



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/362/Add.1
12 November 1980

ORIGINAL: ARABIC/CHINESE/
ENGLISH/FRENCH/
RUSSIAN/SPANISH

Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 59 (d)

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Co-operation and assistance in the application and improvement of
national information and mass communication systems for social
progress and development

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

In addition to the report submitted by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 34/181 of 18 December 1979, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly, at the request of the Director-General, the texts of two resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session.

ANNEX I

Resolution of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session on the International Programme for the Development of Communication

The General Conference,

1. Recalling the twentieth session of the General Conference resolution calling for the establishment of "a new, more just and more efficient world information and communication order",
2. Conscious of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to the Strengthening of Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War,
3. Taking note of the declarations as well as recommendations of the Intergovernmental Conferences on Communication Policies held at San José in July 1976, Kuala Lumpur in February 1979 and Yaoundé in July 1980,
4. Recalling also the resolution (20 C/4/9.4/2) requesting the Director-General to encourage and intensify communication development and to convene for this purpose a planning meeting of the representatives of governments to develop a proposal for institutional arrangements to systematize collaborative consultation on communications development, activities, needs and plan.
5. Appreciating the Director-General's prompt action in convening the Intergovernmental Conference for Co-operation on Activities, Needs and Programmes for Communication Development, held in Paris in April, 1980,
6. Taking note of the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Conference inviting the Director-General to submit to the General Conference a project for the establishment, within the framework of Unesco, of an International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC),

7. Taking fully into account the line of action suggested in the document submitted to this General Conference and entitled "Intergovernmental Conference for Co-operation on Activities, Needs and Programmes for Communication Development - Director-General's report and proposals" (21 C/86),
8. Stressing that this international programme, aiming to increase co-operation and assistance for development of communication infrastructures and to reduce the gap between various countries in the communication field, must form part of the efforts for the establishment of "a new, more just and more efficient world information and communication order",

I

Approves the recommendation on the International Programme for the Development of Communication, adopted by consensus at the Intergovernmental Conference (DEVCOM, April 1980), the text of which is annexed hereto.

II

Resolves

- (i) to establish, within the framework of Unesco, an International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) in accordance with the provisions of Parts III to VI of the aforementioned recommendation which define the objectives, competence and the measures necessary for the effective functioning of the programme;
- (ii) to set up without delay the appropriate system of financing and resources, referred to in sections V and VI of the recommendation;
- (iii) to adopt the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication, as annexed hereto;
- (iv) to elect the Intergovernmental Council composed of 35 Member States on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and applying the principles of rotation, as a co-ordinating body responsible to the General Conference of Unesco, with the task of implementing the objectives of the IPDC;

III

Invites Member States to take appropriate self-reliant measures for the more intensive development of communication facilities and activities, further invites them, as well as various international organizations, relevant non-governmental and professional associations to collaborate extensively between themselves and with Unesco in the fields of communication, development and to lend their support to the activities of the IPDC, bearing in mind that implementation of the objectives of the International Programme for the Development of Communication needs the co-operation of all those interested and concerned;

/...

IV

Invites the Director-General of Unesco

- (i) to take appropriate measures and make necessary arrangements, along with existing programme activities and staffing (more particularly in the framework of Objective 9.4 of 21 C/5), which will facilitate the establishment, development and efficient implementation of the IPDC;
- (ii) to set up the necessary secretariat to assist the Intergovernmental Council as soon as possible, in accordance with the Statutes of the Council;
- (iii) to make available within the framework of the approved regular budget of 1981-1983 the sum of \$1.75 million for launching and implementing the initial phase of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (iv) to take necessary action leading to the establishment of an inter-agency working group of the appropriate organizations in the United Nations system, bearing in mind that wider co-operation between Unesco, the United Nations and the various specialized agencies and other bodies having competence in this field is vital for the satisfactory implementation of the IPDC;
- (v) to make the appropriate arrangements in consultation with the Intergovernmental Council, to mobilize resources needed for the International Programme and to seek contributions from Member States and other parties concerned;
- (vi) to explore, in consultation with the Intergovernmental Council, among other alternatives, the possibilities of elevating the appropriate system of financing and resources to the status of an international fund within the framework of Unesco;

V

- (i) Expresses its hope that all developed and developing countries, international organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, professional groups and other available sources will lend their support to the expansion of IPDC resources in the form of finances, manpower, materials, technology and training - for a speedy and satisfactory implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (ii) Invites the Intergovernmental Council to submit to the twenty-second session of the General Conference of Unesco the first report on its activities, in conformity with Article 11 of the Statutes.
- (iii) Expresses the conviction that the progressive implementation of these recommendations constitutes an essential stage towards the establishment of "a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order".

The General Conference,

Approves the Recommendation on the International Programme for the Development of Communication, adopted by consensus at the Intergovernmental Conference (DEVCOM, April 1980):

Recommendation on the International Programme for the Development of Communication

The following Recommendation, which was approved unanimously, lays down suggested principles and a basic framework for putting into effect an International Programme for the Development of Communication as recommended by the Conference,

The Conference,

1. Conscious of the increasing role of communication among peoples and nations in promoting political, economic, social, scientific, educational and cultural progress, as well as in improving mutual understanding, strengthening international peace and safeguarding national sovereignty and cultural identity,
2. Conscious of the close relationship linking the concepts, objectives and results of the overall development of each country and of all countries within the systems, practices, means and infrastructures of social communication,
3. Noting the deplorable situations of dependence and the significant inequalities of a technological, professional, material and financial nature which exist between developed countries and developing countries in most fields of communication, and further noting calls for larger participation in, and democratization of, international relations in the field of information and for the overcoming of vestiges of colonialism,
4. Observing also that the circulation of information among countries still shows numerous deficiencies,
5. Reaffirming that it is indispensable to change the state of dependency of developing countries in the field of information and communication by assuring a wider and better balanced circulation and dissemination of information among all partners and by guaranteeing the diversity of sources and free access to information,
6. Underlining that pursuit of the objectives and elimination of the obstacles cited above depends on strengthening the potential of developing countries in the different fields of communication,
7. Underlining the need to establish a new international information and communication order, as indicated in the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of Unesco at its twentieth session,

8. Considering that international co-operation in the field of communication development should take place on the basis of equality, justice, mutual advantage and the principles of international law, and mindful of the fundamental contribution that the information media and mass communications can make to the establishment of a new international economic order, the strengthening of peace and international understanding, the realization of the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the promotion of universal respect for human rights and the struggle against racism, apartheid and colonialism,
9. Considering that assistance to developing countries should not be politically tied and that favourable conditions should be enhanced to facilitate better access to modern communication technology for developing countries,
10. Recalling the "Declaration on fundamental principles concerning the contribution of the mass media to strengthening peace and international understanding, to the promotion of human rights and to countering racialism, apartheid and incitement to war", adopted by the General Conference of Unesco at its twentieth session, in particular Article VI, which states that in order to achieve a new equilibrium and assure greater reciprocity in the flow of information it is essential that the mass media in developing countries "should have conditions and resources enabling them to gain strength and expand, and to co-operate both among themselves and with the mass media in developed countries",
11. Recalling resolution 4/9.4/2 adopted at the twentieth session of the General Conference of Unesco, requesting the Director-General to intensify and encourage communications development and to hold consultations designed to lead to the provision to developing countries of technological and other means for promoting a free flow and a wider and better balanced exchange of information of all kinds, and inviting him, for this purpose, to convene as early as possible after the conclusion of the twentieth session of the General Conference a planning meeting of representatives of governments, to develop a proposal for institutional arrangements to systematize collaborative consultation on communications development activities, needs and plans,
12. Recalling propositions made by the delegates of certain developed countries during the twentieth session of Unesco's General Conference to engage in technical co-operation and practical assistance,
13. Recalling also the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 33rd and 34th sessions, supporting the action undertaken by Unesco and the orientations it has adopted in the field of communication,
14. Recalling resolution 34/181 adopted by the 34th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which asks the Director-General of Unesco to study, among other alternatives, the possibility of creating, under the auspices of Unesco, an international fund for the development of communication,
15. Recalling also resolution 34/182 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 34th session recognizing in particular the central and important role of Unesco in the field of information and mass communications and in the implementation of decisions relating thereto.

16. Reaffirming the need to strengthen the co-operation and co-ordination between the institutions of the United Nations system which deal with different aspects of communication and contribute to operational action for the development of communication systems,
17. Recalling in this context the notable role already played in communications development by several agencies of the United Nations system and particularly ITU, which has been given the responsibility for establishing an integrated world-wide telecommunications network,
18. Reaffirming that in order to reduce the existing gaps in communication within, as well as among nations, it is indispensable to develop appropriate infrastructures, equipment, training programmes, resources and means of developing countries in order to increase their indigenous capacity for production and distribution of messages,
19. Recognizing the necessity for all countries to utilize fully all possible forms of mutual consultation, co-operation and assistance, both multi-lateral and bilateral, to accelerate the development and improvement of communication and information systems,
20. Observing that signs of solidarity are appearing within the international community to correct in different fields, including communication, the present disequilibrium between developed and developing countries, and anxious to transform these constructive signs of solidarity into concrete actions,
21. Recalling that the existing disparity in communication among different countries will not be eliminated by the mere material development of infrastructures and professional resources and by the transfer of know-how and technologies but that the solution depends also on the elimination of all political, ideological, psychological, economic and technical obstacles which run counter to the development of independent national communication systems and to a freer, wider and more balanced circulation of information,

I

Recommends Member States, taking into account the objectives of their national communication development policies and priorities:

- (i) to promote the formulation, at national and regional levels, of general communication development policies in order to facilitate the mobilization of available human and material resources, while ensuring the coherent co-ordination and planning of their use;
- (ii) to identify the priority areas in national investment plans and communication development programmes which justify support and financing by competent national or international bodies;
- (iii) to make provision in economic, social and cultural development projects for the necessary facilities for the acquisition, installation and operation of different means of information and communication to meet professional needs, as well as for the production of telecommunication and information material and equipment;

- (iv) to contribute to the creation and consolidation of appropriate systems of communication at the material and logistic level, taking into account the requirements of endogenous development;
- (v) to take appropriate measures to overcome, more effectively than in the past, the different political, economic, commercial, financial and technical obstacles which hamper the introduction of conditions conducive to the freer and better balanced exchange of information;
- (vi) to undertake measures such as will stimulate the efforts of the developing countries, by increasing resources from various countries and ensuring the harmonious utilization of available national and international means;
- (vii) to give highest priority, in their co-operation agreements, to the creation or development of the national and regional infrastructures which are necessary for communication, to the improvement of professional and technical training as well as to the setting up of production structures to ensure a more balanced exchange of information and cultural products;
- (viii) to intensify substantially their efforts in the various fields of technical assistance in the form of training, expertise, equipment, etc.

II

Recommends international and regional organizations, and especially those belonging to the United Nations system:

- (i) to intensify their reciprocal co-operation with a view to the more effective utilization of their existing or potential human and material resources, in the communication development field, in support of the common aims which these organizations pursue;
- (ii) to provide additional resources to information and communication development programmes, and to support efforts made by developing countries to set up infrastructures and facilities for social communication, telecommunication or informatics which will enable them to transmit or receive information of all kinds at an acceptable cost;
- (iii) to contribute to the development of the training of specialized professionals and skilled personnel so as to master different communication technologies;

III

Invites the Director-General of Unesco, in conformity with resolution 4/9.4/2 adopted at the twentieth session of the General Conference, to submit to the General Conference, at its next session, a project for the establishment, within the framework of Unesco, of an International Programme for the Development of Communication;

Recommends that the main objectives of this programme should be:

- (i) to assist developing countries, at their request, in the elaboration and implementation of their information and communication development plans, as well as in the identification of needs and priority areas;
- (ii) to promote in developing countries, in accordance with their communication policies and development plans, the creation or extension of infrastructures for the different communication sectors, in order, in particular, to increase the contribution of the means of communication to endogenous economic, social and cultural development, as well as to promote improved international exchange of information;
- (iii) to proceed with the analysis of technical and financial needs and resources in the fields of information and communication at national and international levels;
- (iv) to ensure reciprocal consultation and better co-ordination among the parties interested in the development of communication and in various related programmes of co-operation;
- (v) to pursue all available avenues, both public and private, for the securing of funds and other resources to support projects or classes of projects of communications development;
- (vi) to bring together proposed projects with sources of financial and other help that it may have obtained or identified;
- (vii) to encourage contributions to these projects from all possible financing sources, in accordance with such plans and common interests as may emerge;
- (viii) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination of Unesco's activities with other Specialized Agencies concerned, especially with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);
- (ix) to give particular attention, at an early stage of its activities, to the promotion of viable regional institutional arrangements which should assist the programme in pursuing the above-mentioned objectives, through integrated regional co-operation in the field of communication development; in this connection, regional communication institutions established with Unesco's assistance should be encouraged to play an extensive role in the planning and execution of regional projects within the programme;
- (x) to provide consultative and advisory services to the developing countries in the field of communications development, with a view to making optimum use of available resources;
- (xi) to take measures to promote the awareness of all parties concerned (be they developing or developed countries, international organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations or other public and private bodies active in this field) of the important role that communication plays in the development process, thus contributing to mobilize technical and financial resources necessary to the pursuance of the objectives of the programme;

- (xii) to encourage maximum co-operation, co-ordination and concentration of efforts among all who are interested in national or international communications development;
- (xiii) to support, particularly among developing countries, the conclusion of arrangements on exchange of information, programmes and experience, on co-operation and co-production between radio and television organizations, news agencies and journalists' associations;
- (xiv) to prepare studies based on experience gained in international co-operation in the field of information and communication development, particularly between developing and developed countries.

IV

Recommends that:

- (i) the International Programme for the Development of Communication should be co-ordinated by an Intergovernmental Council composed of thirty-five Member States elected by and responsible to the General Conference of Unesco on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and applying the principle of rotation. It will be the tasks of the Intergovernmental Council to implement the objectives set out in this recommendation. In its deliberations, priority should be given to seeking a consensus. The Intergovernmental Council will administer funds which may be contributed to the programme to promote communication development in the developing countries and allocate them to projects and programmes in accordance with criteria and priorities it will define;
- (ii) the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and professional groups, which are active in the field of communication development, should be closely associated with the activities of the Intergovernmental Council so as to play a significant role in the accomplishment of its objectives;

Invites the Director-General of Unesco:

- (a) to take the necessary steps to facilitate the establishment and functioning of the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (b) to consult with appropriate organizations of the United Nations system with a view to establishing a consultative framework in which to co-ordinate and harmonize the communication development efforts of each;
- (c) to put at the disposal of the Intergovernmental Council the necessary secretariat. The director of the secretariat will be appointed by the Director-General on the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Council, following those provisions of the Constitution of Unesco and of prevailing procedures that lead towards this end.

Recommends that, to secure satisfactory implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication, additional resources should be sought from all possible sources - developing and developed countries, international organizations and agencies of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, professional groups and other available sources - in the form of financial means, manpower, materials, technology and training for the development of communication. To this effect an appropriate system of financing and resources should be established.

VI

Requests the Director-General to make the appropriate arrangements in consultation with the Intergovernmental Council, to mobilize the resources needed for the International Programme, and to seek contributions from Member States and other parties concerned.

VII

Expresses the conviction that the gradual implementation of these recommendations constitutes an essential stage on the way to the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order.

Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication

Article 1

An Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 2

1. The Council shall be composed by 35 Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, elected by the General Conference, taking account of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation.
2. The term of office of Members of the Council shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected until the end of its second subsequent ordinary session.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the term of office of 17 members designated at the time of the first election shall cease at the end of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following that at which they were elected. These members shall be chosen by lot by the President of the General Conference after the first election. The retiring members shall be replaced by members belonging to the same regional group.

4. Members of the Council shall be immediately eligible for re-election.
5. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.
6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication. They shall be selected particularly from persons employed in various fields of communication, especially those connected with planning research or the application of national policies or with activities conducted under international co-operation, in those same fields.

Article 3

1. The Council shall normally meet in plenary session once a year. Extraordinary sessions may be convened as specified in the Rules of Procedure.
2. When votes are taken, each member of the Council shall have one vote, but the representative of any State member of the Council may be assisted by one or more advisers, a list of whom shall be communicated to the Secretariat, preferably before the opening of the Council's proceedings.

Article 4

1. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.
2. Under its Rules of Procedure, the Council may establish whatever subsidiary bodies it considers appropriate provided that the necessary financial resources are available.

Article 5

Within the framework of the decisions of the General Conference concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Council shall be responsible for:

- (a) guiding the planning and implementation of the International Programme;
- (b) considering proposals concerning the development and adaptation of the Programme;
- (c) recommending priorities among the various activities or groups of activities constituting that Programme;
- (d) reviewing and assessing achievements and defining the basic areas requiring international co-operation;
- (e) reviewing ways and means whereby Member States might participate more effectively in the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (f) devising an appropriate system of financing for the Programme;
- (g) seeking the necessary resources for the implementation of the Programme and for the development of communication to the benefit of countries requesting assistance from the Programme.

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Article 6

1. At the beginning of its first session, and subsequently whenever the membership of the Council is changed by the General Conference in accordance with Article 2 above, the Council shall elect a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and three other members; these shall form the Council's Bureau.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it.
3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of an absolute majority of the Council's members, at the request of the Director-General of Unesco or at the request of half the members of the Bureau.

Article 7

1. Representatives of Member States and Associate Members of Unesco which are not members of the Council may send observers to all the meetings of the Council or its subsidiary bodies.
2. Representatives of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system supporting the Programme may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations may be invited to participate in its proceedings without the right to vote. The Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well qualified persons might be consulted on matters within their competence.

Article 8

1. The International Programme for the Development of Communication shall be administered by the Director-General, who shall make the necessary secretariat and facilities available to the Council. The Director of the Programme shall be appointed by the Director-General on the recommendation of the Council, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Unesco and according to the procedures in force governing the appointment of the Organization's staff which are applicable for that purpose.
2. The Secretariat, under the authority of the Director-General, shall carry out the administrative work necessary for the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication and for the sessions of the Council or the meetings of its Bureau.

Article 9

1. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary bodies shall be covered by appropriations voted for this purpose by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

2. The expenses incurred by the participation of representatives of Member States in sessions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies shall be covered by appropriations voted for this purpose by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. Voluntary contributions shall be accepted in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 10

The Director-General shall submit to the Council, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication. He shall report to the General Conference on the implementation of the Programme, particularly as it relates to the Regular Programme of the Organization and the activities of other agencies of the United Nations system.

Article 11

The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at each of its ordinary sessions.

ANNEX II

Resolution of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-first session on the report of the Director-General on the findings of the International Commission for the Study of Communication

The General Conference,

Reaffirming its attachment to the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Constitution of Unesco and the Declaration on fundamental principles concerning the contribution of the mass media to strengthening peace and international understanding, to the promotion of human rights and to countering racialism, apartheid and incitement to war,

Recalling more particularly Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers" and Article 29, which stipulates that "these rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations",

Recalling also Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling also the declaration in the Constitution of Unesco that "the States Parties to this Constitution, believing in ... the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth, and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, are agreed and determined to develop and to increase the means of communication between their peoples and to employ these means for the purpose of mutual understanding and a truer and more perfect knowledge of each other's lives",

Recalling moreover that the purpose of Unesco is "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations" (Article 1 of the Constitution),

Reaffirming the responsibilities of Unesco and its role in the field of communication, as well as previous General Conference debates on this subject, including resolutions 4/9.1/2 and 4/9.1/3 adopted at the twentieth session of the General Conference (1978),

Noting the increasing attention devoted to communication problems and needs by other intergovernmental organizations, both regional and international, notably the movement of Non-Aligned Countries which, in the Declaration of the Colombo Summit (1976), stated that "a new international order in the fields of information and mass communications is as vital as a new international economic order" and, in the Declaration of the Havana Summit (1979), noting progress in the development of national information media, stressed that "co-operation in the field of information is an integral part of the struggle for the creation of new international relations in general and a new international information order in particular",

Recalling that the Director-General, in pursuance of resolution 100 adopted by the General Conference at its nineteenth session (Nairobi, 1976), set up the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, composed of sixteen eminent persons acting in an individual capacity, that the Commission was able to carry out its work in total independence and that it prepared a final report published under the title "Many Voices, One World",

Considering that the publication by Unesco of the Report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems is not only stimulating a discussion of considerable breadth and intensity, but is, at the same time, encouraging professional circles and the general public to join in the debate,

Noting with satisfaction that the Report of the Director-General on the findings of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (document 21 C/85) has greatly facilitated the discussions devoted to communication problems and to the different aspects of the Organization's programme related to them,

Conscious that communication among individuals, nations and peoples, as well as among national minorities and different social, ethnic and cultural groups, can, provided that its means are increased and its practices improved, and must make a greater contribution to individual and collective development, the strengthening of national and cultural identity, the consolidation of democracy and the advancement of education, science and culture, as well as to the positive transformation of international relations and the expansion of international co-operation,

I

1. Expresses its thanks to the Director-General for having put at the disposal of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems the means necessary for its work;
2. Addresses its appreciation and thanks to the Chairman, Mr. Sean MacBride, and to the members of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, and congratulates them on the quality of the work carried out, the breadth of vision they have shown and the praiseworthy efforts they have made to fulfil their mandate in the allotted time;

II

1. Considers the publication of the Report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems as a valuable contribution to the study of information and communication problems;
2. Recognizes that that Report has succeeded in identifying a large number of the most significant information and communication problems, examining certain questions posed in this field at different levels and pointing to a number of directions in which action with a view to settling those questions in the short, medium and long term might be taken;
3. Emphasizes that the debate to which the Report has given rise up to now shows that the international community is becoming aware of the universality of the problems of information and communication, of the growing interdependence of countries and of the community of interests in this field;
4. Hopes that this debate will continue and become more searching, drawing in all those to whom the Report's recommendations were addressed, including "governments and international organizations, policy-makers and planners, the media and professional organizations, researchers, communication practitioners, organized social groups and the public at large", bearing in mind that communication takes diverse forms and involves large sectors of all societies;
5. Welcomes the steps taken by the Director-General to ensure the widest possible distribution of the Final Report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems;
6. Approves the comments of the Director-General concerning the Final Report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, notably those in which he affirms that "certain recommendations of the Commission are for immediate implementation while others are long-term in nature, necessitating time for their preparation and realization";
7. Considers that the Report and its recommendations also constitute valuable encouragement for the continuing examination, analysis and study of information and communication problems within the Secretariat, and in Member States and professional associations;

III

Invites Member States

1. to circulate the Report widely and to study the conclusions and recommendations approved by the Commission, which merit the attention of all Member States;

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2. to study the Final Report in detail, particularly the recommendations it contains, and to communicate their comments and observations on those recommendations to the Director-General of Unesco in time for him to be able to make use of them in the preparation of the second Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989);
3. to take the Commission's recommendations into consideration in the preparation and strengthening of their national communication capabilities, without losing sight of the fact that differing social, cultural and economic circumstances call for a variety of approaches to the definition and implementation of national communication policies and systems and to the identification and overcoming of the obstacles to development in the field of information and communication;
4. to bear in mind also the fundamental need to safeguard freedom of opinion, expression and information, to ensure that the peoples are given the widest and most democratic access possible to the functioning of the mass media; and to make communication an integral part of all development strategy;
5. to further the development of communications infrastructures, paying special attention to the establishment of fairer telecommunications, postal and other tariffs, and to define in liaison with the International Telecommunications Union and other competent organizations of the United Nations system the conditions necessary for a more equitable utilization of limited natural resources such as the electromagnetic spectrum and geostationary orbits;

IV

Invites interested international and regional intergovernmental, non-governmental and professional organizations

1. to take note of the recommendations approved by the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems and to convey their comments and observations to the Director-General;
2. particularly if they belong to the United Nations system, to expand their co-operation so as to contribute to the solution of the most pressing information and communication problems;

V

1. Reaffirms that Unesco, which has been particularly active in the field of information and communication within the United Nations system, plays a major role in the examination and solution of problems in this domain;
2. Invites the Director-General to take the necessary measures to follow up the suggestions presented in his report on the findings of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, and in particular:
 - (a) to continue to promote dissemination of the Commission's report, within the limits of the Regular Programme and Budget, by providing assistance for this purpose to countries which request it;

- (b) to communicate the Final Report and its recommendations to the international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned in order that they may examine measures that they might be able to carry out;
- (c) to take into consideration to the greatest possible extent, in implementing the Programme for 1981-1983, those recommendations of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems that lend themselves to rapid application;
- (d) to provide in forthcoming programmes for the continuation of studies on those problems of communication about which data are still incomplete, which did not receive sufficient attention from the International Commission, or which deserve attention as a possible basis for procedures for implementing national, regional and international action;
- (e) to examine how Unesco could help professional journalists to acquire a better knowledge of the cultures and of the economic, political and social realities of different Member States, for instance by holding seminars for journalists on the cultures, societies and history of these countries;
- (f) to examine the possibility of giving the programme sector concerned a place and a position in keeping with the growing importance which Member States appear to be attaching to it;
- (g) to take into account, as far as possible in the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan the comments and observations made by Member States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the conclusions and recommendations of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems and any other suggestions received from other organizations professionally concerned with communication problems;
- (h) to undertake or sponsor, in particular, the studies and analyses necessary for the formulation of specific and practical proposals on the establishment of a new world information and communication order, and to convene an international meeting of experts for that purpose;

VI

1. Considers that:

- (a) this new world information and communication order could be based, among other considerations, on: (i) elimination of the imbalances and inequalities which characterize the present situation; (ii) elimination of the negative effects of certain monopolies, public or private, and excessive concentrations; (iii) removal of the internal and external obstacles to a free flow and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and ideas; (iv) plurality of sources and channels of information; (v) freedom of the press and information; (vi) the freedom of journalists and all professionals in the communication media, a freedom inseparable from responsibility; (vii) the capacity of developing countries to achieve improvement of their own situations, notably by providing their own equipment, by training their personnel, by improving their infrastructures and by making their information and communication means suitable to their needs and aspirations; (viii) the sincere will of developed countries to help them attain these objectives; (ix) respect for each people's cultural identity and the

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right of each nation to inform the world public about its interests, its aspirations and its social and cultural values; (x) respect for the right of all peoples to participate in international exchanges of information on the basis of equality, justice and mutual benefit; (xi) respect for the right of the public, of ethnic and social groups and of individuals to have access to information sources and to participate actively in the communication process;

- (b) this new world information and communication order should be based on the fundamental principles of international law, as laid down in the United Nations Charter;
- (c) diverse solutions to information and communication problems are required because social, political, cultural and economic problems differ from one country to another and, within a given country, from one group to another.

The General Conference expresses the wish that Unesco demonstrate its willingness in its short- and medium-term activities to contribute to the delineation, broadening and application of the concept of a new world information order.
