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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
23 April-4 May 1979

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:
 - (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
 - (b) Draft programme of action
 - (c) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system
 - (d) Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development
3. Provisional agenda, if necessary, for the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee
4. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of agenda and organization of work

The Preparatory Committee, at its third session, approved the provisional agenda for its fourth session. 1/

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

(a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee, at its second session, decided that a progress report on the work of the experts on "Science and technology for the future" and an outline of their report to be presented to the Conference under agenda item 4 should be before it at its fourth session.

The report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress in the preparatory work for the Conference will accordingly review the work undertaken since the submission of the report to the third session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.81/PC/13) with due emphasis on the work of the experts on "Science and technology for the future".

Also at its second session, in decision 4 (II), the Preparatory Committee decided that the fourth session of the Committee should have before it 10 draft Conference documents on agenda items 1, 2 and 3, to serve as separate discussion papers in its consideration of the nine subitems under agenda items 1 and 2 and for agenda item 3. These papers were to set out synthetically the issues, conclusions and recommendations presented in the national papers and reports including proposals with regard to making the best use of the existing United Nations system and other international organizations to implement the objectives of the Conference.

At its third session, in decision 10 (III), the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to integrate the 10 discussions papers envisaged for items 1, 2 and 3 of the agenda for the Conference into one consolidated report of approximately 50 pages.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the progress of preparatory work for the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC/29)

Draft discussion paper on items 1, 2 and 3 of the agenda for the Conference

(b) Draft programme of action

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 4 (II) of 3 February 1978, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fourth session a synthesis of the

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/34/43), para. 46.

action proposals presented in the national papers by Governments and in the reports of the regional meetings.

In accordance with resolution 33/192 adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, the Secretary-General of the Conference submitted to the Preparatory Committee for consideration at its third session:

- (i) The updated draft outline of the programme of action (A/33/303/Rev.1) consolidating recommendations put forward by Governments at the national and regional levels by incorporating those which have not yet been included;
- (ii) A preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.81/PC.21) containing, on the basis of an analysis of the information contained in the document mentioned above, a theoretical and conceptual framework and recommendations for concrete measures for action at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels, covering the items of the agenda for the Conference and, in particular, the development, adaptation, application and transfer of science and technology for development of developing countries, in order to facilitate negotiation and achievement of the maximum possible agreement on substantive issues prior to the Conference;
- (iii) A report (A/CONF.81/PC.25) on the possible alternatives for the final structure of the draft programme of action to be submitted to the Conference;
- (iv) A synoptic table (A/CONF.81/PC.26) classifying recommendations into those that are common to all regions, those that are common to some regions and those that are specific to one region, with an indication of their origin.

In resolution 6 (III), adopted at its third session, the Preparatory Committee took note of the preliminary draft contained in document A/CONF.81/PC.21 and requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, taking into account the statements made by delegations on the structure of the draft programme of action, to rearrange document A/CONF.81/PC.21 and to submit it to Member States not later than six weeks before the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

Documentation

Preliminary draft programme of action (rearranged as required by resolution 6 (III) adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its third session (A/CONF.81/PC.28)).

- (c) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 1 (I) of 11 February 1977, requested

the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit, in co-operation with the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, a paper with an over-all view describing the manner in which their respective programmes have linked science and technology to socio-economic development and international co-operation related to the agenda for the Conference. In the same decision the Preparatory Committee requested that that paper be submitted to it at its third session.

The Preparatory Committee in resolution 4 (II) of 3 February 1978, requested the competent organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, in preparing their documentation for the overview paper on their activities to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its third session and to national focal points, to focus their reports on those areas and related issues which are of particular pertinence to their activities.

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 6 (III) took note of the report A/CONF.81/PC.19 (Part I) prepared jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system.

The Secretary-General of the Conference will report to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session on the further work undertaken in relation to the document presented to it at its third session and particularly with regard to the implementation of paragraph 3 of resolution 33/192 adopted by the General Assembly at its resumed thirty-third session on 29 January 1979 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session a supplement to the "Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system", 2/ analysing outputs, gaps and/or overlap of present United Nations activities in the area of science and technology for development as a background document for the consideration of the draft programme of action, bearing in mind the views expressed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighteenth session. 3/

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC.29)

Report prepared jointly by the Secretary-General of the Conference and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system (A/CONF.81/PC.19 (Part II))

(d) Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 1 (I) of 11 February 1977, requested

2/ A/CONF.81/PC.19.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/33/38), chap. IV, sect. B.

the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, in co-operation with the units of the United Nations system that are responsible for implementing the decisions of recent United Nations conferences, a review of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of such conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 4 (II) of 3 February 1978, specified that it should have before it at its third session a preview of the above-mentioned review paper, containing mainly references to the decisions and resolutions adopted at recent United Nations conferences having a bearing on the application of science and technology for development and, at its fourth session, the completed review paper, which would report on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations, decisions and resolutions adopted at recent United Nations conferences having a bearing on science and technology for development.

The Preparatory Committee, in decision 7 (III), took note of the conference room paper containing a preview of the review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.81/PC.29)

Review paper on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development

3. Provisional agenda, if necessary, for the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee

At its third session, the Preparatory Committee adopted decision 11 (III) in which it requested the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1979, to reschedule, if possible, the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee so as not to overlap with the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Should the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session decide on the convening of a fifth session, a draft provisional agenda for that session, together with certain information relating to documentation, would be submitted for its consideration.

The Economic and Social Council, in decision 1979/2, decided to schedule, if necessary, a fifth session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 25 June to 6 July 1979.

4. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its fourth session

The Preparatory Committee will adopt the report on its fourth session for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, 1979.