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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

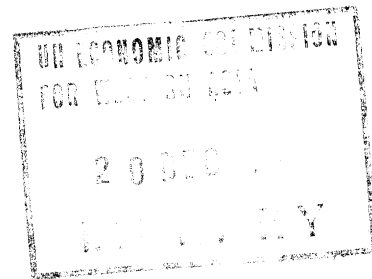
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for
the United Nations Conference on Science
and Technology for Development
12-15 September 1978
Amman, Jordan



Report of the
Second Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the United Nations Conference on
Science and Technology for Development

1944
1945
1946

1947
1948
1949

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960

1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Organization of the Meeting	1
II. Review of National and Joint Arab Activities and the National Papers	6
III. Draft Regional Report	8
IV. Other Business	9
V. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting	9
VI. Closure of the Meeting	9

Annexes

- Annex I : List of Participants
- Annex II : Address by Dr. Hanna Odeh
- Annex III: Address by Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Attar
- Annex IV : Address by Mr. Guy Gresford
- Annex V : Resolution No. 1

I. Organization of the Meeting

1. The Second ECWA Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) was held in Amman, Jordan, from 12 to 15 September 1978, following the decision to extend the Meeting an extra day in order to cover the whole agenda.

Attendance

2. The Meeting was attended by the following member countries: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Observer Arab countries not members of the Commission from Morocco, Mauritania and Sudan attended the Meeting. Observers from non-Arab countries not members of the Commission from Austria and Romania were also present.

3. The following Arab organizations were represented: Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development; Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); Arab Federation for Cement and Cement Products; Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers; Arab Iron and Steel Union; Arab Labour Organization; The League of Arab States; Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO); Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology; Arab Telecommunications Union; Arab Planning Institute; Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils and the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS).

4. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCSTD participated in the Meeting. The following United Nations organizations attended the Meeting:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); United Nations Advisory Committee for the Application of Science and Technology (ACAST); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

5. A detailed list of participants is given in Annex I.

Opening Statements

6. His Excellency, Dr. Hanna Odeh, President of the National Planning Council, representing the Jordanian Government, opened the Meeting. In his opening statement, he stressed the role of science and technology in the development process and referred to the preparatory work of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development as a useful tool for studying the ways and means through which national scientific and technological potentials could be used, oriented and developed. The speaker also indicated that there was a need for priority determination in science and technology, a more effective use of the national potential and an edification of the scientific and technological infrastructure. Dr. Odeh indicated that skilled Arab manpower was the principal factor in the absorption and development of technology. In this connexion, he outlined the importance of the brain-drain problem and reiterated the suggestion made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan concerning the creation of an international labour compensatory facility whereby funds would be allocated for the training of additional manpower in the labour exporting countries. Regional co-operation, he added, also included co-ordination of scientific and technological activities among scientific research organizations through the division of labour, the exchange of information and the orientation of all efforts towards regional problems. Dr. Odeh indicated that the concept of the establishment of an Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology reflected a strong will to strengthen regional co-operation in science and technology. Jordan, he said, supported the idea of establishing such a centre at previous technical meetings as well as at the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. (The full text of the speech is given in Annex II).

7. Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Attar, Executive Secretary of ECWA, welcomed H.E. Dr. Hanna Odeh, President of the National Planning Council, Mr. Guy Gresford, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), and the participants and observers, expressing his gratitude to the Government of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the Meeting. He emphasized the historic nature of the Meeting which would help determine the position to be adopted by the member States on the discussion items of UNCSTD. Dr. Al-Attar stressed the crucial need for

the transformation of the region from a state of technological dependency to a state of self-reliance, and indicated that despite the execution of productive projects, the establishment of scientific and technological institutions and the training of technical cadres, self-reliance in scientific and technological activities was not being advanced. The countries of this part of the world, he said, needed to devote more effort to scientific research in areas that might not be of the same degree of concern to the developed countries, whose circumstances were different from those of our Region. As far as the issue of the transfer of technology and the liberation from technological dependency was concerned, however, the basic problem was tied to the engineering profession. Of the three major channels through which technology was transferred - machinery and equipment, engineering and skilled labour - the engineer occupied the central position. Given this fact, he advocated the idea of producing more multi-disciplinary engineers, or generalists. He then indicated that the main purpose of the Meeting was to adopt a regional position related to the problem of putting science and technology to the optimum achievement of socio-economic progress in the Region and he referred to the Draft Regional Paper prepared by ECWA for this purpose. The paper analysed the subject, identified the obstacles and posed the solutions that, if implemented, would secure, in his view, the climate appropriate to the achievement of the desired objective. He indicated that the Paper included recommendations for measures which needed implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Finally, referring to ECWA's role in the Arab World as a whole, the Executive Secretary of ECWA expressed his belief that it was no longer possible to deal with the scientific and technological problems of the ECWA countries in isolation from their counterparts in the Arab Maghreb, a situation which led the ECWA secretariat to invite, in co-operation with ECA, representatives of the Arab Maghreb States to attend the present Meeting. (The full text of the speech is given in Annex III).

8. In his statement, Mr. Guy Gresford, Deputy Secretary-General for UNCSTD, reported to the meeting on the progress achieved in the Conference preparations. He subsequently indicated that the analysis of various national papers was being undertaken for extracting the recommendations on which the draft programme of action would be based and stressed the importance of the regional

reports and recommendations as regional inputs to the aforementioned programme of action. Quoting directly from a speech which Mr. Da Costa had intended to read before this Meeting, Mr. Gresford mentioned the existence of five important points connected with the objectives of the Conference: (a) the two aspects of technology; (b) the process of public participation; (c) the search for the common interest; (d) the need for a new type of negotiations; and (e) science, technology and culture. Concerning the two aspects of technology referred to above, the Conference, Mr. Gresford added, should make it clear that technology could be regarded firstly as property to be acquired and secondly as the fruit of a specific economic, social, political and cultural system and as an integral part thereof.

As far as the process of public participation was concerned, Mr. Gresford emphasized that science and technology emerged from each society within a cultural and historical context based on values and interests peculiar to that society. He also added that since science and technology constituted means of achieving certain social, political and cultural objectives, social debate was essential to the selection process. Mr. Gresford then turned to the search for the common interest and stressed that it was in the interest of both the developing and developed countries that the scientific and technological development of The Third World take place, as it would create a strong and stable negotiating partner for the developed world. He also indicated the need for a new type of negotiations and outlined the role of science and technology as a phenomenon of political importance capable of making a profound positive or negative impact on culture. (The full text of the speech is shown in Annex IV).

Election of Officers

9. The meeting unanimously elected Dr. Hanna Odeh (Jordan) as Chairman, Mr. Wathik Chahid (Syria) as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Mazin Adil Bakr (Iraq) as Rapporteur.

Agenda

10. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

- (1) Opening of the meeting.
- (2) Statement by Dr. Hanna Odeh, President, National Planning Council, Jordan.

- (3) Statement by Dr. M.S. Al-Attar, Executive Secretary of ECWA.
- (4) Statement by Mr. Guy Gresford, Deputy Secretary-General of UNCSTD.
- (5) Election of officers.
- (6) Adoption of the agenda.
- (7) Organization of the work of the meeting.
- (8) Review of national and joint Arab activities and national papers.
- (9) Draft regional report.
- (10) Other business.
- (11) Adoption of the report.
- (12) Closure of the meeting.

II. Review of National and Joint Arab Activities and National Papers

(Agenda item 8)

11. A number of the participants reviewed the activities undertaken in the context of joint Arab efforts for UNCSTD. The participants also described the intensive efforts made by Arab governments and organizations in holding meetings at the regional and the country levels on the application of science and technology to development. Among these were the country meetings held in Kuwait, Jordan and Iraq, the meeting called by the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils in Baghdad in May 1978, and The CASTARAB ministerial meeting held in Rabat in August 1976.

12. One participant reiterated the importance of a step-by-step procedure which might start with a series of joint sectoral seminars in which the technological aspects of different sectors, such as industry, agriculture, etc., could be discussed in detail, followed by specialized meetings to analyse the status quo and the different needs before formulating an Arab regional paper for UNCSTD. It was pointed out that such a paper might be the subject of unified action to be presented in an approved form to UNCSTD. The idea of formulating a technological plan on a pan-Arab scale for the year 2000 ought to be considered.

13. The IDCAS representative pointed out that joint efforts had been undertaken and that steps had been made to co-ordinate the activities of the Arab League secretariat, its specialized agencies, and other concerned organizations.

14. It was pointed out also by the representative of the Arab League secretariat and ALECSO and the representative of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils that a decision had already been taken to formulate a co-ordination and follow-up committee composed of representatives of the Arab League secretariat, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, the Council of Arab Economic Unity, IDCAS, and ALECSO. The responsibility for preparing a comprehensive study on the status of technology in the Arab World was given to ALECSO.

15. It was foreseen that national papers would be made available to a Preparatory Committee for review and comment while specialized seminars would

be convened to provide the background for a unified plan of action. This might take place during a conference to be called for by the secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils. The aim would be to prepare an overall Arab strategy within the context of the strategies of the developing countries for submission to UNCSTD.

16. In pursuing the programme, preparatory meetings of the assigned task force would convene to draw up a plan of action. Further meetings were expected before a final plan of action within the context of UNCSTD would be drawn up.

17. It was decided that the national papers would not be presented at the sessions of the Meeting and that the important points raised therein would be discussed in the context of the Regional Report. Nevertheless, the delegations of Jordan and Yemen presented a summary of a number of points appearing in their respective national papers.

18. In presenting the national paper of Jordan, the delegation reviewed briefly the stages of development attained by the country with respect to the planning and development of technological capabilities. While stressing the need for further progress the representative of Jordan outlined briefly the achievements and shortcomings of previous efforts. Thereupon, the national paper of the Yemen Arab Republic was briefly summarized by the delegate of YAR who also presented the recommendations of his country for UNCSTD.

19. In the course of the discussion that followed some delegates briefly summarized the major issues raised in their national papers and expressed their views in respect to a number of recommendations which seemed to be similar. During the discussion of country activities, attention was directed to the concern of the governments and organizations of the Arab countries that science and technology be applied to socio-economic development objectives and to raising the standard of living of people everywhere in the interest of the welfare of mankind and the promotion of world peace.

20. The representatives of some of the regional and international organizations expressed their views on the major issues raised by the national papers and on those related to regional efforts. The representatives of UNIDO, UNCTAD, WIPO and FAO reviewed their organizations' efforts and contributions and expressed their views on technology transfer.

III. Draft Regional Report

(Agenda item 9)

21. ECWA's Draft Regional Report for UNCSTD (E/ECWA/NR/CONF.2/11) was introduced by ECWA's Chief of the Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division. The highlights of the paper were summarized and the main points were briefly presented to open the discussion.

22. In discussing the contents of the paper, most of the delegates expressed their observations with respect to the information contained in the section which dealt with the general characteristics of the Region and the views expressed in the paper regarding the status of technology. A number of participants noted that the Regional Report, which should have been based on the national papers, did not take them into consideration. Commenting on this, the secretariat indicated that the Regional Report and the national papers had been prepared simultaneously for submission to UNCSTD. The Regional Report employed a different analytical approach and relied on the findings of the field missions to the countries concerned so as to reflect the regional viewpoint on the status of technology.

23. Some delegates made their own comments on the information that needed clarification and on the degree of detail called for. Others presented their views on the recent achievements attained in the field of technology in the Region and on the need to describe these briefly in the Report.

24. In reviewing the recommendations contained in the paper, lengthy discussion took place which resulted in many changes and additions. Relevant views expressed by the delegates were noted and incorporated in the final revised draft. The participants stressed the need for careful attention to the linguistic format of the Arabic text of the final draft.

25. The Meeting approved the Revised ECWA Regional Report for UNCSTD (E/ECWA/NR/CONF.2/L.2) after incorporating its amendments and recommendations therein.

IV. Other Business

(Agenda item 10)

26. The meeting adopted a Resolution (Annex V) concerning the pursuance of preparations for UNCSTD.

V. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

(Agenda item 11)

27. The meeting adopted its Report and the Regional Report on Friday 15 September 1978.

VI. Closure of the Meeting

(Agenda item 12)

28. Following the closing statements of the Chairman of the Meeting and the Executive Secretary of ECWA, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive overview of the project's objectives and scope. It is intended for the project team and stakeholders.

Section 2: Objectives

The primary objectives of the project are to:

1. Analyze the current market conditions and identify key trends.

2. Develop a strategic plan for the next five years.

3. Implement the plan and monitor progress.

The project will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. The budget for the project is \$1,000,000.

Section 3: Conclusion

In conclusion,

the project is essential for the organization's long-term success. It is hoped that this document will provide the necessary information for the project team to proceed with confidence.

Thank you for your attention.

The project manager, [Name], is available for any questions or further information.

For more information, please contact the project manager.

This document is confidential and should be handled accordingly.

Section 4: Appendix

Appendix A: [Title]

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. Representatives of Member Countries

Bahrain

Mr. Mohammad A. Ghaffar;
Embassy of Bahrain in Amman.

Democratic Yemen

Mr. Abubakr A. Badeeb;
Ministry of Education.

Mr. Mohammad Gaffar Zain;
President of the University of Aden.

Mr. Adel Abdulla Khalifa;
Ministry of Planning.

Egypt

Mr. Ahmed Sameh Al-Noukrashy;
Director, R & D Department,
Academy of Scientific Research and Technology

Mr. Yousef Hussein;
Head, Science Policy Research Unit,
Academy of Scientific Research and Technology.

Jordan

Mr. Hanna Odeh;
President,
National Planning Council.

Mr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber;
Secretary General,
National Planning Council.

Mr. Albert Boutros;
Director General,
Royal Scientific Society.

Mr. Marwan Kamal;
Dean, Faculty of Science,
University of Jordan.

Jordan (cont'd)

Mr. Munthir Salah;
Director of Computer Department,
Royal Scientific Society.

Mr. Musa M. Abu Maizar;
Director, Planning Department,
National Planning Council.

Mr. Bassam Saket;
Director, Economic Department,
Royal Scientific Society.

Mr. Hayel Khasawneh;
Administration Manager,
National Planning Council.

Mr. Ahmed Abu Reesh;
Chief of Public Relations,
Royal Scientific Society

Mr. Fouad Hassan Manna;
Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Nabih Nabhani;
Economic Department,
Royal Scientific Society.

Miss Lanya H. El-Farhan;
National Planning Council.

Mr. Mahmoud Khasawneh;
Department of Standards,
Ministry of Industry.

Mr. Hassan Shawareb;
National Planning Council.

Mr. Mohammad Onari;
Royal Scientific Society.

Miss Fadia Kakish;
Royal Scientific Society.

Miss Sana Al-Homsi;
Royal Scientific Society

Iraq

Mr. Mazin B. Adil;
Ministry of Planning,
Representative of the Organization for Scientific Research.

Kuwait

Mr. Sulaiman Rashdan;
Counsellor,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Miss Sana Al-Hamoud;
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Mr. Maurice Girgis;
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Mr. Mahmoud Marzouk
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)

Qatar

Mr. Mohammad Y. Al-Ali;
Director of Electrical Department,
Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Mr. Ali Hassan Khalaf;
Director of Economic Affairs Department,
Ministry of Economy and Commerce.

Mr. Fathi Mohd. Abu Dayak;
Economist,
Industrial Development Technical Centre.

Mr. Issan Mohd. Jaradat;
Director of the Office of the Minister of Economy and Commerce.

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Rida Obaid;
Chairman of Board of SANGST

Mr. Hussain O. Mansour.

Mr. Mohammad S. Al-Kufeidy;

Mr. Mohamad S. Alhabib;

Mr. Al-Sherif Taleb Rafik;
Adviser,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sultanate of Oman

Mr. Ahmed Rashid Al-Shamsi
Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy in Amman

Syria

Mr. Abdallah Wathik Chahid;
Director General,
The Syrian Centre for Scientific Research and Studies.

Mr. Abdel Raouf El-Kassen;
Vice President, University of Damascus.

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Abdulaal Al-Nejar;
Deputy Manager,
Ministry of Planning.

Mr. Abdulla Rasheed;
Counsellor of the United Arab Emirates in Amman.

Yemen Arab Republic

Mr. Nasser Aulagi;
Professor at Sana'a University, and
Adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture.

II. Representatives of Arab Countries not
Members of the Commission

Morocco

Mr. Said Ben Bachir;
Secrtaire d'Etat a l'Enseignement Superieur et a la Recherche
Scientifique.

Mr. Abdelwahed Zhiri;
Director of High Education and Scientific Research,
Ministry of National Education.

Mauritania

Mr. Mohammad Abdel Kader Waled Didi;
Ambassador of Mauritania in Baghdad.

Sudan

Mr. Mohammad Mahmoud Abou Sin;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

III. Representatives of Non-Arab Countries not
Members of the Commission

Austria

Mr. Sami J. Salti;
Austrian Consul General in Amman

Roumania

Mr. Nicolae Roman;
First Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

IV. Representatives of Regional Arab Organizations

Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)

Mr. Rifaat Rajab.

Mr. Ismael H. El-Bagouri.

Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizers Producers

Mr. N.Y. Abu Khader;
Assistant Secretary General.

Arab Federation for Cement and Building Materials

Mr. Hassan Mohammad Ali;
Secretary General.

Mr. Abdul Hamid Jaafari;
Assistant Secretary General.

Arab Iron and Steel Union

Mr. Sulaiman Ben Tubal;
Chairman, Board of Directors.

Mr. Mahmoud Dorou;
Head, Department of Studies.

Mr. Majed Al-Souri;
Regional Director (Beirut).

Arab Labour Organization (ALO)

Mr. Mohammad Lamine Fares;
Chief, Department of Manpower and Training.

The Arab League

Mr. Adel A. Sabet

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO)

Mr. Adel A. Sabet;
Under-Secretary of State.

Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology

Mr. Salah Eddin Taha.

Mr. Mahmoud Khasawneh;
Engineer.

Arab Telecommunications Union

Mr. Mohammad Elwa;
Chief of Technical Department.

The Arab Planning Institute

Mr. Abdulhadi Alawadi;
Assistant Expert.

Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils

Mr. Nazar Al-Shawi;
Secretary General.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Khatib;
Director of Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Jafar Abdul Ghani N. Hussain;
Senior Expert,
Ministry of Planning

Industrial Development Centre of Arab States (IDCAS)

Mr. Khalil Khaled Abdunour;
Director of Promotional Activities Division and Planning Division.

V. Representatives of Government Organizations

Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development

Miss Maha Mohammad Shawa.

VI. Representatives of UN Bodies and Organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. Kamal Ali Sabet;
Regional Research Officer.

UN Advisory Committee for Application of Science and Technology (ACAST)

Mr. Essam E. Galal.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Ruman Faruqi;
Economic Affairs Officer.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Abdullatif Succar;
Resident Representative.

Mrs. Rima Kamal;
Programme Officer.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Ahmed Shukri Salem;
Senior Industrial Development Field Adviser UNDP/UNIDO.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Mr. Aly Bey Kecherid;
Programme Officer,
Division for Industrial Property Development Co-operation Projects.

VII. UNCSTD Secretariat

Mr. Guy B. Gresford;
Deputy Secretary-General.

Mr. Omar Aslaoui;
Chief, Office of the Secretary General of the Conference.

Mr. Derick Haniph;
Administrative Officer.

UNCSTD Secretariat (cont'd)

Mr. V.J. Ram;
Principal Technical Adviser.

Mr. Hassan Saab;
Special Advisor on Arab Affairs.

VIII. ECWA Secretariat

Mr. Khair El-Din Haseeb;
Chief, Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division. (NRSTD)

Mr. Antoine Zehlan;
Consultant.

Mr. Tariq Al-Khudayri
Regional Adviser.

Mr. Sadik Kinge;
Chief, Conference Services Section.

Mr. Munir Allahwerdi;
Co-ordinator for UNCSTD.

Mr. Louay El-Djoundi;
UN Information Service

Mr. Anthony Tsou;
Scientific Affairs Officer, NRSTD.

Mr. Mouhieddine Soubra;
Assistant Economic Affairs Officer, NRSTD.

Miss Ban Khayyat;
Research Assistant, NRSTD.

Miss Leila Khammar;
Secretary, NRSTD.

ECWA Secretariat (cont'd)

Mrs. Emma Oueicheck;
Conference Services Section.

Mr. Anthony Shebaya
Conference Services Section.

Mr. Isam Habbal;
Conference Services Section.

Mrs. Leila Abi Nader;
Conference Services Section.

Mr. Dimitri Al-Akl;
Conference Services Section.

Miss Sahar Sancel;
Conference Services Section.

Miss Hoda Hussami;
Conference Services Section.

ADDRESS BY DR. HANNA ODEH
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN OF THE
DELEGATION OF JORDAN AT THE OPENING SESSION OF
THE SECOND REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UNCSTD,
AMMAN, 12/9/1978

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you in the name of the Jordanian Government to your second home, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to wish you a pleasant stay and every success in your deliberations. The vital subject before you is at the heart of the impetus towards social and economic development that has appeared in the region of Western Asia and its consequences shall be felt by the generations to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I do not need to dwell on the importance of the application of science and technology to development in all its diverse facets and stages. The national papers prepared by the countries of Western Asia and submitted to this Meeting do this with thoroughness and detail. The authors-economists and others - have revealed the extent of the debt which achievements in developments owe scientific and technological progress, which is, perhaps, of greater significance than the mere accumulation of capital or the absolute increase in manpower.

The productive capability of nations is not enhanced through the mere multiplication of investments and manpower resources; increases in these factors have to be accompanied by scientific and technological advances which must be present to catalyze them. Thus science and technology represent one of the fundamental factors in production. We must not continue to treat it as an outside factor for import and neglect the task of adapting, modifying and integrating it into the heart of the development process.

To the extent that we have the power of choice, we must attempt to improve our selection of the scientific and technological methods that are appropriate to our socio-economic circumstances and that are compatible with the objectives of our development plans.

The preparations for UNCSTD which is to be held next year, have helped in the study of the utilization of the national capabilities in science and technology and of the possibility of orienting and developing these capabilities. These preparations have taken place not only on the national level but on the regional level as well.

I am sure that we all agree that there is ample opportunity for action on all three levels - the national, the regional and the international - for improving the application of science and technology for development.

The national papers have revealed that there is a need for determining priorities in national science and technology policy, for employing national capabilities with greater competence and for determining the organizational structure of science and technology in terms of decision-making, planning, co-ordination, orientation, finance and implementation. It was also noted that a sizeable portion of the efforts devoted to R&D is still expended on theoretical areas far removed from the practical problems confronting the developmental process of the countries of the Region in the fields of agriculture, industry, communications, natural resources and others.

Thus the preparations for UNCSTD represented an excellent opportunity for the study, scrutiny and design of a better and more competent formula for integrating science and technology into the development process on the national and the regional levels. For this purpose, the Government of Jordan appointed a National Preparatory Committee in June 1977 composed of specialists representing governmental and private institutions, and assigned it the task of preparing for the Conference on a Science and Technology Policy for Jordan and preparing the national paper to be submitted to the coming UNCSTD. The Committee prepared five papers for submission to the Conference on a Science and Technology Policy for Jordan which was held in February of this year and which was attended by a number of scientists from different parts of the world. The recommendations which came out of this Conference will have a far-reaching effect on the improved application of science and technology to the socio-economic development of Jordan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the promotion of self-reliance and the enhancement of the domestic capability of developing countries are among the major objectives of the New International Economic Order, the need for strengthening regional co-operation is most apparent in the field of the application of science and technology.

Regional co-operation in this field is still in its infant stages. The co-operation that has actually taken place in Western Asia or among all the Arab countries has been generally the consequences of market dictates. Despite the differences among the countries comprising it, the region of Western Asia enjoys an abundance of financial, natural and human resources. If these resources can be directed and made to interact at the level of the Region, the resulting increase in the Region's capabilities would permit the absorption of modern scientific and technological methods and the development of the ability to improve these methods for the purpose of confronting the practical problems of the area.

There is no doubt that the opportunities for regional co-operation in the area of science and technology are vast. Permit me to suggest that the principal factor in the assimilation and development of science and technology is represented by trained Arab manpower. This resource developed quantitatively and qualitatively in the past three decades. It moved about from one country to the other in the Region and from this Region to the world outside, especially the advanced Western nations. The time is ripe for giving the Arab brain drain problem special attention, as it represents a severe loss of potential and waste of resources. It is not enough to establish scientific research and training centres, for these require that trained Arab manpower be available to administer and operate them - the manpower that has moved abroad to contribute to the enrichment of the economic and cultural institutions of the advanced nations.

It has also become necessary to deal with the problem of the movement of trained manpower among the countries of Western Asia within the framework of existing and prospective regional co-operation. His highness Prince Hassan has proposed at several international forums, commencing with the meetings of the International Labour Organization in June 1977, the idea of establishing

a compensatory fund for the movement of manpower. The countries that benefit from this manpower contribute to its capital and its revenues are used for training more people in the manpower exporting countries. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted this idea at its last session and requested that it be studied further by the specialized agencies, particularly ILO and UNCTD. The development of this concept and its application will give the region of Western Asia the opportunity to offer to the world a model of effective regional co-operation.

Regional co-operation in science and technology can be extended to other fields, as in the co-ordination among scientific research institutes wherein information is exchange and efforts are directed to the treatment of issues of a generally regional nature, such as solar energy, desertification, food security, fishery resources, the exploitation of natural resources, and the like. The time is now opportune for co-ordination in this Region to be extended to the work of the many specialized Arab institutions and professional federations. These latter should observe evaluate and reassess their priorities and work procedures so as to increase their effectiveness in the light of the realities of the Region and its aspirations.

We come to the idea of establishing an Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, which will be the subject of study of the meeting that is to take place next Saturday. The purpose of the Centre is to consolidate regional co-operation in the area of science and technology. It is our firm hope that this Centre, as a technical body, will polarize on-going efforts and build upon them in the service of the comprehensive development issues of the Arab countries. Jordan has supported the establishment of this Centre at past technical meetings as well as before the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among the Developing Countries, which is expected to end its deliberations today in Argentina.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me in conclusion to greet and welcome you once again to this country which has made long strides towards the achievement of socio-economic progress in the face of the lack of resources and the enormity of the challenge. I would also like to extend my thanks and recognition to ECWA

for the effort it has expended in preparing and convening this Meeting with the objective of seeing it through to a clear position commensurate with the vital place that this Region occupies in the world economy.

I wish you for the present Meeting every success and accomplishment.

God bless you all.

Address by Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Attar
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for
Western Asia, delivered at the Second Regional Preparatory
Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology
for Development, Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
12 - 15 September 1978 A.D.

Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Representatives of Arab,
regional and international organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our Second
Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science
and Technology for Development and to express my deep gratitude to the
Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for generously hosting this
historic meeting on its soil.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have called this Meeting historic because in it you will
determine the position to be adopted by the member of ECWA on the subjects
that are to be presented for discussion at the United Nations Conference
on Science and Technology for Development in Vienna one year from now.
At that Conference the representatives of all the countries of the world -
coming from East and West, North and South, from the developed and
from the developing areas - will convene to define their position on this
momentous subject and to strive for an agreement that will be in the
interest of humanity as a whole.

Undoubtedly, we all share the awareness of the tremendous historic
responsibility facing the present generation as our Region goes through
the crucial transformation from the state of technological dependency to
the state of self-reliance. This transformation will be assisted by
extractions from that natural resource - petroleum - which required
600 million years to form itself. It will require the utilization of
a large portion of petroleum revenue for financing development projects -
both directly and through grants and loans. There is, accordingly, a

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feeling that we are in a race with time; for the period in which we can continue to rely on this form of ready financing is short and fraught with risk. Because the time is short, we must carefully scrutinize for their efficacy all the measures we take in the advance towards the state of self-reliance, especially those related to the development of our technological capabilities at both the country and the regional levels. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development is devoted precisely to this goal, as are all the energetic measures being taken in preparation for it and all the studies and discussions emerging therefrom. These serve to reveal before the authorities responsible for planning growth and development the shortcomings and obstacles that could thwart the progress desired and deserved in terms of the efforts and the sums expended in its favour. It is generally agreed that it is not enough to undertake productive projects without considering who it is that plans and implements them; it is not enough to establish scientific and technological institutions and to graduate numbers of technical cadres therefrom without considering the way these cadres are being educated and trained; it is not enough to employ and assign these cadres without considering the system in whose framework they are to function. In short, of themselves all these concrete measures do not necessarily add up to the self-reliant technological capability that is called for. The proof is that all of these measures have been adopted in a number of the countries of the Region and in many other countries of the Third World. Despite the availability of tens of thousands of local engineers, these countries still find themselves obliged to depend upon the technicians and engineers of foreign companies for planning, designing and implementing most of the important factory, road, bridge and dam projects of their development plans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many serious studies have been made analyzing the shortcomings and the obstacles that account for the persistence of technological dependency in the developing countries in the face of all the efforts undertaken to remove it. Most of these studies were conducted at the hands of seasoned specialists in the field of the transfer and application

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of technology and were based, evidently, on experiments that cannot be readily generalized to all the developing countries with a uniform degree of precision. In order to arrive at the appropriate solutions, therefore, there is no escaping the need to analyze these shortcomings and obstacles through studies that are founded on the realities of each individual society, milieu and country, where the natural, sociological, cultural and political characteristics of each are taken into account. This is so because the major shortcoming is generally on the side of the recipient of science and technology transfers; for most of the sciences and the means for applying them are readily available and widely distributed and, being the property of all mankind, can be acquired at no cost.

True, many of the impediments are of external origin, such as the conduct of the multi-national corporations, the obstructive consequences represented by exclusive production rights covering specific machinery and processes and by the patents registered in the developing countries by their owners not for the purpose of utilizing them there, but, in most instances, for the purpose of preventing their exploitation and utilization in the country in question. Add to these the conditions which accompany international and bilateral assistance that leave the citizens of the recipient countries in the position of passively resigned on-lookers, and the other obstacles that are no longer in the realm of confidentiality and secrecy and whose presentation and discussion in the appropriate circumstances no longer embarrass anyone. The world as a whole has become aware of the need for removing these obstacles in favour of achieving the technological progress required by the new International Economic Order.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The countries of this part of the world need to devote more effort to scientific research in areas that are not of the same degree of concern to the developed countries, whose circumstances are different from those of our Region.

As far as the issue of the transfer of technology and the liberation from technological dependency is concerned, however, the basic problem is that represented by the engineer. Of the three major channels for the transfer of technology - machinery and equipment, engineering, skilled labour -

the engineer occupies the central position and engineering constitutes the denominator common to all three channels. I would urge that more engineers of experience and skill be encouraged to participate at conferences and to take part in the preparation of studies and recommendations devoted to overcoming the obstacles in the way of the transfer of technology and the liberation from the dependency which results from the failure to transfer technology and to develop it locally. The importance of the role of the multidisciplinary engineer (the generalist) who, as the conductor of the orchestra, is cognizant of the roles of all the specialized players cannot be overestimated. It is worth noting that the development of the symphony orchestra was contemporary with the development of the industrial systems of Europe in the nineteenth century. We have to confess that in terms of the development of our technological capability we are still in the nineteenth century if not earlier. If it is possible to imagine a fast leap forward, it is certain that this will not be achieved by merely pressing buttons. It will be achieved through persistent and patient steps that may result in the telescoping of time, but that cannot dispense with the need for acquiring the ability to move from one stage to the other.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The purpose of this Meeting is to exhibit the subjects related to the problem of putting the benefits of science and technology to the achievement of the greatest amount of socio-economic progress possible in favour of narrowing the ever-growing gap between the developed and the developing worlds. It is no coincidence that the socio-economically backward countries are also technologically backward. The connexion between the two is clear and positive and lends the coming International Conference its immense significance. ECWA has prepared a draft regional paper in which it analyses the subject, identifies the obstacles and poses the solutions that, if implemented, would secure, in our opinion, the climate appropriate to the achievement of the desired objective. In this paper a number of measures are recommended which can be implemented at the country, the regional and international levels. At the present Meeting, country papers will also be submitted and discussed so that everyone can benefit from the information, viewpoints, and recommendations

embodied therein and so that, in the light of these, the final form of the joint recommendations that represent the official position of the Western Asia group of countries can take shape.

The Commission believes that it is no longer possible to study and deal with this subject and treat its problems in the ECWA countries of the Arab East in isolation from its counterpart in the countries of the Arab Maghreb. It has thus become necessary to deal with the problem on the level of the Arab Nation as a whole. In order that your resolutions may reflect the situation at this level, the Commission, in co-ordination with the Economic Commission for Africa, invited representatives of the Arab Maghreb states to attend the present Meeting.

In closing, honoured participants, I would like to express my confidence that one year from now you will enter the Conference in Vienna with a working paper that reflects the realities of the Region and that is founded on a comprehensive understanding of what is needed for securing the well-being, sufficiency, honour and dignity of all. Thank you.

Statement delivered by Mr. Guy B. Gresford
Deputy Secretary-General of UNCSTD
Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on
Science and Technology for Development
convened by the Economic Commission for Western Asia

12 - 15 September 1978

Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

I must first present Mr. da Costa's regret that he cannot be here today. As I know you are aware, the Secretary-General of the Conference is at present on sick leave, due in no small part to his exhausting travel schedule in the interests of the Conference over the past months.

In addition, on behalf of Mr. da Costa and the secretariat of the Conference, I would like to express our warm thanks to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting this regional meeting.

I must also thank the Economic Commission for Western Asia for the close support that organization has provided for our secretariat in the important work before us.

I must report to you that over-all preparations for the Conference are well in hand. This is evidenced by the extremely encouraging response of Governments. To date over 96 countries have contributed their national papers, and 131 national focal points are working with the co-operation of experts from the Conference secretariat. To this, I should add that over 70 seminars have been held as well as a large number of associated meetings, symposia and seminars in both developed and developing countries.

It is important to point out that the Conference secretariat has encouraged the support of the scientific and technological community and to that end, a series of major seminars are being organized in preparation for the Conference. In addition the NGO community is increasingly involved in the work before us. I must also refer to the close cooperation which has been built-up between the Conference secretariat and the various member bodies of the UN system - and indeed, with a number of other inter-governmental organizations. The major task being undertaken by the secretariat at present is the analysis of the various national papers so as to extract recommendations on which the draft programme of action will be based and to assist in the drafting of discussion papers for the Conference. While this is so, the regional reports and recommendations for action are of fundamental importance to the work of the Conference since they present the views of regions concerning those social and economic problems that may be solved with the wise application of science and technology.

I am sure you will agree that under the leadership of our Conference Secretary-General, Mr. da Costa, immense progress has been made in establishing a sound basis for the decisions which are to be made at Vienna in 1979. At the same time the work which I have just described is a continuing task. At the national level, we are confident that the momentum already so successfully built up will accelerate, and it is our expectation that national focal points will be maintained for this purpose.

Turning away from organizational matters, I should like now to quote directly from a speech which Mr. da Costa had himself intended to present before this meeting.

There are a number of important points connected with the objectives of the Conference on which, judging from contacts undertaken with Member States, there exists a certain measure of consensus. They are:

- The two aspects of technology
- The process of public participation
- In search of the common interest
- The need for a new type of negotiation
- Science, technology and culture.

On the question of the two aspects of technology, the preparatory work for the Conference should have made it clear that technology can be viewed in two different ways. First of all, it can be regarded as property to be acquired. Secondly, it can be regarded as the outgrowth and an integral part of a specific economic, social, political and cultural system, so that when one studies technological dependence, a distinction must be made between the problems arising in connexion with the arrangements for the acquisition of technology by developing countries, which we may refer to as external dependence, and the problems, far more complex and less extensively studied, arising from a more subtle type of dependence which is inherent in transferred technology.

The first aspect covering such questions as excessive royalties, monopolistic contracts, incomplete transfers, shadow pricing, restrictive practices or clauses, and so on is the one that has received most attention.

The second type of dependence calls for somewhat more detailed analysis, and has several important results. First the imposition on the

recipient parties of foreign standards and attitudes at a number of different levels, ranging from products and production techniques to cultural elements and value systems.

Secondly it renders sterile the scientific and technological creativity of the developing countries, whose cultures tend in this area, and at first in this area only, to become passive and imitative; in contrast with what happened at the time of the industrial revolution in Europe and America, there is no call on locally existing technical capacities but rather an inhibiting of national science and technology and a loss of skills or the creation of economic and social dualism in the developing countries, aggravated by the disintegration of rural societies and the middle classes and the creation of enclaves of developed foreign economies.

Thirdly it leads to a diminution of the personality and specific characteristics of the developing countries and fourthly there is a failure by the countries concerned to participate effectively in the decision making processes and in the very process of planning their national development.

It must be acknowledged that the remedies proposed for these two types of dependence are in some measure contradictory. Whereas in the first case it is primarily a question of removing obstacles to a flow of technology, so that it now takes place on the most favourable possible economic terms, in the second case it is rather a question of developing a system of selectivity and, indeed, of building barriers against undesirable technologies.

In any event, the imbalance existing between the developed and the developing countries makes it essential to devise means of correcting the effects of an indiscriminate flow of technology supposedly governed by the "free mechanisms of the market".

To cite an old adage, "As between the strong and the weak, it is freedom that oppresses and law that sets free". It is precisely this maxim that must govern the new international scientific and technological order which will, it is hoped, emerge from the Conference.

As far as the process of public participation is concerned we have long heard it said that science is neutral and disinterested. Now, in addition, we are told that technology is neutral and that its rational application must be governed by objective needs. In a word, there are no longer any choices to be made, nor is there any need for decisions. The automatic application of the dictates of science and technology will solve all problems, without reference to public opinion and the process of social decision making. The result will be a "third universe", admittedly a rather inhuman one, the first being that of nature and the second that of society and culture.

This is a dangerous vision, and this third universe obviously exists only for the purpose of controlling natural and social processes. As for the so-called objective constraints imposed by science and technology, they result in a divorce between the democratic process of collective decision making and the power of knowledge which is controlled by a minority.

In reality, science and technology emerge from each society within a cultural and historical context based on values and interests peculiar to that society. It is essential to preserve man's power to determine the direction in which his destiny will proceed.

As far as science and technology are concerned, they must be applied in a voluntary, conscious manner. They must not be used for political domination, either direct or indirect. Since they constitute means of achieving certain social, political, cultural and ethical objectives, social debate is essential to this process of making choices, and we must therefore reject the dangerous idea that the logic of scientific and technological progress eliminates choices and decisions.

Our Conference and its preparatory process should have made clear the need for confrontation and interaction between knowledge and power always taking place in the light of each society's conception of its own present and future.

I turn now to the search for the common interest. The process of finding international solutions to scientific and technological problems should remain on the positive foundation of common interests and not wander, as too often happens, into the honourable but politically dangerous field of philanthropy and charity.

Allegedly, and herein lies the whole tragedy, the third world countries have nothing to offer in exchange for the cooperation extended by the developed countries to their technological development.

This is an assertion that is heard continually, and is backed up by the argument that technological capacity is the only asset of the developed countries, and that they have no cause to hand it over to the developing world.

In any case it is wrong to represent the divergence between developed and developing countries as an a priori consideration. What does exist is a divergence of interests between the advocates of an impossible status quo (either for the developed countries or the developing countries) and those who see that, in both types of country, only innovation and change can provide a solution to world problems.

Does the present situation, involving a scientific and technological monopoly, perpetuating the dependence of the developing countries, save the interests of the developed countries? Certainly not, particularly over the long term.

From the economic point of view, the scientific and technological development of the third world will provide the developed world with: strong and stable partners instead of weak trading counterparts resulting from the present economic and social dualism of developing countries. It will make available vitally needed openings for production and employment, without the enormous risks of inflation entailed in internal pump-priming measures. This point is well made in a statement by a spokesman of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs last November:

"rich and poor countries have a definite common interest in a well functioning international order and in mechanisms to encourage co-ordinated efforts to solve common problems. The main problem now consists in co-ordinated efforts to avoid serious economic recession which is a definite possibility. Any efforts aimed at redressing the world economy would have to take into account e.g. the fact that purchases from semi-industrialized countries, most of which now being seriously indebted, created three million jobs in the OECD area during the most recent years. There is therefore every reason to keep in mind that general and global redressment could particularly be realized through a major effort at solving the pressing economic and financial problems of the developing countries thereby creating new economic opportunities and obvious benefits to everybody".

The scientific and technological development of the third world will also provide new opportunities for developed countries enterprises, once their organic integration in the development policy of the host country has been properly defined. In addition, there is a real possibility of eliminating the problem of the impoverishment of the third world, which cannot be solved by charitable deeds and of providing improved coordination between the growth of the developed countries and the growth of the developing countries, now closely dependent on one another.

Politically speaking, such a technological development of the third world would dispel the very real risks of disruption or explosion

on this divided planet, reduce the threat of the formation of "proletariats" around the borders of affluence, and minimise the appearance of other problems that are both insoluble and unpredictable.

The need for a new type of negotiation may now be considered briefly. Negotiations on scientific and technical matters held within the United Nations or elsewhere follow an almost invariable pattern. A start is made, so to speak, from each end, in an attempt to reach an intermediate point, and usually the end result is simply a great many confrontations and a great deal of waste. The entire procedure is accompanied by trials of strength, expressions of concern, recommendations for action to the other party, statements intended purely for internal consumption, insistence on sacrosanct principles with no practical value, and attitudes that either demanding or defensive.

What Member States seem to want at our Conference and during its preparatory phase is an entirely different "kind" of negotiations, characterized by the following features:

- * They would start at the centre and not at opposite ends: in other words, on the common ground existing between the various interests involved;
- * There would be no attempt at global bargaining;
- * There would be sufficiently long-term, or at least medium-term, framework for discussion of the subject;
- * An effort should be made to combine "diplomatic" and "substantive" negotiations (that is, the usual discrepancies between theoretical positions at the international level and practical action at the national level).

The common ground identified at the outset would be gradually and simultaneously expanded in the light of the real problems identified and the growing evidence of the advantages, for all countries, of full technological development of the third world.

The new international scientific and technological order calls not only for changes in international relations, but for internal adjustments and changes in the developed countries as well as in the developing countries. Hence there is need to allow sufficient time for absorption of the sectoral problems caused by those adjustments.

On the question of science, technology and culture, there is a tendency for science and technology to constitute a superstructure which is, at the same time, autonomous and intimately linked to the entire range of social and political processes.

At a certain stage, attention was concentrated on the links between science and technology and the production system. "Science policies" at this initial stage were somewhat divorced from economic reality. Since then these considerations have been replaced by attempts at integrating them into national economic development policies. It is now time to take another step towards integration into over-all national development policies.

Indeed, science and technology transcend the economic sphere and belong in the context of national and international life as a whole.

In particular, new development approaches are, as we know, no longer confined to mere economic growth but constitute a far more extensive

and integrated corpus which calls for an over-all view which must include inter alia utilization of cultural structures, preservation of human values, participation by the people in the work of shaping their own destiny, ability to set goals and take decisions, peace, and so on.

It will not be sufficient merely to analyse the role of scientific and technological systems as they relate to economic and production structures. Science and technology also represent a phenomenon of immense political importance (both national and international) and, moreover, have a profound impact on culture.

Despite the extraordinary ability of the human species to rid itself of its dependence on programmed mechanisms, it must be acknowledged that its capacity for adjustment tends to **fail** when a society reaches cultural fulfillment and equilibrium.

Our contemporary societies can only safeguard their existence by incorporating new elements. Only in an atmosphere of innovation and creativity, in both the developing and the developed countries, will our cultures be able to avoid steady decline.

Obviously science and technology does not only have negative effects on cultures but also constructive effects. Their powers can be directed towards rectifying cultural elements that are considered undesirable. It is also clear that science and technology has a largely autonomous superstructure of its own and the ability to interact with economic, social, political and cultural systems. Such inherent strength and authority can help societies to adopt dynamic attitudes and make continual new

adjustments, not to mention the impact of science and technology as a means of anticipating and even creating a favourable climate for the emergence of new values."

It is evident from Mr. da Costa's observations that each region must come to the Conference with a clearly defined stance. In this connexion, I know I am correct in expressing his particular concern with those social and economic problems in Western Asia that might be solved with proper application of science and technology. I am equally correct in expressing his regret at being unable to be with us today. I look forward, as do all of us, to his continuing leadership in the important work before us.

(Concluding personal remarks).

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
United Nations Conference on Science and
Technology for Development
12-15 September 1978
Amman, Jordan

ANNEX V

RESOLUTION No. 1

Pursual of Preparation for the UN Conference on Science and Technology
-----for Development-----

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference
on Science and Technology for Development:

Recalling provisions of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of General Assembly
Resolution 32/115 of 15 December 1977,

Considering that the postponement until 1979 of the Third Session
of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference will delay the
programming of further preparatory activities needed for the Conference,

Considering the recognized need to strengthen the role of the
Regional Commissions and to provide them and the Conference Secretariat
with the necessary financial and human resources to enable them to
carry still further the activities in the field of science and technology
which constitute their contribution to the preparatory process of the
Conference,

1. Requests the General Assembly at its thirty-third session
(September - December 1978) to give due consideration to and to adopt
decisions on the following matters:

(a) The analytical progress report by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the state of preparation of the Conference;

(b) Allocation of funds necessary for the full implementation of the national regional and interregional activities as foreseen by the Secretary General of the Conference;

2. Urges all states to take all necessary measures to make positive contributions to the Preparatory Work of the Conference and to continue to extend their full co-operation to the Secretary-General of the Conference in carrying out the responsibility of co-ordination invested in him by the General Assembly (Resolution 32/115 para. 7);

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference and the appropriate organs of the United Nations to take the necessary steps to ensure that the principle of equitable geographic distribution, particularly with regard to staff at the level of principal officer and above be fully implemented, in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Unanimously adopted

14 September 1978

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