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SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Activities of the relevant organs, organizations and
bodies of the United Nations system in the field of
new and renewable sources of energy

Addendum

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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I. ENERGY ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

1. The legislative authority for the work programme in energy derives from General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 32/174 of 19 December 1977 and 34/211 of 19 December 1979, and 32/197 of 20 December 1977; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1761 B (LIV) of 18 May 1973, 1954 (LIX) of 25 July 1975, 2014 (LXI) of 3 August 1976, 2099 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977 and 2119 (LXIII) and 2120 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977. As a consequence of restructuring, the work of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs covers, with special reference to energy activities relating to programme planning and interorganizational co-operation; the compilation and publication of statistics, including energy statistics; and the development research and policy analysis of global economic and social issues, including, among others, the field of energy (see A/C.5/33/94). In this area, the Department pays particular attention to the research and analysis of trends in energy, including supply and demand, for all sources of energy affecting the world economy, research and analysis of the relationship of energy to other economic factors and to over-all economic performance, including, *inter alia*, energy conservation and utilization, as well as the relationships of energy and balance of payments and the investment requirements of the energy sector. The work of the Department emphasizes the identification of emerging issues of international concern in the field of energy. A particular aspect of the work on energy in the Department relates to ocean energy sources in the context of its work on ocean economics and technology matters. 1/

2. The Department's work in Programme Planning and Co-ordination includes the preparation of cross-organizational programme analyses of the energy programmes of the United Nations system, dealing with co-ordination needs in the field of energy and with the magnitude and nature of the over-all system-wide energy programmes, including programmes in the field of new and renewable sources of energy (E/AC.51/99/Rev.1, E/AC.51/99/Add.1). The Department substantively services the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, which at its twentieth session, agreed that it was necessary to set objectives for the system in the energy field to distribute the tasks involved in obtaining those objectives. 2/

3. The Committee, in subparagraph b (i) of its recommendations on the subject, 3/ recommended that the Economic and Social Council should undertake a review that

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/33/6/Rev.1), vol. II, chap. XIII, and vol. III, chap. XIX.

2/ For the Committee's discussion of the subject, see *ibid.*, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38), chap. IV, paras. 78-128.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/35/38), chap. X, para. 357.

would set objectives for the system in the energy field, distribute the tasks involved in attaining those objectives among the various organizations of the system, and emphasize the need for co-ordination which such a distribution of tasks might reveal. It was further recommended that the review should be carried out within the framework of the new international development strategy and of the discussions of the Committee of the Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, and without prejudice to mandates that might emerge from the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

d 4. In addition, in subparagraph b (iv) of its recommendations, the Committee
f requested the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
g (ACC), within the limits of its competence, to take measures to ensure the
h achievement of the purpose described in the above recommendations, in particular
i through closer co-operation among the various organizations and bodies concerned
j with planning and carrying out activities of the United Nations system in the area of
k the energy resources.

l 5. The question of co-ordinating activities in the area of energy, in the context
m of the follow-up of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and
n Co-ordination, was discussed at the second regular session of 1980 of the ACC
o Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters).

p 6. During its discussions, the Consultative Committee took note of the various
q mechanisms already in existence for the co-ordination of various aspects of the work
r of the United Nations system in the area of energy, including intersecretariat
s consultations in connexion with the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable
t Sources of Energy. Thus it was felt that it was probably not desirable to establish
u additional machinery without taking more fully into account the nature of the
v consultations taking place in these fora, their possible interrelationship, and the
w opportunity they might offer for the implementation of the recommendations of the
x Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

y 7. It was agreed that, as a first step, it would be necessary to gain a better
z understanding of the work being undertaken within the existing mechanisms for
aa intersecretariat consultations and that the nature of their work would be brought
ab to the attention of the Consultative Committee at an ad hoc meeting that would be
ac timed so as to take advantage of the presence of energy specialists at meetings of
ad these intersecretariat mechanisms, or of the Preparatory Committee for the United
ae Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

af 8. The Department's co-ordinative activities include the work programme of the ACC
ag Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives, which, at a meeting held at United
ah Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 December 1979, considered the energy issue in the
ai context of the preparatory work on the new international development strategy (see
aj A/AC.196/10). In May 1980 the Task Force undertook a preliminary review of energy

issues in a long-term perspective in the context of development in order to identify key issues and their interrelationships and to determine possible areas for further co-operation. 4/

9. A key input to the work of the Task Force would be studies of the energy sector being carried out in various parts of the United Nations system, particularly in such areas as energy statistics and projections, investigation of energy trends and research on energy development prospects and investment requirements. Three meetings of the Technical Energy Group of the Task Force are being planned for 1981: one on energy modelling and projections to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 11 March 1981; a second on problems in estimating the investment requirements in the energy sectors of the developing countries to be held at Geneva from 22 to 24 June 1981; and a third on energy efficiency technologies and their applications to developing countries, to be held at Headquarters from 9 to 11 November 1981.

10. The results of the work of the Technical Energy Group would be considered by the Task Force, with a view to assessing their implications for the wider development context. In this way, the Task Force would contribute, through interagency consultations and co-operation, to the substantive harmonization of work under way system-wide in the field of energy.

11. The Statistical Office has a continuing programme of energy statistics and the Statistical Commission reviews the work of this office in relation to the preparation of energy balances, technical co-operation in energy statistics and the development of current energy publications, among others, the Yearbook of Energy Statistics. The forthcoming edition of the Yearbook, although primarily devoted to conventional and non-renewable sources, has various types of information for six of the 14 renewable sources. For example, statistics are published on installed capacity and electric power generation from geothermal and hydropower sources (for 90 and 15 countries, respectively). Also shown, in series J, are production data for fuelwood and charcoal, as well as information on resources and reserves for oil shale, tar sands and hydraulic and peat resources.

12. A programme on energy balances, involving the presentation of integrated data envisages the publication of data in energy balance format for a large number of countries. An additional programme is in progress that should significantly contribute to and enhance the preparation of final energy balances. A specialist in fuelwood statistics has been engaged by the Statistical Office to evaluate the statistics in this area and to analyse the results of selected country studies.

4/ The Task Force met at United Nations Headquarters on 22 and 23 May (preparatory meeting) and 27 and 28 May 1980, under the chairmanship of Mr. Jean Ripert, Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs. A draft report, entitled "Energy issues in a long-term development perspective", was transmitted to members of the Task Force for comment in September 1980 and a revised draft of the report was submitted, as Conference Room Paper No. 4, to the Consultative Committee for Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) at its second regular session of 1980, held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 20 October 1980.

In addition, a project to: (a) identify and evaluate the statistics available on non-commercial energy production and consumption; (b) compare and evaluate the various methods used for the compilation of these statistics and appraise the possible extension of the most efficient methods to the developing countries; and (c) recommend concepts, definitions and methods that will make it possible to establish reliable statistical series in this field, is expected to culminate in the development of a more meaningful energy balance, particularly with regard to developing countries. 5/

13. In the ocean economics and technology area, the activities include the preparation of studies and analyses designed to be supportive of coastal area and ocean planning and management, which treat particular sectors and resources, including ocean hydrocarbons, as well as new and renewable sources of energy.

14. In the biennium 1980-1981, activities in the ocean economics and technology area have been directed, among other things, towards the substantive and administrative servicing, on behalf of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, of two sessions of the Technical Panel on Ocean Energy. The first session was convened in Paris, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 5 to 9 November 1979, and the second session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 22 to 26 September 1980.

15. In the biennium 1982-1983, an investigation of the significance of ocean thermal energy conversion and its applications is planned in co-operation with the appropriate regional commissions and United Nations organizations, as well as energy planners from developing countries, and experts in the field of ocean thermal energy conversion or related industries. Ocean thermal energy conversion and other new and renewable ocean energy sources will also be examined within the context of a broader survey and analysis of all energy sources and uses in coastal areas.

16. In respect of long-term objectives and the medium-term plan, the ocean energy sector, and particularly new and renewable sources, will receive special attention in the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 within the context of measures designed to assist Governments in implementing an integrated approach to the development and management of the resources and activities within their coastal areas and extended marine jurisdictions. Emphasis will be on the potential role of new and renewable ocean energy sources, in particular ocean thermal energy conversion, in national energy planning and on the technological constraints and requirements for developing these sources.

17. The Department has also prepared periodical reviews of world energy in connexion with the work of the Committee on Natural Resources (for example, E/C.7/108). The annual world economic survey analyses the interrelationships

5/ Non-commercial fuels (particularly fuelwood, charcoal, bagasse and dried animal manure) - so called because in the markets of some developing countries they do not often enter commercial trade - represent a large part of the total energy consumption in many of these countries.

between the current economic situation and changes in prices, including energy prices. The section on the world economic outlook in the survey considers emerging issues and trends on selected topics, including energy. In its work on world energy prospects and projections, the Department has reviewed existing energy projections and models in assessing the world energy outlook. In its work on global energy policies and strategies, it is considering investment requirements and financing sources for oil.

18. A report on energy in the 1980s, providing an over-all view of the energy demand-supply balance during the present decade, is being prepared. The report, dealing mainly with petroleum in the 1980s, with emphasis on the developing countries, will include a brief preliminary assessment of the role that non-conventional liquid fuels such as tar sands, oil shale and biomass could play in the over-all petroleum demand-supply balance. It will take into account the various economic and technological factors that will determine the practical impact of the sources. The report will include a review of the problem of financing energy investment in energy-importing developing countries, and will pay particular attention to the financing of indigenous oil development and non-conventional liquid fuels.

19. In the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, the Department's energy programme is focused on the world energy outlook including perspectives for renewable and non-renewable energy sources; the study of opportunities and modalities for international energy co-operation and for energy conservation policies, as well as of changing structures of the world energy market, is also emphasized.

20. The draft medium-term plan for 1984-1989 covering the energy sector is being designed to contribute to the elaboration of action-oriented policy measures through the preparation of analyses of global energy supply and demand trends and perspective, energy, and over-all economy relationships and interactions; the definition of strategies for the development of energy resources; and identification of gaps in energy investment activity and in mechanisms for financing an accelerated exploration and development of energy sources; and an analysis of harmonizing strategies for international co-operation in energy. The draft medium-term plan for 1984-1989 will also consider action-oriented research and analysis in respect of interactions between alternative energy paths, particularly decentralized and small-scale energies, and their socio-economic ramifications, paying special attention to lower income groups in the developed and developing countries. The social implications of energy and energy technology choices for the rural and urban poor in developing countries receive particular emphasis.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT IN NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

A. Mandate and background

21. The Department's Division of Natural Resources and Energy has for more than two decades been the major entity of the United Nations entrusted with exploration for energy (with the exception of nuclear energy) and its development and use. Since its substantive role in support of the first United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy, held at Rome in August 1961, the Division, as part of its overall activities in the energy field, has promoted the sharing of experience among countries in harnessing alternative, new and renewable sources of energy, as well as assisting developing countries, at their request, through its technical co-operation programme in the development and use of such sources of energy.

22. In recent years, as a result of the changed global energy situation, a consensus has emerged that the remaining years of this century should be used to make the necessary transition from dependence on petroleum to alternative, new and renewable sources of energy. This has been reflected in the decisions taken by Governments in Economic and Social Council resolutions 2119 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977 and 1979/66 of 3 August 1979, and General Assembly resolutions 33/148 of 20 December 1978 and 34/190 of 18 December 1979 which have paved the way for the convening of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy at Nairobi in August 1981, 20 years after the first United Nations Conference on this subject. In addition to providing major substantive support to the technical panels that have been organized in preparation for the Conference and in the synthesis of their results, the Department has been guided by Economic and Social Council resolution 2031 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other competent bodies of the United Nations system "to be responsive to requests from Member States for feasibility studies and pilot projects on the application of non-conventional energy techniques for developing countries".

B. Long-term objectives and medium-term plan

23. Accordingly, as the executing agency of the United Nations for technical co-operation projects, the Department seeks to give concrete assistance to developing countries in identifying, assessing and developing their indigenous energy potential, including new and renewable sources of energy that may be available locally. It facilitates the transfer of technology, provides support to research institutions, assists in the training of personnel and, through the support of demonstration projects, enables developing countries to determine the feasibility of applying new technologies to meet their requirements. The object of these activities is to enhance the capacity of developing countries to exploit rationally the new and renewable energy potential they may possess and to promote international co-operation towards this end. The Department's fundamental objectives are specified in greater detail in paragraphs 19.10, 19.11, 19.12, 19.14

and 19.16 of the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983. ^{6/} Within the Division of Natural Resources and Energy, a Non-Conventional Energy Section has been established to enable the Department to respond to government requirements in this field with maximum effect.

C. Programme of the Department

24. The Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, through its Division of Natural Resources and Energy, supports an active programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of new and renewable sources of energy. The Division is in a position to respond to requests for short-term advisory assistance from developing countries concerning various aspects of new and renewable energy development. Its expertise is largely centred in the areas of solar energy, wind energy, hydropower, bio-energy and geothermal energy. Upon receipt of a request for a short-term advisory mission, the Division arranges for one of its interregional advisers to visit the country concerned. Such assistance is provided under the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation and involves no cost to the requesting country. During the past year, such short-term advisory missions have been undertaken, inter alia, in Brazil, Burundi, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, the Philippines, Poland, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates.

25. In addition, the Department executes projects financed by UNDP and UNEP in the field of new and renewable energy sources, such as village demonstration projects involving several new and renewable sources of energy in Mongolia, Pakistan and Senegal. It is also implementing wind energy projects in Cape Verde, China and Mauritius, small-scale hydropower projects in Burundi and Ethiopia and is providing support to research institutions in China, Costa Rica, Cyprus and Turkey concerning solar energy. In the field of geothermal energy, where the Department has played a recognized pioneering role since the 1960s, projects are currently being supported in Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, the Philippines and China. In the implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/201 on multilateral development assistance for the exploration of natural resources, the Department has assisted the Government of Cape Verde at its request in estimating its requirements for conducting an exploration programme for geothermal energy. Similar missions for evaluating requirements for geothermal exploration are to be undertaken in 1981 in Mozambique and Mauritius at the request of their respective Governments. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/201 of 19 December 1979, missions of this nature are available to developing countries that indicate their interest to the Department.

26. Through the United Nations regular programme of technical co-operation and through funds-in-trust that have been made available to the United Nations, the Department is undertaking small-scale hydropower site evaluation missions in requesting countries. During 1980, missions of this nature were undertaken in

^{6/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/33/6/Rev.1), vol. III.

Jamaica and Uruguay. Plans have been completed for the fielding of similar missions early in 1981 to Bangladesh, Bolivia, Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. Such short-term site evaluation missions are available to developing countries that communicate their interest to the Department.

27. In addition to these activities, the Department seeks to promote the exchange of experience among developing countries in new and renewable energy sources and endeavours to promote co-operation among them. In this regard, it may be noted that the Department is organizing, in co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), a study tour to China in the spring of 1981, in order that some 20 representatives of developing countries may benefit from the experience of China in small-scale hydropower development. This follows a similar tour on biogas which was undertaken in September 1979. It should also be noted that the Department's joint execution with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) of the Central American Energy Programme, a project financed by UNDP and the Special Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, contains several components relating to new and renewable sources of energy. As the primary objective of the project is to reduce the dependence of the Central American Isthmus on external energy sources by replacing them with indigenous energy resources derived from the participating countries, the Department has promoted the strengthening of co-operation among the countries of the region. For example, the experience of El Salvador in geothermal energy has been shared with other Central American countries through the training of personnel. Similarly, the experience of Brazil has been drawn upon in the preparation of a pre-feasibility study for the production and use of gasohol in Guatemala.

28. While the Department is ready to assist interested developing countries in the survey, assessment and development of their new and renewable energy potential, including the provision of support for rural village demonstration projects which examine the feasibility of using a variety of locally available renewable energy sources in a systematic way to meet village needs, it also recognizes the need to integrate new and renewable energy options into sound national energy planning processes. The Department, in this connexion, will convene an International Workshop on Energy Planning in Developing Countries at Stockholm in September 1981, in co-operation with the Government of Sweden. The Department also supports a number of energy-planning projects in developing countries and is prepared to offer assistance in this field to countries that request it.

29. In addition to the technical co-operation activities cited above, the Department, as part of its contribution to the Conference, is co-operating with the Government of Finland in convening from 8 to 12 June 1981 an International Peat Workshop/Study Tour for participants from some 25 developing countries.

30. It may be noted that the Department has historically been prepared to join with interested Governments in the convening of meetings concerned with major issues associated with the exploration for and development of specific new and renewable sources of energy. In 1968, for example, a Symposium on the Utilization of Oil Shale Resources was convened at Tallin in co-operation with the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In 1970, the First United Nations Geothermal Symposium was convened at Pisa, in co-operation with the Government of Italy and, in

1975, the Second United Nations Geothermal Symposium was convened at San Francisco, in co-operation with the Government of the United States of America. As far as is feasible, the Department will continue to provide substantive and organizational support to such endeavours in the future, in co-operation with interested Governments, as part of its efforts to promote the sharing of experience among countries in the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy and to enhance international co-operation in this field.

III. ENERGY ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Legislative mandate and enabling resolutions

31. Following the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna from 20 to 31 August 1979, the General Assembly, in sections II and III of its resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, established the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

32. The Centre draws its legislative mandate from section III, paragraphs 3 and 4, of General Assembly resolution 34/218, which read:

"3. Decides also that the Centre shall assist the Director-General in fulfilling the responsibilities assigned to him in the Vienna Programme of Action, particularly in providing the necessary substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and in co-ordinating activities at the secretariat level related to science and technology within the United Nations system;

"4. Decides further that in the performance of those responsibilities the Centre should maintain close co-operation with all the relevant entities of the United Nations".

33. The responsibilities assigned to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, initially described in paragraph 103 of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development 7/ are set out in General Assembly resolution 34/218, section IV, in which the Assembly:

"1. Decides that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation shall be responsible for exercising over-all co-ordination in science and technology, at the secretariat level, within the United Nations system;

"2. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system, through, inter alia, the mechanisms of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, to

7/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and Corrigenda), chap. VII.

offer their full and effective co-operation and assistance to the Director-General in discharging his responsibilities in this field;

"3. Further decides to entrust to the Director-General the responsibility of co-ordinating the contributions of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations, as well as of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development;

"4. Calls upon all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate with the Director-General in the accomplishment of his over-all co-ordination tasks".

34. In section II of resolution 34/218, the General Assembly defined the terms of reference of the Intergovernmental Committee as follows:

"5. Decides that the Committee shall assist the General Assembly, inter alia, in the following functions:

"(a) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action and with a view to contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order;

"(b) Promoting the improvement of linkages between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the co-ordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(c) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

"(d) Preparing an operational plan for carrying out the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

"(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(g) Initiating arrangements for the early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological development which may adversely affect the development process as well as those which may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries;

"(h) Providing directives and policy-making guidance to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, ...".

35. In addition to lending substantive support to the Intergovernmental Committee, the Centre also provides substantive support to the advisory body on science and technology for development, established by the Intergovernmental Committee at its second session with the following terms of reference:

"1. The advisory body:

"(a) Should be a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and should provide, at the request of that Committee, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Committee;

"(b) Should also provide, through the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, expert advice to the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as well as to the Secretary-General and to the Administrator of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

"(c) Should provide advice based on, as appropriate, a universal and interactive approach involving national and regional discussions, with the participation of a wide cross-section of possible users of science and technology;

"(d) Should have access to the advice of:

"(i) The expert bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

"(ii) Ad hoc panels drawn from a roster of specialists in all the necessary disciplines, established by the advisory body as necessary, some of whose members should be drawn from the membership of the advisory body;

"(iii) Scientific, technological and other appropriate organizations, including national scientific and technological institutions;

"(e) Should not tackle the administrative problems of co-ordination." 8/

36. In response to section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 34/218, ACC, in its decision 1980/1, established the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development with the following terms of reference:

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/35/37), annex, resolution 7 (II), annex.

"1. Functions

"(a) The Task Force should be the arm of ACC responsible for ensuring adequate preparation of and efficient follow-up on relevant recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development which call for co-operation and co-ordination at the intersecretariat level with regard to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and to further action in the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development. It should therefore be the essential mechanism of interagency co-operation in the implementation of tasks entrusted to the Intergovernmental Committee by the General Assembly.

"(b) It should provide substantive support to the consultative committees of ACC in their consideration of science and technology issues, particularly regarding the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. It should in this connexion propose and monitor arrangements for joint programmes and plans, designation of lead agencies and so on.

"(c) The Task Force should advise and assist the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, as required, on a continuous and systematic basis, in relation to the responsibilities assigned to him in the Vienna Programme of Action.

"2. Composition

"The joint interagency Task Force will be open to the participation of all organizations of the United Nations system.

"Agency officials taking part in the work of the Task Force will normally be the substantive focal points designated by their organizations as responsible for the follow-up to the Vienna Conference.

"The Chairman of the Task Force will be appointed by ACC.

"3. Mode of operation

"The meetings of the Task Force will be scheduled in accordance with established procedures to take into account the requirements of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. Subject-oriented working group meetings may be organized. Meetings may take place in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Committee or at the headquarters of one of the organizations."

The Centre also provides substantive support to this Task Force.

B. Programme and activities

37. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its second session, in resolution 1 (II), 9/ decided that the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, with the assistance of the head of the Centre, should be responsible for over-all co-ordination of activities, including programmes sponsored, undertaken or supported by organizations of the United Nations system, in response to the operational plan for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. In the same resolution, the Committee decided that the Director-General, assisted by the head of the Centre, and after appropriate consultations with Governments through, inter alia, regional meetings, as well as with the executive heads of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, should submit to the Committee, at its third session, proposals for a detailed operational plan for implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

38. The Committee also decided that the operational plan should be prepared for each of the major component programme areas outlined below:

- I. Scientific and technological policies and plans for development;
- II. The creation and strengthening of scientific and technological infrastructure;
- III. The choice, acquisition and transfer of technology;
- IV. The development of human resources for science and technology;
- V. The financing of science and technology for development;
- VI. Scientific and technological information;
- VII. The strengthening of research and development in and for developing countries and their linkage to the productive system;
- VIII. The strengthening of co-operation in the field of science and technology among developing countries, and between developing and developed countries.

The Centre is presently preparing the operational plan to be submitted to the Intergovernmental Committee at its third session in May 1981. In so doing, the Centre has been in continuous contact with the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to solicit their inputs. This contact has been in the form of written submissions, and visits of technical personnel from the organizations of the United Nations system to the Centre.

9/ Ibid., resolution 1 (II).

39. It was recommended in the Vienna Plan of Action that the General Assembly establish a financing system for science and technology for development and that an intergovernmental group of experts should be created, the members being appointed on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to undertake, with the support of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, a prompt and thorough study of all relevant arrangements for the operation of a financing system for science and technology for development.

40. The terms of reference of the study, set out in paragraph 117 of the Plan of Action, 7/ would be as follows:

- "(i) The study would make an assessment of the requirements for additional funding for science and technology activities in developing countries and of potential sources of funding;
- "(ii) The study would include an inventory of existing multilateral and bilateral programmes for providing financial support for such activities;
- "(iii) The study would review alternative proposals, including all the proposals put to the Conference by the Group of 77 for generating requisite additional funds for science and technology development activities on a long-term basis and for the disbursement and control of those funds, as well as those for institutional arrangements, and make recommendations thereon."

41. The General Assembly in its resolution 34/218 established the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, composed of 27 members, and endorsed the terms of reference proposed by the Conference. The Assembly further decided that

"The intergovernmental group of experts shall submit its final report to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development for its consideration so that the latter may, through the Economic and Social Council, make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session".

The Centre has been assisting the Director-General in providing substantive support to the Group of Experts.

C. Conclusion

42. The responsibilities of the Centre may be summarized as follows:

- (a) Assisting the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, through the Director-General and the Committee's subsidiary body, in formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities;

(b) Assisting the Director-General in exercising over-all co-ordination in science and technology at the secretariat level within the United Nations system.

43. The subject areas in new and renewable sources of energy cover the whole spectrum of pure sciences, technology, social sciences and others. Hence, although the issues before the Conference deal with the energy sector, they are closely related to the areas of activity of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development.

44. More specifically, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, in its resolution 2 (II), 10/ established ad hoc groups of experts to deal with the following issues:

(a) Financing;

(b) Information flows;

(c) Research and development and transfer of technology;

(d) Education and training;

(e) Rural energy, including utilization of energy in agriculture;

(f) Industrial issues, including utilization of energy in transportation and allied sectors.

45. As discussed in paragraph 38 above, the Centre is also preparing an operational plan for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, along similar major component programme areas.

46. For example, the Vienna Programme of Action calls for the establishment of a scientific and technological global information network and section VI of the operational plan will deal with this issue. Also, as outlined in paragraphs 39-41 above, the Centre has been assisting the Director-General in providing substantive support to the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

47. The major focus of the Centre's activities for the biennium 1982-1983 will be related to the implementation of the operational plan after its adoption by the Intergovernmental Committee at its third session in May 1981. In addition, the Centre will also initiate action to implement several priority projects identified by the Vienna Programme of Action and the Intergovernmental Committee and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 34/218 and 35/67 of 5 December 1980. These projects are:

10/ Ibid., Supplement No. 43 (A/35/43), Part Two, sect. A.

(a) Arrangements for the early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process, as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries;

(b) A study on the question of the levels of attainment of scientific and technological development among different countries;

(c) Reactivation of the national focal points set up by Governments for the preparations of national papers for the Vienna Conference.
