

4. Science and technology for the future:

Debate on the basis of the report of a panel of experts to be convened on this subject

II. Preparatory period

1. The preparatory period for the Conference should be an integrated and fundamental component of the Conference itself, through preliminary national and regional analysis of relevant socio-economic problems which may be solved with the help of science and technology.

2. The detailed content of the agenda will be determined by the Preparatory Committee, taking into account the deliberations at the national, regional and interregional levels.

3. A limited number of subject areas will be selected with a view to providing important matters for analysis and discussion of the issues listed in the agenda, on the basis of national priorities, through the preparatory process in accordance with the criteria set forth below; the subject areas should:

(a) Be few, with a minimum of five;

(b) Be defined as problem areas with economic and social implications that may be solved by utilizing science and technology;

(c) Require an integrated and interdisciplinary approach and an interagency approach;

(d) Have clear relevance to problems of development in all countries, especially developing countries, and emerge from national priorities through regional consensus;

(e) Be clearly delineated and limited in scope.

4. The preparatory work should ensure that adequate data and practical analyses shall be made available by means of a thorough study by Member States.

4. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to act as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, open to the participation of all interested States, and to organize its work in such a way as to ensure the continuity of its preparatory role between its sessions;

5. *Requests* that a Secretary-General be appointed at the earliest possible time to head a secretariat of the Conference, to be composed of the Office for Science and Technology, which should be strengthened in such a way as to reflect fully the fundamental requirements of development, and of competent personnel from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system; competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system should, for the purposes of the Conference, be prepared to depute high-level specialists to the secretariat of the Conference, in order to give substantive support to the Secretary-General of the Conference in the preparatory work for the Conference and to constitute links between those bodies and organizations and the Secretary-General of the Conference;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to request the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to promote, through its Sub-Committee on Science and Technology, close and permanent contact with the Secretary-General of the Conference;

7. *Requests* that, for the preparatory work leading to the Conference, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development should advise, on request, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Preparatory Committee on matters pertaining to the Conference, and assist and collaborate, at the request of the Secretary-General of the Conference, in the preparation of the Conference at the regional level;

8. *Recommends* that:

(a) In accordance with the objectives of the Conference, the preparatory process at the national level should take fully into account the necessity that, in accordance with the national development efforts, the scientific and technological content of the agenda should be integrated with its economic and social content;

(b) The science and technology units of the regional commissions should be strengthened, so that they may participate actively in the preparation and organization of the regional meetings to be held prior to the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to report on the progress of their respective preparatory work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to seek the co-operation of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which may be in a position to contribute constructively to the preparation of the Conference;

11. *Invites* Governments to participate fully in the preparation of the Conference.

2031st plenary meeting
4 August 1976

2029 (LXI). Quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and in particular paragraphs 61 to 63 thereof, which state that serious consideration shall be given at the time of the first biennial review and appraisal to the question of setting targets in the area of science and technology,

Recalling also Council resolutions 1718 (LIII) of 28 July 1972 and 1822 (LV) of 10 August 1973, which, *inter alia*, direct the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to recommend goals and targets for the achievement of the policy measures contained in the International Development Strategy and to examine the criteria and definitions for the classification of various scientific and technological activities under the three targets suggested for inclusion in the Strategy,

Reiterating the provisions of section III, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, which states that developed countries

should significantly expand their assistance to developing countries for direct support to their science and technology programmes, as well as increase substantially the proportion of their research and development devoted to specific problems of primary interest to developing countries, and in the creation of suitable indigenous technology, in accordance with feasible targets to be agreed upon,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of establishing feasible targets for the expansion of assistance for promoting and strengthening the scientific research and technological capacities of developing countries in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade;

2. *Reaffirms also* the provision contained in its resolution 1901 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, in which it recommended that Governments should continue their efforts to establish data systems for scientific and technological activities or further to refine existing systems; this should provide the basis for the establishment of feasible targets in the revised International Development Strategy;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other competent organizations of the United Nations system, to complete as a matter of urgency the report called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1901 (LVII) in time for the revision of the International Development Strategy by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, and in time for its review by Governments;

4. *Recommends* that the revised International Development Strategy should include:

(a) A feasible target to be agreed upon for aid for direct support by developed countries of science and technology in developing countries during the remainder of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

(b) A feasible target to be agreed upon, within the research and development programmes of developed countries, for assistance in seeking solutions to specific problems of interest to developing countries, which have a bearing on the expansion and modernization of the economies of developing countries; on the basis of the decision adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session under agenda item 50,³⁷ the targets mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above and in the present sub-paragraph should be set taking into account the report requested in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to continue to keep under review the quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development.

*2031st plenary meeting
4 August 1976*

³⁷ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/9631), p. 79.

2030 (LXI). World programme of development research and application of science and technology to solve the special problems of the arid areas

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by General Assembly resolution 3168 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and Council resolution 1826 (LV) of 10 August 1973 and 1898 (LVII) of 12 August 1974,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 3511 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 on the United Nations Conference on Desertification, and Council decision 137 (ORG-76), in paragraph 4 (b) of which it referred to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development paragraph 3 of resolution 3511 (XXX), in which the Assembly requested the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to include in its programme of work on arid areas proposals to close the gaps in scientific knowledge and technologies concerning desertification,

Considering that:

(a) The problems raised by the obstacles to the development of arid areas are of an urgent character for a large number of developing countries,

(b) The solution of these problems requires a sustained and integrated development research effort,

(c) This approach requires the firm co-operation of the organizations of the United Nations system and of all other competent and interested international, regional and national organizations,

(d) The preparation of a world programme of development research and application of science and technology to solve the special problems of the arid areas constitutes a world-wide and interdisciplinary experiment, on the basis of which the Committee on Science and Technology for Development could determine and improve its practice in the context of economic and social development and of the transfer of technologies from developed to developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of chapter II of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development,³⁸ relating to the first report of the *ad hoc* Interagency Task Force on the arid areas,³⁹ and of the comments of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development in its twelfth report;⁴⁰

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take, as a matter of urgency, the necessary measures to ensure that the *ad hoc* Interagency Task Force shall proceed with its work in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 12 of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group, and in particular, shall make proposals in response to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3511 (XXX);

³⁸ E/C.8/28.

³⁹ E/C.8/WG.1/3.

⁴⁰ E/C.8/30 and Corr.1.