

**1993/70. Scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Recalling principle 25 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>34</sup> adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which states that peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 46/36 C of 6 December 1991, in which the Assembly stressed the growing importance of the relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations, and Assembly resolution 46/36 B of 6 December 1991, in which the Assembly recalled the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment,

Stressing that science and technology could contribute greatly to the elaboration of a strategy for the conversion of military technologies for civilian use, sustainable development and environmental protection, affecting the most fundamental interests of all Member States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/14 E of 26 October 1989, in which the Assembly decided, *inter alia*, to entrust the Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat to serve as the focal point for technological assessment within the United Nations system and, where possible, for relations with Governments and non-governmental organizations concerning technological assessment activities in Member States, and Assembly resolution 46/165 of 19 December 1991, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Centre,

Noting the deliberations at the recent United Nations conferences held at Beijing from 22 to 26 October 1991, at Dortmund, Germany, from 24 to 27 February 1992 and in Moscow from 12 to 17 October 1992 on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity, as well as the activities of the United Nations system in this field, in particular those of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the era of global concern for the environment and in the new political climate, the conversion of military technologies for civilian use and sustainable development should receive increased international attention, with the appropriate support and involvement of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its second session a report on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and sustainable development, with a focus on technology assessment issues, particularly the economic effects, employment implications and environmental consequences of alternative technological choices;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate that report by drawing from the United Nations conferences and other United Nations activities referred to in the fifth preambular paragraph above, particularly those of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, and to explore the

issue of strengthening agreement on the transition to disarmament.

*46th plenary meeting  
30 July 1993*

**1993/71. Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development,<sup>185</sup> the assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries,<sup>186</sup> and the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat<sup>187</sup> in science and technology for development, the report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development<sup>188</sup> and the note by the Secretariat on the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting,<sup>189</sup>

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, in particular paragraph 20 thereof,

Having examined the note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system<sup>190</sup> as a means of examining the contribution of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the national capacities of developing countries in the field of science and technology,

1. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1994, include science and technology for development as a priority subject to be considered at the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1994;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for that purpose, a report containing an analysis of and action-oriented proposals to improve the coordination mechanisms of organs, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Bank, which are involved in the science and technology activities of the United Nations system; the report should take into account the implications of the recent reforms of the Secretariat, as well as ways and means of improving the coordination of the United Nations system with other relevant intergovernmental institutions and private organizations involved in science and technology activities;

3. *Considers* the note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system a valuable input to the consideration of science and technology activities at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1994;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider, at its second session, the outcome of the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Council of 1994;

5. *Stresses* that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology is an indispensable component of any country's effort to mobilize science and technology for development and that it should hence remain a priority issue on the United Nations agenda;