



PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1983

Addendum

CHAPTER 23

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAMME 1: CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Replace paragraphs 23.1 to 23.37 of A/33/6/Rev.1 with the following text

Background

23.1 The medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983 for science and technology, as presented in chapter 23, Programme 1, of document A/33/6/Rev.1, 1/ has been superseded by the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development contained in the Vienna Programme of Action (A/CONF.81/16) 2/ and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which the Assembly decided, inter alia:

(a) To establish an Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly open to the participation of all States as full members;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to establish, as a new, organizationally distinct entity, a Centre for Science and Technology for Development, and to abolish the Office for Science and Technology, redeploying immediately most of its posts and budgetary resources to the Centre;

(c) To establish a United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

23.2 Pending the first substantive session of the Intergovernmental Committee and the effective establishment of the Centre, the Secretary-General is not

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna (20-31 August 1979) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and Corr.1), chap. VII.

in a position to submit definitive proposals for a new medium-term plan for science and technology for development. Nevertheless, in the light of the request of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) to receive an indication of the reorientation of the medium-term plan consequent on the recommendations of the Vienna Conference and the decisions of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is submitting the following information with respect to the plan at this stage.

## A. Organization

### 1. Intergovernmental review

23.3 The work of the Secretariat in this programme has been reviewed previously by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, which met every two years. In future, the programme will be reviewed by the newly established Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, which will meet once a year and which will submit its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

### 2. Secretariat

23.4 The Secretariat unit responsible for this programme will be the Centre for Science and Technology for Development headed by an Assistant Secretary-General who will be responsible to, and report directly to, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. In addition to the resources allocated to the Centre by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, the staff of the secretariat will be drawn from resources made available from the redeployment of the Office of Science and Technology of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, which has now been abolished consequent on General Assembly resolution 34/218, as well as any further additional resources which, based on the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its second session in 1980, the General Assembly might approve.

23.5 One of the main tasks of the new Centre for Science and Technology for Development will be to assist the Director-General in ensuring effective co-operation, both within the United Nations and in the organizations of the system as a whole, in the area of science and technology. It is expected that, at the United Nations Secretariat level, an interdepartmental consultative arrangement comprising the heads of all the organizational entities concerned will be established for the purpose. The consultative arrangement will be serviced by the Centre and will be chaired by the Director-General. In so far as co-ordination within the United Nations system is concerned, the Centre will assist the Director-General in performing this task, utilizing, as appropriate, the Joint Interagency Task Force for Science and Technology for Development, which has recently been established by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) as well as other relevant interagency mechanisms.

### B. General outline of the programme

23.6 In accordance with its terms of reference, the activities of the Centre will, to a considerable extent, be determined by the Programme of Action adopted at the Vienna Conference and, more specifically, by the operational plan, which is expected to reflect the Programme's principal foci, namely: strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries; restructuring the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations; and strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology and the provision of increased financial resources for that purpose. It should also be framed in the context of the general commitment by all Member States to treat science and technology as an integral part of the new international economic order and the need to support effectively the developmental objectives and priorities agreed upon by countries, especially the developing countries. It should, in the same context, be guided by the emphasis placed in the Vienna Programme of Action on modification and, if necessary, redefinition of objectives, policies and criteria of the competent organizations, and on the effective organizational harmonization of the objectives and policies just mentioned, by greater cohesiveness and co-ordination of activities in order to maximize their benefits and the contribution of the system in this area; and the adoption by the organs of the United Nations system of measures to achieve the objectives of particular importance to developing countries, as set out in paragraph 106 of the Vienna Programme of Action.

23.7 Based on the objectives of the Programme of Action and the structure of the previous plan, it can be envisaged that there will be four subprogrammes in the new medium-term plan, namely:

(a) Substantive support to intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

(b) Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Co-ordination of scientific and technological activities within the United Nations system;

(d) Activities relating to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

### C. Subprogramme narratives

#### SUBPROGRAMME 1: SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER BODIES

23.8 The Centre will assist the Director-General in providing substantive support to:

(a) The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

(b) The advisory mechanism to be set up to provide scientific and technical expert advice to the Committee; 3/

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3/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/213, the Committee is required to consider modification of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST).

(c) Any other bodies which may be set up either by the General Assembly or the Committee to deal with Science and Technology for Development;

(d) Relevant interdepartmental and interagency mechanisms for science and technology for development.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA PROGRAMME OF ACTION

23.9 The Centre may be required by the Intergovernmental Committee to undertake the following tasks:

(a) Identify priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(b) Prepare an operational plan for carrying out the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Prepare a basic study of the activities, mandates and working methods of all the various organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development and to examine the possibilities of improving the efficiency of the system in that field, to be submitted to the Committee at its 1981 session;

(d) Undertake the preparation of analyses, studies and syntheses with respect to specific operational and non-operational activities,

(e) Establish procedures to enable all appropriate international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other organizations to participate in the work of the Committee;

(f) Initiate arrangements for early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments, including those which may adversely affect the development process as well as those which may have importance for the process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries for the application of science and technology to development;

(g) Establish and maintain relations with the international, scientific community in order to enlist its support for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

#### SUBPROGRAMME 3: CO-ORDINATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

23.10 The Centre will assist the Director-General in the discharge of his responsibilities relating to:

(a) The co-ordination of the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee;

(b) The harmonization of the science and technology objectives and policies of the various components of the United Nations system, as a basis for the co-ordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action at the secretariat level;

(c) The promotion on a system-wide basis of mutual support and effective interaction between operational activities and research and policy analysis activities in the field of science and technology, including the necessary policy and programme harmonization between activities financed by the regular budget and those financed by extrabudgetary resources.

SUBPROGRAMME 4: ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE FINANCING SYSTEM FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

23.11 The Centre will assist the Director-General in:

(a) Preparing policy guidelines for the implementation of the objectives of the financial arrangements for science and technology for development;

(b) Servicing the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the long-term arrangements for the operation of the system;

(c) Working closely with the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development on matters of common concern including, inter alia, the review of projects to be supported by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

PROGRAMME 2: DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Replace paragraphs 23.38 and 23.39 of A/33/6/Rev.1 with the following text

23.38 During the 1980-83 period, it is expected that substantive support for technical co-operation activities in the area of science and technology will continue to be forthcoming and perhaps increase substantially, particularly in light of the results of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. In this context, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development expects to provide substantive support to technical co-operation activities in those aspects of science and technology that pertain to its mandates in the fields of natural resources and energy, public administration, development planning and statistics.

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