

**REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Volume I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY - FOURTH SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 43 (A/34/43)



UNITED NATIONS

New York, 1979

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 21 December 1976, the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/184, entitled "United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development", in which, inter alia, it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979; and decided that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development should act as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.
2. Subsequently, on 15 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/115, in which, inter alia, it decided that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, when acting as Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, should be open to the participation of all States as full members.
3. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development held its first session (1st to 12th meetings) 1/ at United Nations Headquarters from 31 January to 14 February 1977.
4. The second session of the Preparatory Committee (13th to 19th meetings) 2/ was held at Geneva from 23 January to 3 February 1978. 3/
5. The third session of the Preparatory Committee (20th to 30th meetings) 4/ was held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 January to 5 February 1979.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/32/43 and Corr.3).

2/ Second special session (87th to 93rd meetings) of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development acting as the Preparatory Committee.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 43 (A/33/43).

4/ Third special session (94th to 102nd meetings) of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development acting as the Preparatory Committee.

II. PREPARATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Introductory and general statements

6. At the opening of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, introductory statements were made by the acting Chairman, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

7. The Chairman made a statement opening the general debate.

8. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation said in his statement that the objectives of the Conference, which were defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 2028 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, included the adoption of concrete decisions on ways and means of applying science and technology in establishing a new international economic order, as a strategy aimed at economic and social development within a time frame. He recalled the principles contained in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, which urged that science and technology should play a more direct and important role in the process of stimulating development and in reducing international disparities. He said that the basic task of the Conference would be to analyse and translate into specific objectives the scientific and technological components of the above principles.

9. In that regard, the Director-General said that the new international economic order stressed a number of important themes, among which were: the co-operation of developed and developing countries in the establishment, strengthening and development of the scientific and technological infrastructure of developing countries; the significant expansion of the assistance of developed countries to developing countries for direct support of their scientific and technological programmes; the establishment of new conditions for the transfer of technology compatible with the special requirements and interests of the developing countries, including the elimination of restrictive practices and the adoption of appropriate international principles and regulations; and the consideration of science and technology in development not as independent instruments of action but as components of an over-all system involving structural changes and global arrangements.

10. The Director-General recalled that the Preparatory Committee had been specifically requested by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to give careful consideration at its current session to the substantive issues and particularly to the preliminary draft programme of action.

11. The Secretary-General of the Conference then addressed the Preparatory Committee and recalled that the preparation for the Conference had started two years earlier and was characterized by two periods. The first one had resulted in a sense of mobility and a widespread awareness relating to the application of science and technology to development not only in the third world but also in developed

countries. During that period a large number of seminars of a national, subregional, interregional and thematic nature had been organized and recently other seminars, for example, those held at Abidjan, in Jamaica, in Singapore and at Tallinn, had taken up the subject from an angle different to that presented in the national papers.

12. The second phase had consisted of the consolidation of the recommendations included in the national and regional papers and had resulted in the production of the background document of the Conference.

13. Introducing the preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.81/PC.21), the Secretary-General of the Conference pointed out that its contents reflected the recommendations put forward in the national and regional papers and its structure was based on the new international economic order. He urged the Committee to focus its discussions on the substance of the preliminary draft programme so as to reach, through collective negotiations, a consensus on the most controversial issues.

14. The Secretary-General of the Conference observed that a new concept of development had emerged from the national and regional papers under which the specificity and diversity of the development process were recognized: development should be in harmony not only with the country's economic and social factors but also with its natural and human environment, its cultural identity and its national objectives; it should be based on justice and aimed to the establishment of an equitable social order which required basic structural changes; development should be endogenous and self-reliant; it should be planned and required in all its phases the continuous intervention of the public authority. He concluded that the application of science and technology implied readjustments between developed and developing countries as well as internal adjustments to changes within each country.

15. The Secretary-General of the Conference went on to say that in his view the Preparatory Committee could expect the Conference to result in a set of "rules of the game" relating to the scientific and technological dimensions of the new international economic order in order especially to eliminate inequities historically inherent in the international economic system; in rules for co-operation among developed and developing countries; in measures for better interaction between developing countries with the objective of their achieving collective self-reliance; in an improvement in co-ordination and joint planning in the field of science and technology within the United Nations system; in decisions to be taken with regard to solving global problems that affected the whole of the human race; and in mechanisms for establishing a number of pilot or demonstration projects in specific fields.

16. The Secretary-General of the Conference finally pointed out that not all problems would be solved at the Conference but it would be a success if it succeeded in identifying and indicating the solutions to certain problems while elaborating the mechanisms required for that purpose.

17. Following his election, the Chairman made a statement in which he referred to the extent of the preparatory activities and the intellectual ferment that the Conference had given rise to on the national and international levels. He recalled that, because of the complex nature of the development process, which involved economic, social, cultural, political and scientific factors, the Conference would

not deal with science and technology as such but would discuss the manner in which they could be used for development.

18. The Chairman urged the Preparatory Committee to ensure that the Conference produced proposals of a concrete nature, which would have significant impact and a high degree of visibility. He expressed the hope that the momentum generated by the preparatory period of the Conference would result in the setting up of follow-up activities involving international co-operation and the implementation of specific projects so as to rise to the challenge created by the Conference.

19. Speaking on behalf of all United Nations organizations and programmes concerned with the Conference, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization observed that the Conference had led to the development of a more coherent and concerted approach by the United Nations system to science and technology. He recalled that the various organizations had not only undertaken activities specifically designed to serve as inputs for the preparation of the Conference but had endeavoured to put at the service of the Conference many of their ongoing activities. After reviewing some of the specific activities undertaken by the various United Nations organizations, he stated that the preparations of the Conference had been an important step in the strengthening of their co-operation and their harmonious partnership.

20. As to the preliminary draft programme of action, he said that its conceptual framework and structure appeared to the organizations to be sound and a very useful basis for discussion and action. He finally pointed out that the presence of those organizations at the various meetings of the Committee would help them to shape subsequent actions in the interest of their respective member States.

21. Speaking on behalf of the Pugwash Movement, the representative of Bangladesh informed the Committee that guidelines for international scientific co-operation for development of special relevance to the Conference had been prepared by the Movement.

22. The representative of the International Society for Community Development suggested that a specific item on women should be included in the agenda of the Conference. Such an item could deal with the "methods of creating a social-economic environment in which science and technology policies will actively and equally involve and benefit women".

23. The representative of the Natural Resources Defense Council introduced a report discussing the draft outline of the programme of action of the Conference, which had been prepared by a study group of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Science and Technology for Development, and expressed the hope that some of the proposals would be incorporated in the programme of action.

B. General debate

24. The general debate concentrated on the preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.81/PC/21). The main issues to which delegations addressed themselves were its structure and conceptual framework, and the choice and presentation of recommendations.

25. There was a general consensus to recognize and appreciate the hard work realized by the Secretary-General of the Conference in preparing that document.

26. Many delegations felt that for the draft programme of action a coherent conceptual framework was necessary. The main purpose would be to establish the link between the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the new international economic order.

27. The structure of the preliminary draft programme of action based on the new international economic order and its division into six target areas were generally considered as a good basis for discussion, although it differed from the regional documents. A number of suggestions were made concerning the possible combination of two or three target areas into one and a change in their order of presentation to reflect priorities. Target area I (Sharing of knowledge and experience by all members of the international community) and especially target area IV (Enhancing endogenous capabilities in a context of national self-reliance) were recommended by some delegations as deserving the highest priority.

28. Many delegations considered that there should be an introductory part giving a conceptual framework for the draft programme of action. Some delegations proposed that the general introduction and the introductions to each target area might be combined either in an extended introduction or in a separate commentary. Other delegations agreed that the introduction to each target area should be maintained in order to put the recommendations in their proper perspective. Some delegations favoured an introduction with a considerably broader conceptual framework, which would give more emphasis to the need for ensuring peace and social justice as prerequisites for the effective application of science and technology to development. Other delegations felt that the draft programme of action should contain a simple preamble instead of an intensive introduction. There was a general consensus that the main goal should be the building up of endogenous capacity for science and technology in developing countries in an environment of national and collective self-reliance.

29. With regard to the recommendations in the programme of action, most delegations agreed that the proposals were too general and should be made more specific and more action-oriented. Some delegations, however, felt that many recommendations were too detailed. Several delegations suggested that the programme should indicate more specifically what should be done, when and how, and with what financial resources. It was the general view that it was important that priorities for action should be clearly established. Several delegations suggested that the number of recommendations should be reduced. Some delegations regretted the absence of a sectoral approach and recommended that the five subject areas selected at the second session of the Preparatory Committee 5/ should be highlighted.

30. Many delegations stated that greater emphasis should be given to a number of important subjects related to the application of science and technology to development, which, although implicitly referred to in the document, had, in their

5/ Ibid., annex I, resolution 3 (II).

view, not been given sufficient attention. Those subjects were: the involvement of women in development; education and training; the necessity for broad socio-economic transformations; global problems and the role of science and technology in their solution; the important role of the non-governmental sector, including not only private enterprise but also universities, scientific academies and other non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental agencies; bilateral co-operation; special attention to less developed, land-locked and island developing countries; the use of more sophisticated technology by developing countries; measures to overcome the lack of managerial skills in developing countries; ensuring that the benefits from applying science and technology reach all sectors of society; consultation and extension services; and information systems.

31. A number of countries, developed and developing, referred specifically to target area III of the preliminary draft programme of action, dealing with the transfer of technology for the benefit of development. Those countries, while recognizing that the issue was an important one for the Conference, emphasized that the work of the Conference should not duplicate or overlap that being undertaken in other forums. The Conference should bear in mind the discussions and negotiations currently going on elsewhere and limit its own consideration of the subject accordingly. One developing country suggested that it would be more in line with reality and the aspirations of developing countries if the term "transfer of technology" were replaced by "acquisition of technology".

32. Some countries expressed the view that the Conference should have concrete, visible and immediate results through the establishment of pilot or demonstration projects. Examples of fields for such projects were mentioned by different delegations.

33. Many delegations expressed the wish that inputs from international symposia, intergovernmental groups and scientific communities should be taken into account in the preparation of the draft programme of action and at the Conference itself.

34. Some representatives of countries with centrally planned economies pointed out that science and technology had been one of the main contributing factors in the improvement of social conditions in their countries and emphasized the need for all countries to make use of that experience. Successful implementation of the Conference recommendations, both at the international and the national levels, depended on peaceful coexistence and the development of nations with different social systems through détente and disarmament. The same representatives underlined the close connexion between peace, détente the disarmament process and development.

35. One delegation stressed the need for an environment of stable peace in which to develop science and technology and conduct wide-ranging exchanges. It manifested strong opposition to the use of mankind's scientific and technological accomplishments by hegemonism in the pursuit of arms expansion, war preparations, aggression and expansion to the detriment of world peace; it also expressed its support for just proposals to ensure that science and technology truly promote economic development, social progress and the well-being of the peoples of the world and particularly of the developing countries.

36. Some delegations pointed out that the preliminary draft programme of action did not take sufficiently into account differences between countries in their social and political systems, degrees of development, and geographical positions.

37. Many countries, both developing and developed, referred to the role of the United Nations system in the application of science and technology to development. Many countries emphasized the need for greater co-ordination of the activities of the system and mention was made of a single body in the system to act as a focal point for science and technology. Several developed countries emphasized the view that there was no need to establish new institutions or funds in the United Nations system for science and technology, but rather that the existing potential of the system in that field should be fully realized. One developed country suggested that the concept of lead agencies should be used by the system for the co-ordination of projects in different sectors. To facilitate action at the national level, one developed country suggested that the national focal points established for Conference preparations should be maintained after the Conference.

38. A number of delegations from both developed and developing countries referred to the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on obstacles to the application of science and technology in the development of developing countries with emphasis on potential obstacles (A/CONF.81/PC/22). There was general agreement that the recommendations in that report should be borne in mind in revising the preliminary draft programme of action.

39. One delegation proposed not to hold a general debate at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, but rather to start as quickly as possible with negotiations on the programme of action.

40. In responding to the general debate, the Secretary-General of the Conference observed that the important thing was not the number or order of the target areas but the concept of a programme of action by objectives or targets; he was gratified to see that delegations agreed with such an approach. The preliminary draft programme of action (A/CONF.81/PC/21) was, of course, only intended as raw material for the use of Member States. In respect of the suggestion to expand the conceptual introductory part of the document, he saw difficulties in that it was often easier to agree on action than on principles: "basic needs" and "appropriate technology" were cases in point. Many recommendations that had been included in the preliminary draft programme of action, which might now appear too general or insufficiently action-oriented, had been advanced by individual Member States or at regional meetings. With regard to the number of recommendations, he recalled that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had agreed on 109 recommendations 6/ and 26 principles 7/ and suggested that a conference of the scope of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development might well be expected to go beyond that number. Some countries seemed to have shown a preference for specific and detailed recommendations. With regard to the suggestion that a distinction should be made between the various categories of countries and institutions to which the recommendations were directed, taking into account their social and political systems, the Secretary-General of the Conference felt that such a distinction might lead to undue complexity in the programme. Recommendations pertaining to a sectoral approach seemed to him

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14), chap. II.

7/ Ibid., chap. I.

impossible in view of the general direction taken by the Conference towards a horizontal scheme. The concern for the achievement of concrete and visible results might be met through pilot or demonstration projects. Regional aspects would have to be taken fully into account when the programme of action had reached the stage of implementation. It was necessary to include consideration of the transfer of technology and transnational corporations in the framework of the Conference in view of the agenda approved by the General Assembly. There would not necessarily be duplication of exercises conducted in other forums of the United Nations system, because the approach to the subject would be different. Developing countries might recognize the importance of including consideration of global problems, on the understanding that it could be complementary to and not an alternative to the general attack on the immediate problems of development. Also, underdevelopment should be recognized as a global problem, together with the problems of attaining peace and security. The Secretary-General of the Conference concluded his statement by saying that the recommendations of the Conference would be addressed to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for endorsement and the necessary budgetary and administrative decisions. It would be at that point that decisions would be taken with regard to the parties that would implement the recommendations, including organizations of the United Nations system.

C. Action taken by the Preparatory Committee

41. At its 27th meeting, on 30 January, the Committee took a number of decisions recommended by the Chairman (A/CONF.81/PC/L.14) on the basis of informal consultations (see annex II, decisions 5 (III) to 9 (III)).

42. At the same meeting, the Committee decided that the documents to be prepared by the Secretary-General of the Conference for items 1, 2 and 3 of the agenda for the Conference should be consolidated into 50 pages instead of the 400 pages requested in decision 4 (II) (see annex II, decision 10 (III)).

43. At its 30th meeting, on 5 February, the Committee adopted a draft resolution entitled "Draft programme of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development", which had been recommended by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations held on the suggestions put forth by Norway, on behalf of Finland, Norway and Sweden, at the 29th meeting (see annex I, resolution 6 (III)).

44. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision, recommended by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, in which it requested the Economic and Social Council to reschedule, if possible, the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee so as not to overlap with the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and to schedule a fifth session of the Preparatory Committee from 25 June to 6 July at United Nations Headquarters (see annex II, decision 11 (III)).

45. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to annex to its report the statements made by the representatives of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of 77, France on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annexes III to VI).

46. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following provisional agenda for its fourth session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:
 - (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference;
 - (b) Draft programme of action;
 - (c) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system;
 - (d) Review of recent United Nations Conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.
3. Date and provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Preparatory Committee.
4. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

47. The Preparatory Committee held its third session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 January to 5 February 1979. The Committee held 11 meetings (20th to 30th meetings).

48. The session was opened by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Mircea Malitza (Romania). The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and the Secretary-General of the Conference addressed the Committee at the opening meeting.

B. Membership and attendance

49. The following States were represented:

Afghanistan	Ghana
Algeria	Greece
Argentina	Guatemala
Australia	Guinea
Austria	Hungary
Bahamas	India
Bahrain	Indonesia
Bangladesh	Iraq
Barbados	Ireland
Belgium	Israel
Bolivia	Italy
Brazil	Ivory Coast
Bulgaria	Jamaica
Burundi	Japan
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Jordan
Canada	Kenya
Chad	Kuwait
Chile	Lao People's Democratic Republic
China	Lesotho
Colombia	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Cuba	Madagascar
Czechoslovakia	Malaysia
Democratic Yemen	Malta
Denmark	Mauritania
Dominican Republic	Mexico
Ecuador	Morocco
Egypt	Nepal
Ethiopia	Netherlands
Finland	New Zealand
France	Nicaragua
German Democratic Republic	Nigeria
Germany, Federal Republic of	Norway
	Pakistan

Panama	Tunisia
Paraguay	Turkey
Peru	Uganda
Philippines	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Poland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Portugal	United Arab Emirates
Qatar	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Romania	United Republic of Cameroon
Rwanda	United Republic of Tanzania
Sierra Leone	United States of America
Singapore	Uruguay
Spain	Venezuela
Sri Lanka	Viet Nam
Sudan	Yemen
Swaziland	Yugoslavia
Sweden	Zaire
Switzerland	Zambia
Syrian Arab Republic	
Thailand	
Trinidad and Tobago	

50. The following offices of the United Nations Secretariat were represented:

Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Western Asia

51. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

52. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization

53. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

54. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

European Economic Community
League of Arab States

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Organization of American States

55. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I - International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Category II - World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Roster - International Society for Community Development

International Studies Association

National Organization for Women

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

Sierra Club

C. Election of officers

56. The General Assembly, in resolution 32/115 of 15 December 1977, had decided that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, when acting as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, was open to the participation of all States as full members. In the light of that provision, the Preparatory Committee, at the 13th meeting, decided that the officers of the first session should continue to serve throughout the whole preparatory period of the Conference. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. M. G. K. Menon (India) 8/

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Peter Jankowitsch (Austria)

Mr. Mohamed Baha El-Din Fayez (Egypt)

Mr. Mircea Malitza (Romania) 9/

Rapporteur: Mrs. Anne-Marie de Grant (Venezuela)

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

57. At the 20th meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda (A/CONF.81/PC/12 and Add.1). The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development:

8/ Elected at the 20th meeting to replace Mr. Arcot Ramachandran (India).

9/ Elected at the 14th meeting to replace Mr. Nicolae Nicolae (Romania).

- (a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference:
 - (i) Assessment of work at the national and regional levels;
 - (ii) Review of the progress in the preparation of the experts';
 - (b) Draft programme of action;
 - (c) Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system;
 - (d) Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development (first preview);
 - (e) Views of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development;
 - (f) Provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.
3. Date and provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.
 4. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

E. Documentation

58. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.81/PC/12 and Add.1	1	Provisional agenda with annotations
A/CONF.81/PC/13	2 (a)	Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the preparatory work for the Conference
A/CONF.81/PC/14 and Corr.1 and Add.1	2 (a)	Report of the European regional meeting
A/CONF.81/PC/15 and Add.1	2 (a)	Report of the regional meeting for Asia and the Pacific
A/CONF.81/PC/16 and Add.1	2 (a)	Report of the Latin American regional preparatory meeting
A/CONF.81/PC/17 and Add.1	2 (a)	Report of the African regional meeting
A/CONF.81/PC/18 and Add.1	2 (a)	Report of the regional meeting for Western Asia

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.81/PC/19 (Part I)	2 (c)	Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system: report prepared jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
A/CONF.81/PC/21	2 (b)	Preliminary draft programme of action: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.81/PC/22	2 (e)	Report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development
A/CONF.81/PC/25	2 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the possible alternatives for the final structure of the draft programme of action
A/CONF.81/PC/26	2 (b)	Synoptic table of regional recommendations: note by the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/33/303/Rev.1 and A/33/303/Add.1 and 2	2 (b)	Draft outline of the programme of action: note by the Secretary-General
A/CONF.81/PC/L.14	2	Draft decisions submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations
A/CONF.81/PC/L.15 and Add.1 and 2	4	Draft report

F. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

59. At its 30th meeting, on 5 February 1979, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft report on its third session.

ANNEX I

Resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its
third session

6 (III). Draft programme of action for the United Nations
Conference on Science and Technology for
Development a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and
Technology for Development,

Recalling its resolution 4 (II) of 3 February 1978, in which it requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to it at its third session a draft outline of a programme of action based on national and regional papers,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 33/192 of 29 January 1979,

Taking note of the preliminary draft programme of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, b/ .

Taking note also of the views and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development on obstacles which the developing countries encounter in strengthening their endogenous scientific and technological capabilities, c/

Taking account of the views expressed in the debate of the third session of the Preparatory Committee,

1. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference, taking into account the statements made by delegations on the structure of the draft programme of action, to rearrange the draft programme of action for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and to submit it to Member States not later than six weeks before the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee;

2. Authorizes the Chairman, in consultation with Member States, to hold informal consultations, open to the participation of all delegations, before the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, on the progress in the preparations for the Conference.

a/ Adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its 30th meeting, on 5 February 1979.

b/ A/CONF.81/PC/21.

c/ A/CONF.81/PC/22.

ANNEX II

Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its
third session

5 (III). Progress report of the Secretary-General of the Conference a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. b/

6 (III). Overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the report prepared jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the overview of activities of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system. c/

7 (III). Review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the conference room paper containing a preview of the review of recent United Nations conferences highlighting the role of science and technology for development.

8 (III). Structure of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development decides:

(a) To recommend that the Conference should be composed of a plenary and two Main Committees, which may establish, if necessary, informal working groups;

(b) To recommend that the Conference should be provided with the necessary services for six meetings a day, that is, three simultaneous meetings in the morning and three in the afternoon, for the plenary, the two committees and any working groups that may be established.

a/ Adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its 27th meeting, on 30 January 1979.

b/ A/CONF.81/PC/13.

c/ A/CONF.81/PC/19 (Part I).

9 (III). Provisional rules of procedure for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development decides:

(a) That rules 42 and rules 49 of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference d/ should read as follows:

Rule 42

"There shall be two Main Committees, which may establish, if necessary, working groups."

Rule 49

"1. There shall be neither verbatim nor summary records of meetings.

"2. Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committees shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Main Committees, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof."

(b) To recommend to the Conference the adoption of the draft provisional rules of procedure contained in document A/CONF.81/PC/L.1, as amended by the Preparatory Committee at its second and third sessions.

10 (III). Documentation for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development a/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to integrate the 10 discussion papers envisaged for agenda items 1, 2 and 3 of the Conference into one consolidated report of approximately 50 pages.

11 (III). Dates of the fourth and fifth sessions of the Preparatory Committee e/

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1979:

(a) To reschedule, if possible, the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee so as not to overlap with the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) To schedule a fifth session of the Preparatory Committee from 25 June to 6 July at United Nations Headquarters.

d/ A/CONF.81/PC/L.1.

e/ Adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its 30th meeting, on 5 February 1979.

ANNEX III

Statement made by Tunisia on behalf of the Group of 77 at the
28th meeting, on 31 January 1979

1. In August 1974, the Economic and Social Council, on the initiative of the Group of 77, adopted resolution 1897 (LVII) recommending the holding of a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.
2. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in various resolutions, confirmed in principle the convening of the Conference and established a close link between it and the new international economic order.
3. It is from that standpoint that our Group, appreciating the major role which science and technology must play in the establishment of the new international economic order, has been working since the beginning of this preparatory phase of the Conference.
4. We have great hopes of this Conference, which the Group of 77 wanted and which the international community has unanimously agreed is desirable, and we believe we are entitled to expect that its results will be both sizeable and concrete.
5. The technological gap between industrialized and developing countries, the economic and social consequences of which are so glaringly apparent as to need no further emphasis, keeps our countries in a state of dependence that may continue indefinitely unless a serious effort is made to enable us to reduce, if not eliminate, that gap.
6. At the same time, the industrialized countries are devoting large resources in the field of research to the development of new technologies.
7. Unless the developing countries have the kind of scientific capacity that will enable them to participate from now on in this process of acquiring new know-how which generates new technologies, their technological backwardness and its many and varied implications will become even more marked.
8. Our countries therefore assign to the proposed plan of action the following objectives, which derive from the objectives of the Conference:
 - (a) The adoption of concrete decisions aimed at strengthening their scientific and technological capacity.
 - (b) The utilization of existing scientific and technological potentials in the solution of their development problems.
 - (c) The creation of instruments of international co-operation for solving development problems that cannot be solved by national resources alone.

9. The Secretariat has submitted to our Committee a preliminary draft world plan of action in which it endeavours to synthesize the various proposals from Member States and from the regional commissions.

10. While appreciating this effort made under pressure of deadlines, the Group of 77 considers that document A/CONF.81/PC/21, in which there is, of course, much that is relevant, is still incomplete. Moreover, because of the very large number of recommendations contained in the document, it is not always possible to distinguish what is important from what is less so.

11. Our Group therefore concentrated in its discussions on singling out the decisive ideas in the document, in order to highlight them, and on adding others to form a whole which should, in our view, be used as the basis in drawing up for the Conference a world plan of action that will be as concrete as possible.

12. These decisive ideas, to which we attach basic importance, should be used as the basis for determining the final structure of the plan of action. In our view, the plan should focus on three areas, which I would outline as follows:

(a) Strengthening of the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries;

(b) Restructuring of the conditions for access to scientific know-how and technology as an integral part of the efforts to establish the new international economic order;

(c) Improved co-ordination of scientific and technological activities within the United Nations system and an increase in financial resources for those activities.

13. The first area calls for the adoption of measures at three levels, national, regional and interregional, as well as at the international level. Any efforts made at the national level are inevitably limited because of other and more urgent priorities, and there is no question that only a concentration of resources, particularly financial resources, at those three levels will make it possible to help the developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity. Within that context, action must be envisaged in a number of sectors, particularly scientific and technological education and training, information and documentation systems, and machinery for technological evaluation, selection, adaptation and innovation. These different types of action should be integrated into a national policy based on the necessary supporting structures.

14. In the second area, namely restructuring of the conditions for access to scientific know-how and technology, the action taken should, in the opinion of our Group, have several main thrusts, particularly the apportionment of scientific and technological know-how and experience among all members of the international community, the transfer of technology under suitable conditions for the purpose of accelerating development, the formulation of financial arrangements and the development of an international legal framework. In that connexion, particular attention should be given to the activities of the transnational corporations in the light of work under way within the United Nations on that subject. Consideration should, moreover, be given to special

measures for the benefit of certain developing countries which are confronted with special problems and fall within special categories recognized by the United Nations.

15. With regard to the action to be taken within the United Nations system, the Group of 77 believes, inter alia, that there is a need for better co-ordination of the activities of bodies which are called upon to deal with science and technology. Such co-ordination must necessarily be coupled with an adequate increase in financial resources.

16. Those are the broad guidelines which the Group of 77 believes should determine the structure of the world plan of action and the basic concepts which should govern its preparation; this is without prejudice to such positions as our Group may take on specific points or such initiatives as it may propose.

17. A Plan of Action constructed along these lines should in any event entail specific commitments by all the participants so as to ensure that the goals set for our Conference are achieved.

18. As they strive to realize their legitimate aspirations in this sphere, the developing countries obviously expect their industrialized partners to make a conscious, determined and sustained effort.

ANNEX IV

Statement made by France on behalf of the States members of
the European Economic Community at the 30th meeting, on
5 February 1979

1. Speaking on behalf of the representatives of the nine States members of the European Economic Community, I wish to inform you that the Nine welcomed with interest the statement submitted to our Preparatory Committee on behalf of the Group of 77 at our meeting of 30 January.
2. The Nine have had the opportunity to express their desire to maintain a constructive attitude in regard to the problems involved in the preparations for the Vienna Conference. They reaffirm this positive attitude.
3. Progress has been made in this important phase of preparations for the Conference on the basis of the extensive work done by the Secretariat. This progress should be maintained.
4. At the present stage and before formulating observations and suggestions on what a plan of action might include, the Nine believe that it would be useful to make a few remarks.
5. Firstly, all countries agree that priority should be given to the creation and strengthening of a scientific capacity which would allow developing countries to participate fully in the movement to acquire the know-how that creates technology.
6. Secondly, document A/CONF.81/PC.21 only partially responds to this important requirement. It is, however, clearly brought out in other documents submitted by the organized international scientific community, for example, the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the submissions of non-governmental organizations.
7. Thirdly, many comments have been made regarding the content of the preliminary draft plan of action. There is no doubt that the Secretariat dealt commendably with an extremely delicate task under difficult conditions and in a short period of time. But it must be pointed out that draft document A/CONF.81/PC.21 contains too large a number of recommendations.
8. In this regard and on the basis of these three remarks, the Nine welcome the idea expressed by Tunisia on behalf of the Group of 77 for a restructuring of the draft plan of action. The plan should contain detailed, action-oriented recommendations specifically addressed to the bodies responsible for their ultimate implementation. The restructuring of this plan could have the following aims:
 - (a) The strengthening of the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(b) Greater access to scientific and technological know-how, its dissemination and its applications to development;

(c) An improved co-ordination of scientific and technological activities within the United Nations system.

9. The formulation of a preamble would make it possible to clarify the conceptual framework of the plan of action by specifying the links between the Conference and the establishment of a new international economic order. It would also allow the elaboration of several important ideas expressed during the preparatory work.

10. The Nine believe that the strengthening of the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries is one of the prerequisites for possible applications of science and technology to development. For this reason, they believe that a balanced approach should take account of existing scientific capacities in the developing countries as well as of their needs. It should, on the one hand, include action directed towards facilitating technology transfers and, on the other, actions facilitating scientific development. Moreover, they believe that co-operation between developing countries is of relevance for the strengthening of their scientific and technological capacity and the growth of their autonomy. They welcome the proposals of the developing countries for the implementation of this co-operation.

11. The Nine believe that we should plan practical measures, implementable on a short and long-term basis and capable of having a positive and tangible impact on the economic and social development of developing countries. In this regard, it would be desirable for priority to be given to training activities for the developing countries in specialized disciplines and for adequate training programmes to be established in agreement with United Nations specialized agencies and the regional commissions.

12. Moreover, the idea of pilot projects to define and test scientific training adapted to the conditions of the developing countries in specific areas should be explored.

13. With a view to strengthening the capacity of developing countries, appropriate steps should be taken, aimed at strengthening support services for scientific and technological development in these countries (standardization, metrology, etc. ...).

14. In addition, ways and means of giving developing countries the opportunity to use the information systems of the developed countries should be investigated within the framework of the World Information System for Science and Technology. Machinery could be developed, such as information processing or analysis centres, with a view to presenting current data in a form that is better suited to the needs of the developing countries and thus to improve in those countries the availability of primary information.

15. The Nine welcome the advances made in the ongoing negotiations concerning a code of conduct on transfer of technology, a code of conduct for transnational corporations and the review of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. They also believe that, where the draft plan of action deals with questions that have been the subject of an ad referendum agreement within the framework of the above-mentioned negotiations, it should take account of all the

nuances of the consensus that was reached. The Nine also hope that the Conference will devote itself more specifically to examining practical measures for the improvement of technology transfers.

16. The Nine propose that the draft plan of action should stress the importance for the countries receiving technology of creating conditions favourable to the transfer of technology in accordance with their particular needs by developing their evaluative potential and their training opportunities, among other suitable stimulation measures.

17. On the subject of information, the Nine are especially aware that a distinction must be made between information that is in the public domain and that which is not. They hope that the draft programme of action will place increased emphasis on the use and, if necessary, the improvement of existing information systems.

18. The Nine attach great importance to the co-ordination of scientific and technological activities within the United Nations system.

19. In their national papers, the Nine have stressed for the most part and in some cases made proposals concerning the need to improve the co-ordination and harmonization of policies and programmes within the United Nations system. They are convinced that these objectives may be reached without the establishment of new bodies. They have often expressed their points of view in this connexion.

20. The Nine recommend that the role of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology should be defined in relation to specific social and economic development objectives. They believe that this is one way to increase the system's efficiency.

ANNEX V

Statement made by the United States of America
at the 30th meeting, on 5 February 1979

/Original: English/

1. My delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation and thanks to the Secretary-General of the Conference, to the Secretariat generally and to our new Chairman of the Committee and the other members of the Bureau as well as other delegations for their sincere efforts to make progress at this third preparatory meeting. Despite some disappointments, we believe this meeting has served a useful purpose. It has called attention at an early and formative stage of preparations to the need for a sharper intellectual concept of what the Conference is all about and what it can realistically achieve.

2. The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference has also served as a rude reminder that the Conference on Science and Technology for Development - with its emphasis on development - is among the most complicated which the United Nations has undertaken. We must all realize with great humility the enormity and complexity of our task. It will require the best professional expert counsel which Governments and the Secretariat can summon, whatever the source, be it from the private or public sectors. And so we urge the Secretariat to broaden its continuing consultations with experts from within and outside the United Nations system so we can create the kind of intellectual framework this Conference so urgently requires. This is critically important if this Conference is to command the public respect and political support it deserves. We must focus on the central issues so as to make informed judgements and offer wise recommendations to our Governments and to the United Nations system.

3. This new intellectual framework we are searching for must look at the total picture in all its economic and social aspects, not just some parts of science, or some parts of technology. It cannot ignore the great opportunities for international collaboration on how science and technology can be more effective, for example, in helping relieve global problems of poverty, enhancing productive capacity, and improving standards and quality of life. These are the overriding developmental issues with which this Conference must be concerned. Under these general objectives are some specific issues, some of them troublesome, as we found here at the third session of the Preparatory Committee. They raise questions of priorities and balance in our framework.

4. For example, with regard to enhancing productive capacity, are there more real obstacles associated with access, or with utilization of technology? Or are these specific issues of equal importance in accelerating development? We need both expert advice to guide us and better government understanding of the issues before we can consult or negotiate effectively on them.

5. May I now call this Committee's attention to the report of the Jamaica Symposium sponsored by the International Institute for the Environment and

Development which was circulated at this meeting. This Symposium brought together highly qualified experts from North and South to identify the central issues of this Conference. They looked at the relation of technology to development goals and reached a remarkable degree of consensus, concluding that the issues related to science and technology for development need not be in mutually exclusive, conflict-ridden terms. In fact, they showed how controversy might be avoided. They identified much common ground for this Conference and stressed the mutual benefits of a stable environment for both development and developing countries. The results of the Jamaica Symposium and other work such as the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the ACAST Symposia, are the kind of quality thinking that we feel should be accommodated in the revised draft programme of action for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

6. To sum up, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is concerned that, after two years of preparations and with only six and one half months remaining before the Conference convenes, we have not yet clearly identified the central issues or made the necessary distinctions as regards secondary issues, or as issues under negotiation in other forums.

7. These, in the view of my Government, must be better defined if we are to be able to continue to maintain a strong, positive approach to the Conference, and capitalize on the extraordinary opportunities which it offers for co-operation between North and South. We sincerely hope that in the interim remaining between now and the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee we shall be able to develop the kind of intellectual framework and the necessary political interest and policy-level support that will make all of our efforts worthwhile.

8. Finally, I would request also that the statements of the United States delegation be annexed to the report of the session.

ANNEX VI

Statement made by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
at the 30th meeting, on 5 February 1979

1. Speaking on behalf of the countries of group D, the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wishes to thank the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Chairman of our Committee, the Bureau of the Committee, all those who have assisted us in our work over the past two weeks and the delegations of all the countries that have made individual contributions during the course of our session.
2. Group D attaches great importance to the forthcoming Conference and believes that preparations for it should be completed in good time and with a concern for quality. We believe that through their proposals concerning the structure and content of the draft programme of action, our delegations have made their contribution to the common cause. We should like to be assured that our proposals, including the proposals concerning co-ordination of the efforts of all countries with a view to the solution of world problems facing mankind, will be taken into account during the formulation of the new draft programme of action.
3. We should also like to draw attention to the need to formulate the future resolutions of the Conference on a universal basis, so that the Conference's results could be used by all countries for the benefit of their national development.
4. We believe that any programme of action or development programme, including the new international economic order, will remain a dead letter until conditions for the speeding up of social and economic progress, the peaceful development of countries and peoples and the strengthening of peace and security are ensured and until the massive resources currently expended on the arms race are used for the purposes of the social and economic development of all countries, including the developing countries.
5. Guided by our unswerving position of support for the just demands of developing countries for the development and strengthening of their own scientific and technological potential, we are prepared to continue to provide them with all possible support in those areas.
6. In conclusion, our group wishes once again to reaffirm its intention to participate constructively in the future work on the preparation of a new draft programme of action, which we see as one of the major documents of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

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