

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).

and further elaborate the world programme mentioned in paragraph 1 above and to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council for the purpose of its implementation.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1899 (LVII). Mobilization of public opinion in relation to the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the regional plans

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling paragraphs 9 and 10 of its resolution 1823 (LV) of 10 August 1973 on the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development,

Recognizing the need for Member States to have a deep understanding of the role of science and technology and its impact on national development,

Aware of the urgent need for mobilizing opinion on the objectives and measures of the World Plan of Action and the regional plans in solving the specific problems of developing countries,

Convinced that a favourable public opinion at the national, regional and global levels will encourage Governments to take the necessary steps to implement the various parts of the World Plan of Action and the regional plans,

Aware of the limited resources of the United Nations at the disposal of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General,²⁵

1. Urges Governments and the organizations concerned within the United Nations system to effect without delay a wide exposure of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the regional plans to the technological community of developed and developing countries by conducting intensive campaigns through the use of appropriate mass media and, *inter alia*, by way of meetings or seminars on a national and regional basis;

2. Requests that the views and recommendations resulting from the meetings and seminars referred to in paragraph 1 above be taken into account in the process of review and appraisal outlined in section I of its resolution 1823 (LV);

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to Governments of Member States the views and recommendations resulting from such seminars and meetings;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress achieved and the shortfalls, if any, encountered in the process of the implementation of the present resolution to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its third session.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

²⁵ E/C.8/19.

1900 (LVII). Implementation of the 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, in particular, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 concerning the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and Council resolutions 1155 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, 1638 (LI) of 30 July 1971 and 1717 (LIII) of 28 July 1972,

Reaffirming Council resolution 1823 (LV) of 10 August 1973,

Noting the progress report of the Secretary-General on the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the regional plans,²⁶

Noting with interest and appreciation the regional plans of action for the application of science and technology to development prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa,²⁷ the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East,²⁸ the Economic Commission for Latin America²⁹ and the Economic Commission for Western Asia,³⁰

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

Considering that the World Plan of Action and the regional plans should be kept under continuous review,

Convinced that the research activities on problems of developing countries, described in the *World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development*³¹ as well as those in national and regional plans, should be actively and vigorously pursued,

1. Reiterates the importance of the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development as a valuable set of guidelines and broad programmes suggested to Governments subject to their own individual priorities established in their national development plans;

2. Urges Governments and the regional economic commissions to continue giving full attention to the World Plan of Action and the regional plans as aids to the selection and preparation, by decision-makers and the scientific and technological community, of specific projects relevant to the needs of their countries;

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.K.3.

²⁸ E/CN.11/1071.

²⁹ E/CN.12/966.

³⁰ ESOB/HR/73/4/Rev.1.

³¹ See United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.A.18.