

ordination, to submit to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its third session, a report on the activities undertaken and proposals for the activities and studies to be undertaken within the United Nations system concerning the application of computer science and technology for the benefit of the developing countries, in particular concerning the list and order of priority of such studies and activities, and the ways and means of carrying them out with the assistance of the organizations referred to above;

5. *Invites* Governments to appoint national bodies to serve as liaison between the users of computer science and technology and the bodies referred to in paragraph 2 above.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1904 (LVII). Outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries

The Economic and Social Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3017 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972 on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council which constitute the background to that resolution and which are referred to in its first preambular paragraph,

Aware of the decisive importance for the developing countries of having their own technically and scientifically trained personnel in order to be able to derive the maximum benefits from the transfer, choice and adaptation of imported technology and for the gradual development of national technology,

Considering that the product of the efforts and resources which the developing countries devote to the training of such trained personnel is adversely affected by the loss of their scientific and technological assets as a result of the "brain drain" — which now affects some market-economy countries — thus weakening the capacity of the developing countries to meet the challenge of their own unified development,

Recognizing that the fundamental cause of this outflow of trained personnel is the difference in levels of development and that, consequently, one of the most effective ways of combating it lies within the broader framework of economic, scientific, technological and educational co-operation in the service of development, including social transformation,

Recognizing the importance of advanced training of personnel from developing countries in developed countries, as well as the importance of international exchanges of scientists and technologists,

Recognizing also the necessity of elaborating proper technical manpower planning in order to ensure matching between training and requirements

Recognizing further the need to improve the socio-economic conditions in general and in particular to

strengthen educational opportunities and technological infrastructure in the developing countries,

Aware, however, that it is essential, for the purpose of choosing the correct forms of action in the light of the needs and priorities of each country or group of countries, to have available beforehand a more specific empirical data base regarding this outflow phenomenon, in quantitative and qualitative terms which demonstrate the magnitude of the problem,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries³⁰ and, in particular, of the guidelines it contains for a programme of action, which should be taken into account by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development in the adoption of future decisions on this subject;

2. *Urges* developing countries to make a thorough evaluation at the national level of the special characteristics of the problem of the outflow of trained personnel to the developed countries and to adopt the most appropriate measures to combat it, within the framework of a coherent scientific policy and respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments;

3. *Recommends* that countries which benefit from the "brain drain", particularly those which gain most from the "brain drain" from developing countries, should consider the adoption of measures which will help, directly or indirectly, to diminish the gravity of the problem;

4. *Further recommends* that Member States, in conformity with their national legislation, consider the application of a voluntary system of data collection on this phenomenon, such as information in connexion with migratory movements — persons entering and leaving the country, by profession, purpose of travel, duration of stay, and other headings — with a view to exchanging such information among themselves and transmitting it, as appropriate, to the United Nations, in order to estimate the net outflow of trained personnel from developing countries;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine, in co-operation with United Nations bodies, particularly the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the specialized agencies concerned, namely the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, the most suitable means of improving statistics on the migration of highly qualified persons and to submit appropriate recommendations to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its third session;

6. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system and any other international organizations concerned and the developed countries to help to reverse the phenomenon of the "brain drain" affecting the developing countries, by promoting in the developing countries

³⁰ E/C.8/21.

activities conducive to the creation of career possibilities, the improvement of fellowships and other forms of encouragement for training personnel in areas of direct concern to developing countries, and other measures, such as the establishment of the career of scientific research worker in those countries;

7. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to consider the problem of the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries again at its third session.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1905 (LVII). Institutional arrangements for science and technology

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1454 (XLVII) of 8 August 1969 and 1544 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970, and in particular paragraphs 1 and 4 of the latter resolution, entitled "Future institutional arrangements for science and technology", and especially 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,

Recognizing the pivotal role of modern science and technology in the development of all nations and, in particular, the ever-growing awareness of the potential role of science and technology in the solution of the economic and social problems of the developing countries,

Recognizing also that the application of science and technology to development, particularly in the developing countries, is vital to the attainment of the objectives enunciated in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the United Nations system needs to be involved on a more practical basis with these new challenges and responsibilities and, consequently, that the United Nations system needs the institutional machinery commensurate with these new responsibilities, in order to ensure a vigorous, coherent and co-ordinated pursuit of the work in the field of science and technology,

Recognizing the important work being done in the field of development and the transfer of technology by various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies,

Mindful of the view that any institutional arrangements in the field of science and technology can be meaningful only if adequate resources are made available in accordance with the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its second session,³⁶

³⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty seventh Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5473).*

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and after consultation with all interested agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, to make a study on:

(a) The work at present being undertaken throughout the United Nations system in the field of the development and the transfer of science and technology particularly in the interests of developing countries;

(b) The feasibility of the establishment of a United Nations science and technology programme, including its form, functions and responsibilities, to assist, facilitate and ensure the application of science and technology to development, particularly that of the developing countries;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report on the matters referred to in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) above to the intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to be convened in 1975;³⁷

3. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-ninth session the report of the intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

*1919th plenary meeting
1 August 1974*

1908 (LVII). The impact of transnational corporations on the development process and on international relations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1721 (LIII) of 28 July 1972,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, including the provisions relating to transnational corporations,

Recalling further the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Having given preliminary consideration to the report of the group of Eminent Persons to Study the Impact of Multinational Corporations on Development and on International Relations,³⁸ and to the report of the Secretary-General³⁹

Aware of the need to ensure that, taking fully into account the above-mentioned resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session on the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a New International Economic Order, and with full respect for the sovereignty of States, the activities of transnational corporations should contribute effectively to the acceleration of the process of development, in particular of the developing countries, and to the strengthening of international economic co-operation,

³⁷ See Council resolution 1897 (LVII).

³⁸ E.5500/Add.1 (parts I and II).

³⁹ E.5500.