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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND
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Second session
15-24 May 1995, Geneva
Agenda item 11

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS SECOND SESSION

Chapter ...

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission held its second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 15 to 24 May 1995. The Commission held ... meetings (1st to ... th) and a number of informal meetings.
2. The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, made an introductory statement.
3. The Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, pointing out that the international economy was experiencing a process of globalization linked to rapid scientific and technological changes and to the liberalization of commercial and financial flows, noted that advances in information technology had an important role to play in this process. They were part of the current concerns of UNCTAD, particularly with regard to the agenda for UNCTAD IX. Today, technology was perceived not only as hardware but also included important "soft" aspects in the form of know-how, skills and expertise as well as organizational aspects of production. He drew attention to the emergence of new technologies, and noted that the distinction between science and

technology was becoming increasingly blurred. In that respect, there had been greater cross-fertilization between scientific research, technological innovation and commercial exploitation of research results. The private sector was playing a bigger role in basic research. Links between universities and industries were being strengthened, and inter-firm collaboration in the form of "strategic" alliances for carrying out R & D was increasing. Those new developments in science and technology posed a challenge to many developing countries and countries in transition to a market economy. He emphasized that, although the role of government would be vital in harnessing science and technology to growth and development, the private sector was expected to assume greater responsibilities. In practice, that would entail, inter alia, formulating appropriate policies and incentives, setting standards, providing strong support to universities and other public and private research institutions, and ensuring strong linkages between such institutions and the productive sector. In concluding, he called for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to act as a global forum for the discussion of science and technology issues with a view to advancing understanding and identifying viable policy solutions for both national action and international cooperation.

4. The Chairman of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development noted that the work of the second session of the Commission could start with optimism since the new working style of the Commission initiated after its first session represented a mechanism mobilizing a high degree of personal commitment, energy and creativity. The Commission's Bureau had been actively involved in all decisions taken during the inter-sessional period of work, and had become the real motive force in these activities. The members of the Commission, for their part, had been actively working in teams, demonstrating that a dialogue was an essential part of the process of finding answers to the issues discussed. In turn, the secretariat had confirmed its important role in working side by side with the Commission members. The inter-sessional work and its results had been made possible thanks to the invaluable support provided by the Dutch Government, IDRC of Canada and many other centres, foundations, institutions and personalities who expressed their thrust in the new working style, to which the specialized agencies of the United Nations system were also contributing by their participation.

B. Attendance

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, the Commission is composed of 53 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a term of 4 years on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

6. The session was attended by ... States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and representatives of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

7. The Commission elected, by acclamation, the Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen at its first session in 1993.

Chairman: Oscar Serrate Cuéllar (Bolivia)

Vice-Chairmen: Vladimir A. Labounov (Belarus)

Mohammed M. El Halwagi (Egypt)

J. Dhar (India)

J.G. Waardenburg (Netherlands)

8. At its 7th meeting, on 18 May, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Dr. Vemuri Ramesam (India) as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the unexpired term, replacing Dr. J. Dhar (India), in accordance with the provisions of rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At the 1st meeting, on 15 May, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.16/1995/1.

10. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (see E/CN.16/1995/1-Annex).
