

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/C.18/20/Rev.1.

³¹ E/C.18/24.

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 countries³⁶ 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

³⁶ E.C.8/21.