAD programme of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

1/ For details on ECWA's co-operation activities with regional organizations, reference is made to document E/ECWA/139 to be discussed under item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda.

2/ For information on ECWA's activities in relation to those international meetings, reference is made to documents E/ECWA/143 and 144 under item 7 (a) and (b) of the provisional agenda.

20. Consultations between UNDP, UNCTAD and the regional commissions regarding the UNDP/UNCTAD Programme took place in New York in February 1981. These consultations were included as an agenda item of the meeting of the Executive Secretaries of regional commissions which was held at that time under the chairmanship of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

21. Following an exchange of views on the main issues involved, the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions requested: (a) a suitable expansion of the UNDP/UNCTAD Standing Committee on ECDC/TCDC to include the regional commissions in view of the latter's responsibility for promotion of economic and technical co-operation within their respective regions; and (b) an assessment of the most appropriate division of labour as between the regional commissions, UNDP and UNCTAD in terms of the identification, formulation and implementation of specific operational activities.

22. The response of UNCTAD and UNDP was positive. The Executive Secretaries participated for the first time in the meeting of the Standing Committee in October 1981.

23. ECWA contributed a report to and was represented at the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (New York, 1-8 June 1981). The meeting reviewed progress made in implementing the recommendations addressed to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and by the first High-Level Meeting on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It also considered new policies and innovative approaches to further the development of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and assessed administrative, legal and financial arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries. The Decisions of the Committee, which the Secretariat took into consideration in the preparation of the draft Medium-Term Plan 1984-1989, placed stress on, inter alia, women's participation in development, horizontal co-operation in scientific and technological research, transport and communications, institutional and legal arrangements and administrative mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries. The recommendations of the Committee are annexed as part of this document for the consideration of the Commission.

24. It is to be noted that the strengthening of co-operation among developing countries, in its economic and technical dimensions and in its promotional and operational forms at both regional and interregional levels, requires the establishing of information systems, co-ordination mechanisms, joint ventures and the allocation of appropriate financial resources for this purpose. In effect, the issue will remain a theoretical slogan until institutional provisions are made for the systematic development of co-operation among developing countries.

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee
at its second session

- 2/1. Some information on the activities of Governments in technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/2. Promoting women's participation in development programmes through technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/3. Report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/4. Methodologies for promoting horizontal co-operation among developing countries in scientific and technological research.
- 2/5. Transport and communications among developing countries.
- 2/6. Institutional arrangements and administrative mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/7. Legal arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/8. Potential sources for financing technical co-operation among developing countries.
- 2/9. Technical co-operation among developing countries and the policies, rules and procedures of UNDP.
- 2/10. Work programme for the 1983 session of the High-level Committee.

2/1. Some information on the activities of Governments in technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action endorsed by General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1979,

Recalling also decision 1/1 of the first session of the High-level Committee on progress reporting by Governments on their TCDC activities,

Taking note of the Administrator's report TCDC/2/7,

Recognizing that response to recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action is primarily the responsibility of the Governments of developing countries themselves,

1. Invites Governments of developing countries to consider making arrangements to collect on a systematic basis information on their TCDC activities at both the bilateral and multilateral levels and, when Governments deem appropriate, to share the collected information with the United Nations development system;

2. Invites Governments of developing countries to support the activities of the multilateral institutions of developing countries dealing with TCDC promotional activities, such as public enterprises in developing countries;

3. Requests the Administrator of UNDP, in preparing future reports, to make greater efforts to ensure a more complete and more analytical coverage of the activities of Governments in TCDC and to bear in mind the potentialities of developing countries to develop TCDC activities.

2/2. Promoting women's participation in development programmes through TCDC

The High-level Committee,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for the Promotion and Implementation of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 1978 and decision 1/3 of the first session of the Committee,

Recalling the provisions of the Programme of Action of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Copenhagen in 1980, relating to the participation of women in the development process,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 35/136, which endorsed the Programme of Action of Copenhagen,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/135, which established the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling resolutions E/1981/12 and E/1981/13 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations,

Convinced that women can play an important role in TCDC activities,

1. Takes note of the report by the Administrator contained in document TCDC/2/13;
2. Invites the Governments which have not yet done so and the organizations of the United Nations system to take the measures they deem appropriate to promote the complete integration of women in the TCDC process;
3. Invites the Governments of developing countries and the organizations of the United Nations system to use appropriate networks of women's organizations and associations and to co-operate with them in identifying and implementing TCDC programmes and projects;
4. Recognizes the importance of existing institutions through which the participation of women in TCDC can be strengthened at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;
5. Invites Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system to consider contributing, in accordance with their possibilities, to the existing institutions and to regional and interregional programmes so as to strengthen TCDC for the benefit of women at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels.

2/3. Report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendation 34 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries entrusting the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with the responsibility

to prepare, in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations development system, a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action and make suggestions to expedite progress through new actions and initiatives,

Recalling also decision 1/1 of the first session of the High-level Committee,

Concerned at the insufficient progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decision of the first session of the High-level Committee, entrusted with examining TCDC, as well as the lack of progress in removing obstacles to TCDC,

1. Takes note of the Administrator's progress report (TCDC/2/5);
2. Invites developing countries to continue to increase and promote technical co-operation among themselves, in accordance with, inter alia, the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
3. Reiterates its invitation to the developed countries to continue, and consider increasing and otherwise improving, their support for technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with the recommendation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
4. Requests the governing bodies of organizations of the United Nations system to: (a) continue to provide their support to developing countries in their implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action; and (b) to ensure the utilization, to the maximum extent possible, of the inputs available locally and those from other developing countries for the implementation of technical co-operation projects;
5. Requests the Administrator to prepare the progress report for the third session of the High-level Committee according to the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Analytical review of the progress made in the implementation and promotion of TCDC;
 - (b) Practical information on potential sources of financing for TCDC from international institutions and organizations, including those within the United Nations development system, multilateral development banks and funds and government agencies of developed as well as developing countries;
 - (c) Information on the contribution that the network of UNDP offices in the developing countries has given for the strengthening and promotion of TCDC at the bilateral and multilateral levels;

6. Requests the UNDP administration to give more emphasis to action-oriented activities through the support of specific bilateral and multilateral TCDC projects, at the subregional, regional and interregional levels;

7. Requests the Administrator to work towards an information methodology for TCDC which should be homogeneous and easily understood by all countries and organizations;

8. Requests the Secretary General of the United Nations, in close collaboration with the UNDP Administrator, to continue efforts within the United Nations system to make compatible the different information networks so that the information flow will become systematic and timely in order to respond effectively to the specific needs of countries interested in TCDC; and

9. Requests the Administrator to continue his efforts with a view to implementing the proposed project for a Development Information Network (DIN) which will help foster the exchange of information among developing countries and contribute to, inter alia, the achievement of TCDC objectives.

2/4. Methodologies for promoting horizontal co-operation among developing countries in scientific and technological research

The High-level Committee.

Recalling (a) the Buenos Aires Plan of Action endorsed by General Assembly resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, (b) decision 1/8 of the first session of the High-level Committee and (c) the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,

Aware of the great importance that co-operative exchange of skills among developing countries could have within the framework of technical co-operation among them,

Aware of the importance of technical co-operation in the field of socio-economic research and of the urgency to create more favourable conditions for its realization,

Noting with interest the report submitted by the UNCTAD secretariat to the second session of the High-level Committee contained in document TCDC/2/INF.3,

1. Takes note of the Administrator's report contained in document TCDC/2/12;

2. Recommends joint action and collaboration between developing countries in:

- (a) Maximum utilization of existing facilities at national, subregional, regional and global levels;
- (b) Establishment and strengthening of regional training and research institutes and centres of excellence in important development areas;
- (c) Establishment, if necessary, and promotion of existing subregional, regional and interregional councils of directors of research institutes in different sectors to facilitate exchange of experiences, emergence of networks and provisions of advice to policy making bodies concerned with technical co-operation in their particular fields;
- (d) Encouragement of leaders of public and private industry to co-operate and exchange experiences;

3. Invites the Governments of developed countries and the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system, at the request of developing countries, to enhance their catalytic and supportive role in the following areas:

- (a) Further development and strengthening of national, subregional, regional and global training and research institutes;
- (b) Strengthening of research and developmental infrastructure, including appropriate information systems and computer services;
- (c) Training of personnel in the management of co-operative research and development programmes;

4. Reiterates the decision 1/4 of the first session of the High-level Committee, with regard to the promotion and support of the national research and training centres that have a multinational scope, and the need to gather and make fully available information on the existence and activities of these centres;

5. Invites the Trade and Development Board to consider initiating an action-oriented study on the feasibility of the various proposals made in the report (TCDC/2/INF.3) regarding co-operative exchange of skills, including recommendations for further action, taking fully into account the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the views expressed by Governments at this session of the High-level Committee, and to submit this study to its third session;

6. Invites the Governments, the organizations of the United Nations system and the financial institutions to consider giving strong support to the regional associations, and to the Interregional Co-ordinating Committee of Development Associations (ICCDA), in the field of socio-economic research.

2/5. Transport and communications among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling that recommendation 30 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, endorsed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 33/134, placed emphasis on the strengthening of transport and communications among developing countries as a necessary condition for TCDC to become a major element in the development process,

Recalling decision 1/2 of the first session of the High-level Committee,

Noting the Administrator's report contained in document TCDC/2/6,

1. Invites developing countries to intensify and accelerate their co-operation on a regional or subregional basis in the field of transport and communications;
2. Requests the UNDP Governing Council to take steps in identifying and strengthening national maritime transport training facilities which have multinational scope;
3. Requests the United Nations development system to consider increasing substantially its support to developing countries, at their request, in strengthening all development-related sectors of transport and communications systems;
4. Recommends that the regional commissions and other relevant bodies of the United Nations development system, in their activities in the field of transport, should give special consideration to non-conventional means of transport and to the needs of geographically disadvantaged countries;
5. Requests the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme to make available to the third session of the High-level Committee their annual reports on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;
6. Invites developed countries and the governing bodies of international financial institutions to consider increasing their financial and material support for projects and programmes earmarked for the improvement of the transport and communication infrastructure of developing countries and regions.

2/6. Institutional arrangements and administrative mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendations 2 and 3 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action concerned with national mechanisms for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries,

Recalling also decisions 1/1, paragraph 2, and 1/6, paragraph d, of the High-level Committee on the establishment and /or strengthening, as the case may be, of national focal points or co-ordinating mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries,

Considering that the national focal points can play a useful role in facilitating the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries at national and international levels,

1. Takes note of the report on institutional arrangements and administrative mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries (document TCDC/2/14);
2. Recommends to the Governments of developing countries to review their experience with technical co-operation among developing countries; assess their potential for its future development in the context of their national policies; and consider the administrative arrangements to be established or strengthened for enhancing the implementation of the objectives of technical co-operation among developing countries;
3. Invites the Governments of developing countries to intensify co-operation among themselves as part of the process of strengthening their administrative arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries through such modalities as exchange and cross-fertilization of experience and know-how, exchange of staff, sharing of information and the organization of joint seminars and study tours;
4. Urges the United Nations system to assist Governments of developing countries, at their request, in establishing and/or strengthening the national focal points or co-ordinating mechanisms for technical co-operation among developing countries; and
5. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to assist developing countries at their request in organizing, primarily at the regional and subregional levels, training programmes on technical co-operation among developing countries specifically designed for staff members of the national Governments concerned.

2/7. Legal arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendation 2 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Aware of the importance of national and international legal arrangements for the development of effective and equitable technical co-operation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report on legal arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC/2/15);

2. Recommends to developing countries which have not yet done so to consider:

- (a) Incorporating in their legislation on technical co-operation laws, rules and regulations which will serve as a basis to facilitate activities of technical co-operation among developing countries including the relevant administrative, financial and monetary provisions favourable to technical co-operation among developing countries;
- (b) Possible legislation or rules relating to the sending of their technical or professional personnel abroad so as not to jeopardize their regular national employment pensions and other benefits;
- (c) The use of joint or mixed commissions under general bilateral agreements at the appropriate governmental level in technical co-operation among developing countries activities;

3. Invites developed countries to continue to include in their programmes of technical co-operation such measures as would facilitate technical co-operation among developing countries programmes and projects;

4. Invites the governing bodies of multilateral agencies involved in technical co-operation programmes to consider adjusting, as appropriate, and in accordance with their constitutional procedures, the rules and procedures of the agencies in order to assist and support technical co-operation among developing countries activities;

5. Recommends to the Governments of developing countries to continue to provide the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries with different types of legal instruments relating to technical co-operation among developing countries on a selective and informal basis, so as to enable the Unit to study such instruments, and develop models that would help Governments in preparing bilateral or multilateral agreements on technical co-operation among developing countries.

2/8. Potential sources for financing technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendations 38 and 35 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recalling also decision 1/7 of the first session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

1. Takes note of the report on Potential Sources for Financing TCDC (TCDC/2/16);

2. Invites developing countries to:

(a) Consider incorporating in their national budget, resources designed to finance TCDC programmes and projects;

(b) Consider the possibility of setting up national funds for TCDC activities;

(c) Continue to provide information on a voluntary basis, and, if they deem it appropriate, to the Special Unit for TCDC, regarding their sources for financing TCDC;

(d) Consider incorporating TCDC modalities, to the extent possible, when formulating national programmes and projects;

3. Reiterates previous requests to regional and interregional funds, development banks and other intergovernmental financial institutions and aid agencies, to take appropriate action to implement recommendation 38 (b) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, in support of TCDC activities;

4. Invites developed countries to continue to consider requests for financial support to activities which will enhance TCDC, in particular:

- (a) National projects of developing countries containing TCDC modalities;
- (b) Promotional TCDC activities (training, workshops, study tours, pre-feasibility studies, etc.);
- (c) Strengthening of institutions of intercountry scope or potential;
- (d) Strengthening or improving of physical infrastructure that would facilitate TCDC in other sectors;

5. Invites those developed countries which have not already done so and may wish to do so to provide information to the Special Unit for TCDC on their sources for financing TCDC activities for dissemination to Governments at their request;

6. Invites subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations to consider, whenever appropriate, including in their budgets a provision devoted to supporting TCDC activities;

7. Requests the Administrator of UNDP:

- (a) Before the next session of the High-level Committee, to expand and extend the information provided in document TCDC/2/16 on potential sources for financing TCDC as well as those of the United Nations development system and to respond to requests from Governments with information on policies and procedures for the provision of resources available for TCDC by international institutions, and organizations including those within the United Nations development system, multilateral development banks and funds and government agencies of developed countries, as well as developing countries which may offer bilateral co-operation;
- (b) To devote the greatest possible share of resources which come from regional, interregional and global IPFs to support, within the priorities set by Governments, programmes and projects with TCDC elements to be carried out through intergovernmental agencies with subregional, regional and interregional objectives in keeping with the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

- (c) To ensure that the programme units entrusted with the task of administering regional, interregional and global IPFs in co-ordination with the agencies of the United Nations development system should establish the necessary contacts to promote TCDC through Governments and intergovernmental organizations so as to lend them support in carrying out the tasks assigned to them under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
- (d) To report to the third session of the High-level Committee on the programmes and projects with TCDC elements financed by the Programme and implemented through intergovernmental organizations in order to carry out the provisions contained in subparagraphs (b) and (c).

2/9. Technical co-operation among developing countries and the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations Development Programme

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendations 33, 34 and 38 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recalling also decision 1/7 of the first High-level Meeting on the Review of TCDC,

Recalling further decision 80/46 of the Governing Council of UNDP,

Bearing in mind the views expressed by delegations at the first and second sessions of the High-level Committee,

1. Takes note of the report on TCDC and the Policies, Rules and Procedures of UNDP (TCDC/2/17), and of the Status on the Use of the Programme Reserve for financing the promotion of TCDC and recommendation for an additional allocation during the third cycle (TCDC/2/L.4);

2. Recommends that the Governing Council of UNDP:

- (a) Ensure that for the period of the third programming cycle, earmarking from country IPFs for TCDC activities for the benefit of other countries does not exceed 10 per cent of the country's IPF or \$ 7.5 million, whichever is smaller;
- (b) Lift the present blanket restriction on the reimbursement of local currency costs;
- (c) Ensure that the following basic guidelines of TCDC be used in assessing TCDC project proposals:

- (i) TCDC activities or projects involve the deliberate and voluntary sharing or exchange of technical resources, skills and capabilities between two or more developing countries for their individual or mutual development;
 - (ii) TCDC is initiated, organized and managed primarily by developing countries themselves. In such a process Governments of developing countries would normally take the lead or responsibility. TCDC could also involve the participation of national public institutions, and within the framework of the policies laid down by Governments of developing countries, private organizations and individuals;
 - (iii) The financing and project inputs such as expertise, consultancy services, research and training facilities, equipment and supplies in TCDC activities should be the primary responsibility of developing countries themselves and the country IPF should be considered as a catalyst and a supplementary contribution. At its third session in 1983 the High-level Committee will on the basis of financial data for the years 1980-1982 submitted by the Administrator of UNDP consider guidelines for the share of earmarked IPF funds of total TCDC contributions;
 - (iv) TCDC can include all sectors and all kinds of technical co-operation activities of developing countries. It can be bilateral or multilateral in scope, subregional, regional or interregional in character. It should try, whenever possible, innovative approaches, methods and techniques particularly adapted to local needs as well as existing modalities of technical co-operation to the extent that they are considered useful;
- (d) Allow that projects conforming to the basic guidelines enumerated in the previous paragraphs may be financed from country IPFs subject to the existing rules and procedures established for UNDP as a whole, with regard to project assessment, approval, implementation and evaluation. Within this framework, expenditure for provision of inputs necessary in the execution of projects should be allowed in the same manner and with the same flexibility as for the rest of UNDP;
- (e) Allow that advances, current payments and reimbursements from the IPF resources be made by UNDP in the currencies of expenditure on the inputs concerned, and shall be drawn as far as possible from UNDP's holding of such or any other suitable currencies;

(f) Apply the following rules with regard to the reimbursement of certain local costs, associated with services and materials, which the Governments or national public or private institutions of the "IPF country" should primarily bear in accordance with paragraph 2 (c) (iii):

(i) Any part of the salary and allowances of professional staff and any part of the cost of contractual services payable in the home country of the staff or contractor would be reimbursable in the "IPF country" currency only;

(ii) The local currency cost of equipment and materials purchased would be reimbursable in the "IPF country" currency only;

(g) Apply regular UNDP procedures related to approval of its assisted projects, compensation, hiring of national experts, procurement of equipment and services, subcontracting and related matters;

(h) Incorporate the above principles and criteria into the standing guidelines and instructions of the UNDP Policies and Procedures Manual;

3. Recommends that the Governing Council requests the Administrator of UNDP, for the purpose of monitoring the guidelines of TCDC set out in paragraph 2 (c), to notify the third session of the High-level Committee:

(i) The relevant financial costs of projects funded from the country IPFs and the national resources of participating Governments;

(ii) The amounts of IPF resources, if any, expended by UNDP in implementing the provision of paragraph 2 (e) and (f); and

(iii) The breakdown of expertise, equipment and supplies, consultancy services, and training present in these projects;

4. Recommends that the Governing Council of UNDP ~~considers~~ favourably the proposal of the Administrator to use \$ 1 million for the period of 1982-1983 for promotional activities of TCDC as outlined in TCDC/2/L.4, and that a report containing an assessment on the use of the funds should be submitted by the Administrator of UNDP to the next session of the High-level Committee;

5. Requests the Administrator of UNDP to provide member countries, on request, lists of available experts in developing countries for TCDC projects.