

## 1823 (LV). World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development

*The Economic and Social Council.*

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1944 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963 and 2318 (XXII) of 15 December 1967 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1155 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, 1638 (LI) of 30 July 1971, 1717 (LIII) and 1718 (LIII) of 28 July 1972,

Convinced of the urgent need to build up an indigenous and autonomous science and technology capacity in the developing countries,

1. Commends the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development for the preparation of the *World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development*;<sup>70</sup>

2. Also commends the objectives and scope of the World Plan of Action as a useful set of general guide-lines and broad programmes suggested to Governments, subject to their own individual priorities as established in their national development plans;

3. Draws the attention of Governments to the World Plan of Action, which may be of assistance in the selection and preparation by decision-makers and the scientific and technological community of specific projects relevant to the needs of their countries;

4. Recommends to the General Assembly that, at its twenty-eighth session, it take note of the World Plan of Action as a means of strengthening the scientific and technological components in international co-operation and in national development plans;

### I

#### REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

5. Invites the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to undertake, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, a continuous process of review and appraisal and the incorporation of new items in the World Plan of Action, and to present, particularly in the light of comments made during the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development<sup>71</sup> and subject to the provisions contained in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 below, its conclusions for the consideration of the latter Committee;

6. Requests the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to suggest an indicative list of possible items for review or incorporation in the World Plan of Action, and further requests the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to recommend explicitly items in this list for consideration by the Advisory Committee;

<sup>70</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.18.

<sup>71</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5272 and Add.1/Rev.1 and E/5272/Add.2)*, chap. IV.

7. Decides that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development shall also recommend for the attention of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development items, other than those suggested in the indicative list mentioned in paragraph 6 above, which are also of interest to the Committee and that these items may replace or be added to those in the indicative list, as the Committee wishes;

8. Decides further that, in both the cases mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the Committee on Science and Technology for Development shall establish, in the same recommendations in which it presents the items for consideration, the criteria which should be followed by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and on which the Advisory Committee will specifically base its work in reviewing and studying those additional items with a view to their incorporation in the list, in accordance with the request of the Committee;

### II

#### PROMOTION

9. Invites the Secretary-General, taking into account the comments on the World Plan of Action submitted by Governments, at the request of developing countries, and with the assistance of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut and other organizations of the United Nations system, to take steps to give the World Plan of Action a wide exposure to the decision-makers and the scientific and technological community in developing countries, in order to obtain their views and recommendations following the updating of the Plan, by, *inter alia*, arranging for meetings or seminars on a national or regional basis;

10. Recommends that developed countries be urged to alert public opinion in their countries to the World Plan of Action, by, *inter alia*, holding meetings or seminars on a national or regional basis, and by using appropriate mass media, with a view to stimulating support by the public for (a) scientific and technical assistance projects in favour of developing countries and (b) a better orientation of a part of research and development efforts towards the problems of developing countries;

### III

#### IMPLEMENTATION

11. Requests the international financing organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the regional development banks, as well as developed countries, in close consultation with the developing countries and at their specific request, to provide ways and means for supporting the efforts of those countries to establish and strengthen scientific and technological institutes and to undertake other infra-

structural measures in accordance with their own national plans and priorities;

12. *Requests* the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut to take an active role in stimulating the implementation of the various parts of the present resolution and to continue to take, in close co-operation with Governments and at their specific request, an active part in establishing and strengthening the scientific infrastructure for development research in their respective regions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and, when necessary, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, to submit proposals to the Council through the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, for the allocation to the most appropriate organization within the United Nations system of the primary responsibility for:

(a) Analysing in detail, in close consultation with Member States, irrespective of their degree of development, and with appropriate national and international institutions and organizations, ways and means to initiate action, in accordance with their national plans and priorities, for research and for the application of existing knowledge identified in the World Plan of Action as periodically reviewed;

(b) Identifying, on the basis of concrete requests received from developing countries, means of implementation and sources of financing for concrete projects which may be decided upon;

14. *Recommends* interested Governments of developing countries, on the basis of their examination of the World Plan of Action as indicated in paragraphs 3 and 9 above, and in the light of their own national development plans and priorities:

(a) To select the specific problems facing their countries in each sector whose solution would have a significant impact on the economic and social development of the country;

(b) To indicate to the Secretary-General those problems which, in the opinion of the developing country concerned, are not being adequately dealt with at present;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile a list of the problems specified by the developing countries in accordance with paragraph 14 (b) above, together with the views of those countries as to the importance and urgency of their solution;

16. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its second session to consider the list of specific problems compiled by the Secretary-General on the basis of the response of the developing countries, as well as the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 13 above, with a view to elaborating further action;

#### IV

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the present resolution.

1879th plenary meeting  
10 August 1973

#### 1824 (LV). Application of computer technology

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recognizing* that computer technology has an important role to play in international co-operation in the field of science and technology for development and can substantially contribute to the acceleration of progress in developing countries and to the reduction of the technological gap between developed and developing countries,

*Mindful* that full international co-operation for the establishment, strengthening and promotion of scientific research and technological activities which have a bearing on the expansion and modernization of the economies of developing countries is an important element of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

*Convinced* that it is in the interest of all countries and in particular of developing countries that international co-operation in the field of the development and application of computer technology be actively encouraged,

*Aware* that the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system have a useful contribution to make in supporting the efforts of Member States, and in particular those of developing countries, to utilize computer technology with a view to accelerating their progress in certain vital economic and social sectors,

*Recognizing* that an increased and more effective role of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system in promoting the application of computer technology for development, including the latest achievements in this field, require adequate arrangements within the United Nations system,

*Taking into account* General Assembly resolution 2804 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and Council resolution 1571 (L) of 14 May 1971, which stress the need for multi-lateral co-operation in the field of computer technology and for exploring new ways and means of intensifying this co-operation,

*Having examined* the first report of the Secretary-General, entitled *The application of computer technology for development*,<sup>72</sup> prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 2458 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, and his supplementary report,<sup>73</sup> prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 2804 (XXVI),

<sup>72</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.1.

<sup>73</sup> E/C.8/11 and Add.1.