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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 77 (h)

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Ghana*: draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989 on the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and its revitalization,

Recalling also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ in the Assembly stressed in particular the need for developed countries and international organizations to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous capacities in the area of scientific and technological capability;

Recalling that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its thirty-seventh session, decided that building and strengthening national capacity for the transfer and adaptation of technology for development should be one of the areas on which the United Nations Development Programme should focus attention;

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, 4/

Reaffirming that knowledge is the crucial determinant of progress and that science and technology has a critical role in the reactivation of development, especially in developing countries,

Conscious that new and emerging technologies, such as information technologies and new materials, are radically shifting the comparative advantages between different countries, thereby constituting both an opportunity and a challenge to policy makers and international organizations,

Noting that the development of environmentally sound technologies and assured access to them, including access on concessional and preferential terms, constitutes for developing countries a crucial component of a strategic approach to sustainable development,

Recognizing that access to environmentally sound technologies is essential for the full incorporation of environmental concerns into national development strategies,

Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of assistance to build the endogenous capacity of developing countries in science and technology and to facilitate their access to technologies on favourable terms,

Recognizing that the role and relevance of the United Nations in this critically important area needs further enhancement and strengthening to respond more forcefully to the emerging needs of developing countries,

1. Endorses resolution 1 (XI) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development; 5/

2. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/9).

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/46/37).

5/ Ibid., chap. II.

3. Requests the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the basis of the discussion by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme of its twelfth session, to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, a comprehensive, analytical report on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in the developing countries;

4. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session, after reviewing the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, submitted to it in response to resolution 1 (XI), to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to finance the scientific and technological needs of developing countries.

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