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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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Substantive themes:

- (a) Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations;
- (b) The gender implications of science and technology for developing countries;
- (c) The science and technology aspects of the sectoral issue to be discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995.

Coordination of activities in science and technology for development:

- (a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system;
- (b) Progress report on endogenous capacity-building at national and regional levels;
- (c) Cooperation in the field of technology assessment and forecasting;
- (d) Review of operational activities of the United Nations system;
- (e) Interaction with organizations outside the United Nations system.

Reports of the ad hoc panels.

Action arising from the first session of the Commission.

Financing science and technology for development.

Scientific and technological aspects of:

- development; (a) Sustainable
- capacities. (b) Conversion of military

Chapter I: Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council
or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions submitted by the Chairman
Science and Technology for Development

DRAFT OMNIBUS RESOLUTION

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the unique role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for improving understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

Recognizing further that the Commission in carrying out its work should pay special attention to the needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and that it should also take into consideration the relevant problems of economies in transition,

Noting the efforts of the Commission to adopt a new working style consisting of panels and working groups that take advantage of available expertise of its members and have responsibility for preparing draft reports for consideration by the Commission as a whole at its next session,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports prepared by the Panels and Working Groups of the Commission, pursuant to decisions taken at its first session, on technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations (E/CN.16/1995/2), gender implications of science and technology for developing countries (E/CN.16/1995/3), scientific and technological aspects of the sectoral issue of the Commission on Sustainable Development: land management (E/CN.16/1995/6) and the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging technologies, to industrialization in developing countries: research and development institutes (E/CN.16/1995/8), and the recommendations contained therein,

Noting also the relevant documentation submitted by the secretariat for consideration by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its second session, 1/

Recognizing the need to focus the future inter-sessional activities of the Commission on a limited number of substantive themes,

Recognizing further that information and communication are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and also recognizing the far-reaching implications of information technologies for society,

Basic needs, gender, land management, research and development, industrialization, coordination, financing and other matters arising from the first session of the Commission

1. Invites Governments to undertake systematic reviews of each major component of their macro-economic policy framework and to take measures to address any unwarranted disincentives for healthy and progressive informal and small and medium-sized productive sectors, and to create an enabling environment for the scientific and technological community to take initiatives to link technologies, in a participatory manner, with entrepreneurs from those sectors;

2. Decides to draw the attention of States members to the importance of targeted R & D and the application of science and technology knowledge in helping to satisfy basic needs, and further requests the relevant United Nations bodies and donor organizations to assist interested countries to formulate policies and action plans to implement, evaluate and improve efforts for this purpose and requests the States members and relevant

1/ (a) Overview of the reports of the panels (E/CN.16/1995/5); (b) report on improving the coordination mechanisms within the United Nations system and with other organizations outside the system (E/CN.16/1995/6); (c) activities of the United Nations secretariat in the field of science and technology for development, including cooperation in technology assessment and forecasting (E/CN.16/1995/7); (d) note on information technologies and development (E/CN.16/1995/9); work of the UNCTAD Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer (E/CN.16/1995/10); (e) consultative meeting on a coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries (E/CN.16/1995/11); (f) progress achieved and problems encountered in the application of science and technology for sustainable development (E/CN.16/1995/12); (g) scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacities for civilian use and sustainable development (E/CN.16/1995/13).

organizations to report on the outcome of these endeavours to the third session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; [new 3, combining old 3 and 4]

3. Decides that the Commission should assist the United Nations system to identify and promote replicable demonstration activities and programmes, involving different countries from diverse regions, which apply science and technology to the satisfaction of basic needs; and recommends that the operational mechanisms of the United Nations system (including the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the regional economic commissions and other relevant organizations such as UNDP) disseminate information and facilitate the application of science and technology in meeting basic needs; [Paragraph 5 deleted]

6. Recognizes that the role of the United Nations in promoting better awareness of relationships between gender and science and technology is crucial and requests the Secretary-General and organs and entities of the United Nations to consider and take the necessary action to implement the recommendations addressed to the United Nations system in the report on gender ^{2/} and to report thereon to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its subsequent sessions;

7. Recommends to all Governments to adopt the annexed draft Declaration of Intent on Gender, Science and Technology for Sustainable Human Development and to conduct, through special committees within or outside existing suitable mechanisms, reviews of the national situation regarding gender and science and technology and to formulate action plans, and to report publicly and to the Commission on progress in achieving the goals of the Declaration of Intent, and calls upon donor countries and agencies to assist the follow-up activities of the committees;

8. Recommends that the principles set out in the report on the contribution of science and technology to an integrated approach to land management be further elaborated to provide guidelines for the application of technologies that support integrated land management under site and region-specific conditions, and, for that purpose, invites the Food and

^{2/} See Recommendations 1 to 7 as contained in paragraph 35 of the Report on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: the Gender Dimension (E/CN.16/1995/3).

Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in cooperation with regional commissions, where appropriate to do so and to work together with a view to designing programmes to address specific land management problems and assisting developing countries and economies in transition to implement these programmes and share the information deriving from such efforts;

9. Notes that the research and development systems in most developing countries, in particular the least developed countries as well as in some countries in transition, do not provide sufficient support to the improvement of sustainable industrial development in those countries. The international community, through multilateral and bilateral aid and, more generally, through enhancement of linkages with enterprises, universities, foundations, research institutes, scientific laboratories, trade and professional associations, and other channels and mechanisms for international scientific and technological cooperation, should strengthen their support for countries undertaking reforms in their research and development systems and their efforts in building innovative capacities;

10. Requests Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to give priority to effective access to networks, such as INTERNET, by scientific and technical institutions in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries in transition through the provision of technical as well as other support for related investments, and to facilitate appropriate electronic communication between institutions engaged in science and technology for development;

11. [Combined with paragraphs 15. and 20.]

11. bis Recognizes that technological capacity building is a major factor in the process of effective technology transfer and long-term growth in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and invites the United Nations system and the international community to support the implementation of projects specially designed to foster technological capacity building in the least developed countries;

12. Recalls the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to science and technology for development (July 1994) and, in this context, decides that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in its substantive work maximize

coordination in undertaking its inter-sessional studies on specific issues by relating actively to competent United Nations organs and agencies, as well as other multilateral organizations;

12. bis [to be drafted]

Future work programme for the inter-sessional period 1995-1997

13. Decides that the main substantive theme which will constitute the focus of the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 will be information technologies and their implications for development;

14. Decides further to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, elaborate and make recommendations on issues related to information technologies. Some of the issues that could be considered include:

(a) analysis of the situation concerning the application of information technologies in different groups of countries with a view to making recommendations to enhance the diffusion of information technologies in key sectors of their economies;

(b) the implications of the revolutionary improvements in the cost-effectiveness of information technologies for the development of a global information infrastructure (GII);

(c) implications for the promotion of sustainable development, including sustainable use of natural resources and reduction of environmental degradation;

(d) the implications of these improvements for meeting basic human needs, such as education, health, water and food, more effectively;

(e) the effects of information technology on social cohesion, economic growth and enrichment of cultural values, including issues such as gender, employment, small-scale economic activities, production capability, improved governance and increased participation in the decision-making process;

(f) public policy, legal, regulatory, institutional, financial, market, human resource and infrastructural requirements for the diffusion and application of information technology;

(g) the examination of the programmes of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that relate to the global information infrastructure (GII) and their impacts, and the ways in which improved coordination as well as new avenues to be opened up for coalition of resources could better assist developing countries and economies in transition to gain

more effective access to information technology and to participate to a greater extent in the development and application of information technology;

(h) assessment of experiences and progress made with regard to access to networks; 3/

15. [Combined with paragraphs 11. and 20.]

16. Notes the recommendations adopted at the consultative meeting on coalition of resources 4/ and recommends that, at the international level, coalition of resources should focus on specific themes and common goals amongst recipients, donors and international financing institutions, including the World Bank and the regional development banks. These should be based on voluntary and informal mechanisms that promote the full interaction of both donors and recipients. The feasibility of building science and technology into existing and broader coordination schemes should be considered. Further recommends that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes in the area of science and technology for development drawing lessons from past experience in this field. Such forums may be held either as a segment of its bi-annual sessions or as an inter-sessional activity as required and defined by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in consultation with relevant United Nations bodies and international organizations;

17. Welcomes the important contribution made by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on integrated land management to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and invites the Commission to continue contributing substantively and constructively to the work of the CSD on the science and technology components of Agenda 21, particularly chapters 16, 34 and 35, by a working group financed through extrabudgetary resources if feasible;

3/ See paragraph 10 of this resolution.

4/ Note on the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/1995/11), 8 February 1995, Geneva.

18. Invites further the Commission to give consideration to ways and means of taking advantage of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Vienna Conference on Science and Technology for Development for the formulation of a common vision for the future;

19. Recognizes the importance of clean and safe energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, and recommends that the secretariat, in consultation with the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Resources of Energy and other relevant international bodies, submit to the third session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development an issues note which should identify scientific and technological aspects of sustainable energy systems that might be considered by the Commission in defining its future work programme;

20. [Combined with paragraphs 11. and 15.]

21. [To be drafted]

22. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the resources necessary for carrying out the work programme of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as elaborated in this resolution, and invites States Members and donor institutions to lend their full support to the above activities, and welcomes ad hoc contributions of resources, including the secondment of qualified experts to support the working groups and the secretariat on specific aspects of the inter-sessional work programme;

23. Recognizes with appreciation the financial contributions made by Governments, foundations, institutions and individual donors to the work of the Panels, and the important support received to this end from individuals, experts and non-governmental groups and United Nations entities, and encourages bilateral and multilateral donors to continue to support the activities of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in its inter-sessional period 1995-1997.

Annex 5/

A "declaration of intent" on gender, science and technology
for sustainable human development

All Governments agree to work actively towards the following goals:

- (1) To ensure basic education for all, with particular emphasis on scientific and technological literacy, so that all women and men can effectively use science and technology to meet basic needs.
- (2) To ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to acquire advanced training in science and technology and to pursue careers as technologists, scientists and engineers.
- (3) To achieve gender equity within science and technology institutions, including policy and decision-making bodies.
- (4) To ensure that the needs and aspirations of women and men are equally taken into account in the setting of research priorities and in the design, transfer and application of new technologies.
- (5) To ensure all women and men have equal access to the information and knowledge, particularly scientific and technological knowledge, that they need to improve their standard of living and quality of life.
- (6) To recognize local knowledge systems, where they exist, and their gender-specific nature as a source of knowledge complementary to modern science and technology and also valuable for sustainable human development.

Proposed new text combining contents of paragraphs 11, 15 and 20

Requests the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to liaise in establishing a programme of country reviews on science, technology and innovation policy for individual developing countries and countries in transition and further requests the Commission to provide advisory inputs, to facilitate analytical support and evaluation, as need be, in the carrying out of such country reviews. In undertaking this programme, consideration should be given to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development's work on basic needs, gender, integrated land management and industrialization and to the findings

5/ See paragraph 7 of the resolution.

and recommendations of the Final Report of UNCTAD's Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer. Suggests further that future work in this area should address, inter alia, the examination of the relevance of successful research and development policy and promotional schemes of some industrialized countries for developing countries and countries in transition; the exploration of alternative instruments for the promotion of enterprise-level research and development; and the feasibility of establishing regional or subregional venture capital funds;
