

development and international economic co-operation, with a view to ensuring that the special session will contribute fully to the establishment of the New International Economic Order;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the regional economic commissions to submit, as soon as possible, to the member countries of their respective commissions, suggestions for the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 1 above;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, as appropriate, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary measures to enable the regional economic commissions to carry out the mandate given to them in paragraph 1 above;

4. *Further requests* the regional economic commissions to report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session on the measures adopted in compliance with the present resolution and to continue to report periodically thereafter on such measures through the channel to be established in conformity with paragraphs 3 and 4 of section IX of the Programme of Action, which deals with the strengthening of the role of the United Nations system in the field of international economic co-operation;

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5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to make the necessary arrangements allowing for the delegation of the appropriate functions of an executing agency to the regional economic commissions for regional, sub-regional and interregional projects, financed by the Programme, in cases where such delegation is requested by the countries concerned and recommended by the Administrator of the Programme;

6. *Requests* the regional economic commissions to extend their co-operation to the United Nations Development Programme by participating in the planning and, as appropriate, the implementation of relevant regional, sub-regional and interregional projects, and by ensuring the co-ordination with the Programme of their own activities and, in particular, the activities of the United Nations Development Advisory Teams.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1897 (LVII). Question of convening a United Nations conference on science and technology

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 3168 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973 and Council resolution 1826 (LV) of 10 August 1973 on the role of modern

science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States,

Reiterating that the application of science and technology is an increasingly important factor in the economic and social development of all countries,

Bearing in mind the important activities of various agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in the applications of science and technology to development, and in particular those of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development related to the transfer of technology to developing countries,

Recognizing that the rapid pace of developments with respect to science and technology in general, as well as those having particular relevance for the developing countries, should be monitored and constructively channelled,

Recognizing further that these developments, and particularly the new needs in the field of science and technology, make it imperative for the United Nations to expand international co-operation in the field of science and technology on the basis of principles designed to adjust the scientific and technological relationships among States in a manner compatible with the special requirements and interests of developing countries,

Recognizing also the need to stimulate increased interest and action in the field of science and technology for development, and convinced that this could be facilitated by an adequately prepared international conference oriented towards the elaboration of methods of action and with representation at a high level,

Noting that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development provide appropriate forums for the study of the scientific and technological aspects of development and for the co-ordination of related activities in other United Nations bodies, but that complete information on these activities would be necessary for such a study,

Taking note of the observations in the note by the Secretary-General on the question of convening a United Nations conference on science and technology²⁰ and the eleventh report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development,²¹

1. *Takes note* of the section of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its second session dealing with the question of convening a United Nations conference on science and technology in 1978 or 1979;²²

2. *Decides* to convene in 1975 an intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to examine the specific objectives, topics and agenda of such a conference, on the basis of

²⁰ E/C.8/25.

²¹ E/C.8/24.

²² *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5473), paras. 2-11.*

the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, the Intergovernmental Group on Transfer of Technology of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional economic commissions and other United Nations bodies concerned:

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity for such a conference, which would be generally intended to survey methods of future action, to be carefully structured and concerned with only a few selected, well-defined subjects and, in this respect, emphasizes the importance of thorough preparation;

4. *Decides* that the intergovernmental working group shall report its findings to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its third session, which will submit its recommendations regarding the proposed conference to the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the intergovernmental working group at its first session a report containing his views on the scope, and an estimate of the costs, of such a conference.

1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974

1898 (LVII). 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, in which the Assembly requested the Council to give priority, *inter alia*, to the strengthening of economic, scientific and technical co-operation among States,

Bearing in mind Council resolution 1825 (LV) of 10 August 1973, in paragraph 6 of which it noted the need for new actions to intensify international co-operation permitting all countries, and in particular developing countries, to benefit from the achievements of modern science and technology for the acceleration of their economic and social progress,

Considering that:

(a) There should be a precise identification, in the areas covered by the *World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development*,²³ of the obstacles to development which could be overcome by recourse to science and technology and the resulting formulation of a specific policy,

(b) It is necessary to bring these research and action targets to the attention of the Governments and scientific teams of all countries, developed or developing, so that they may voluntarily direct their efforts to these problems as part of their over-all policy,

(c) It is desirable that awareness in this matter should lead to organized co-operation between the institutions in the United Nations system, the other international or regional institutions and the national bodies concerned, and that it should help to create or strengthen an autonomous research and action potential in the developing countries, avoid duplication and promote the use of the existing potential,

(d) The organized efforts in this connexion should cover a set of problems of sufficiently limited scope for them to remain specific, but of sufficiently broad scope for them to constitute a world-wide and interdisciplinary experiment in the application of science to development, on the basis of which the Committee on Science and Technology for Development could determine and improve its subsequent practice,

(e) A study of the arid areas might be a pilot project that could constitute an initial sphere of action, in that, first, it has the advantage of having been the subject of detailed preparation in a programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the research level, and in several programmes of other agencies at the action level, and, secondly, the advantage of dealing with areas which give rise to urgent and sometimes tragic problems for a large number of developing countries,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to convene an *ad hoc* interagency task force on the arid areas, comprising persons appointed by the competent organizations in the United Nations system, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and the regional economic commissions, who would work within the limits of the existing resources of the organizations, would identify precisely the obstacles which have not yet been overcome by science and technology, encountered by the developing countries, and the obstacles preventing the application of available technology, including social, economic, institutional and other obstacles, and would also prepare an inventory of current research and development actions and programmes, with a view to preparing a world programme of development research and application of science and technology to solve the special problems of the arid areas;

2. *Requests* the *ad hoc* interagency task force to keep the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development informed of the results of its work and to report thereon to the first session of the intergovernmental working group to be set up in 1975 by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on the question of convening a United Nations conference on science and technology;²⁴

3. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its third session, to consider

²³ See United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.18.

²⁴ See Council resolution 1897 (LVII).