

Having considered the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Quantification of Scientific and Technological Activities related to Development,³²

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 3179 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, in which the Council was requested to instruct the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to give priority, at its second session, to the consideration of the subject of quantitative targets in the field of science and technology, to enable the Council to consider the subject at its fifty-seventh session, and recalling that by its decision 1 (LVI) of 10 January 1974 the Council had referred the subject to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development,

1. *Commends* the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the Quantification of Scientific and Technological Activities related to Development for the excellent work undertaken;

2. *Recommends* to Governments, on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, that:

(a) They continue their efforts to establish data systems for scientific and technological activities or further to refine existing systems to include the identification of research and development objectives, so as to obtain the information necessary for the development of national policies and programmes in the field of science and technology;

(b) They devote, in the course of that process, specific efforts to the identification of other characteristics of research and development projects necessary to establish the relevance of such projects to the specific problems of developing countries and to ensure that national data are internationally compatible;

3. *Requests*, in recognition of the difficulties to be encountered in developing national data systems and ensuring their international compatibility and aware of the work and interest of national organizations in the field, that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as part of its current programmes regarding policies and statistics in the field of science and technology, should:

(a) Serve as a focal point for the development of concepts, criteria, standard nomenclatures and methodologies for the purposes indicated in paragraph 2 above;

(b) Assist countries, on request, in elaborating and organizing their national data systems for science and technology with emphasis on the quantification of scientific and technological activities related to specific problems of developing countries, and, in complying with this request, avail itself of and draw upon the capabilities of the United Nations and other international bodies;

(c) Make its reports on this question available to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development for consideration at its third session.

4. *Stresses* the need to initiate, continue and reinforce international co-operation in science and technology on already identified specific problems of developing countries without waiting for more refined data to become available;

5. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to keep under continuing review the progress made in the quantification of scientific and technological activities related to development and to include the subject in the agenda of its third session.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1902 (LVII). The role of an international technological information system in the transfer and assessment of technology and in the indigenous growth of appropriate technologies in developing countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) of 24 October 1970 containing the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, in paragraph 62 of which the Assembly requested that particular attention be devoted to fostering technologies suitable to developing countries,

Bearing in mind Council resolutions 1636 (LI) of 30 July 1971 and 1715 (LIII) of 28 July 1972, which proposed practical measures for the maximization of the contribution of technology to development,

Recognizing the urgent need for establishing in developing countries an indigenous science and technology capacity for the assessment of technology and the development of appropriate technologies,

Realizing that:

(a) Developing countries, in order to achieve rapid economic growth, will have to rely to a large extent on imports of technology coupled with domestic research and development efforts,

(b) It is necessary for developing countries to have a knowledge of alternative available technologies, together with analyses of the economic costs and benefits and relevant data on the requirements of capital, labour, raw materials and other factors of production,

(c) The transfer of technological information, including its collection, retrieval and analysis, is basic to the assessment of the technological perspectives and of the ecological, economic and social effects involved,

(d) Developing countries have established or are establishing national scientific and technical information centres,

(e) The availability of technological information from international sources could improve the capability of the developing countries of taking the fullest advantage of existing knowledge, so providing new alternatives and approaches to the solution of technical problems and assisting them in the rationalization and systematization of their research and development efforts,

³² E/C.8/18.

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with a view to ensuring that developing countries can readily obtain information beneficial to their technological planning, evaluation and development, to undertake, with the co-operation of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the competent organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the regional economic commissions, a feasibility study on the progressive establishment of an international information exchange system for the transfer and assessment of technology; such a system should serve the actual needs of potential users of the information and should be compatible with existing and proposed systems within the United Nations and, in particular, the Universal System for Information in Science and Technology;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report his findings with regard to paragraph 1 above to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its third session;

3. *Invites* the international financing organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the regional development banks, and also developed countries, in close consultation with developing countries and at their specific request, to provide ways and means for supporting the actions of these countries aimed at establishing and strengthening centres and services for scientific and technical information and systems for the transfer and assessment of technology;

4. *Invites* the developing countries, as appropriate, to establish or strengthen their scientific and technological information systems, in order to make full use of the type of information referred to in paragraph 1 above.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1903 (LVII). Application of computer science and technology to development

The Economic and Social Council,

Aware that, in the field of science and technology, the application of computer science and technology to development is assuming ever-increasing importance and that it may facilitate solutions to some of the problems of the developing countries,

Considering the importance of having competent and impartial advice free from commercial pressure in the area of the application of computer science and technology,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2804 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and Council resolution 1571 (L) of 14 May 1971, which stressed the need to encourage actively, initiate and intensify multilateral co-operation in the application of computer technology,

Taking into account Council resolution 1824 (LV) of 10 August 1973, which recognized the need for expert services in the application of computer technology to assist the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, and also the need to undertake more activities within the United Nations system on various aspects of the application of computer technology to development,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the application of computer technology for development,³⁰ prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1824 (LV), and the relevant paragraphs in the eleventh report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development,³¹

Taking note of the views and suggestions expressed by interested organizations of the United Nations system, international governmental organizations and non-governmental professional organizations and analysed in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General,

1. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to ensure, through its Sub-Committee on Science and Technology, the co-ordination of the activities of United Nations organs, and their co-ordination with the activities of other international organizations, in the application of computer science and technology to development;

2. *Decides* that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development shall act as a focal point for activities concerning the application of computer science and technology for the benefit of the development of all countries and particularly that of the developing countries, in view of their specific problems, and that, to assist it in this work, it should rely principally on the expert services provided by an existing United Nations body or bodies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, or by other competent intergovernmental organizations such as the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics;

3. *Requests* the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development to consider, within the framework of its work, the progress made in the application of computer science and technology in the developing countries and to submit to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development proposals for practical measures to be taken regarding such application;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organizations referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above and with the Administrative Committee on Co-

³⁰ E/CN.4/20/Rev.1.

³¹ E/CN.4/24.