



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr
GENERAL

A/32/445
14 December 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-second session
Agenda item 73

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim Suleiman DHARAT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

1. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee allocated to the Second Committee agenda item 73, entitled "United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development".
2. The Committee considered this item at its 3rd to 18th meetings, from 28 September to 15 October, and at its 40th, 54th, 57th and 58th meetings, on 9 November, 5 and 9 December. An account of the discussion on the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/32/SR.3-18, 40, 54, 57 and 58).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development; 1/
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (A/32/230 and Add.1 and 2);
 - (c) Report of the Economic and Social Council; 2/
 - (d) Letter dated 3 October from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/32/2).

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

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/32/3), chap. IV, sect. G.

4. At the 11th meeting, on 11 October, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development made an introductory statement.

5. At the 40th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of Seventy-seven, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/32/L.15).

6. At the 54th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Jordan, in his capacity as Chairman of the informal consultations on agenda item 73, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/32/L.15/Rev.1), sponsored by the members of the Group of Seventy-seven and by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands and Turkey, later joined by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United States of America.

7. Statements were made by the representatives of Austria, the United States of America, Jamaica, Mexico, Sweden and the German Democratic Republic.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.15/Rev.1 by 111 votes to none, with 9 abstentions (see para. 17 below).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Italy, Germany, Federal Republic of, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

10. At the 57th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/32/L.88), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975,

"Recalling also its resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976 in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979 and to take a final decision on the question of the site of the Conference at its thirty-second session,

"Taking note of the offer made by the Federal Government of Austria to host the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development at Vienna, 3/

"Accepts the offer of the Federal Government of Austria to act as host to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development at Vienna."

The representative of Austria, formally proposed that the draft resolution, as well as the one contained in document A/C.2/32/L.90/Rev.1 (see para. 11 below), be transmitted, after the introduction of draft resolution A/C.2/32/L.90/Rev.1, to the General Assembly for consideration. He also moved that the Committee give priority to this proposal.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/32/L.90/Rev.1), sponsored by Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay and Venezuela, later joined by Benin and Guinea-Bissau, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which laid down the foundations of the New International Economic Order, and 3302 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

"Taking note of its resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976, especially paragraph 2 thereof, in which it was decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development during 1979, and paragraph 8 thereof, in which the Assembly decided to take a final decision on the question of the site of the Conference at its thirty-second session,

"Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolutions 2028 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and 2123 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977,

"Recalling also the resolution of the Group of 77 contained in paragraph 29 of the final report of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City from 12 to 22 September 1976, in which it was decided that 'the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be convened in a developing country',

"1. Decides that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development shall be held in a developing country, for two weeks in 1979, at an appropriate time;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite:

"(a) All States to participate in the Conference;

/...

"(b) Representatives of organizations that have a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices to participate as observers, in accordance with Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 31/152 of 20 December 1976;

"(c) Representatives of the national liberation movements recognized in its region by the Organization of African Unity, to participate as observers, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974;

"(d) The United Nations Council for Namibia to participate in accordance with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 32/9 E, of 4 November 1977;

"(e) The specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as interested organs of the United Nations, to be represented at the Conference;

"(f) Interested intergovernmental organizations to be represented by observers;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to co-operate with the Government of the chosen country with a view to holding the Conference and to submit to the Conference all relevant documentation and to arrange for the necessary staff, facilities and services that it will require, including the provision of summary records;

"4. Decides that the language of the Conference shall be those used in the General Assembly and its Main Committees."

The representative of Mexico proposed that the Committee should give priority to the consideration of this draft resolution.

12. At the 58th meeting, on 9 December, following a procedural debate, the Committee, by a roll-call vote of 51 to 27, with 47 abstentions, decided to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration draft resolutions A/C.2/32/L.88 and A/C.2/32/L.90/Rev.1 (see para. 16 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia.

/...

Against: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka, Surinam, United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burma, Cape Verde, Central African Empire, Chad, China, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, Guyana, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zaire.

13. Following the adoption of this decision, the representatives of the United States of America, Mexico, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Jamaica introduced a draft decision entitled "Preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development" (A/C.2/32/L.94).

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 18 below).

DECISION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

16. At its 58th meeting, on 9 December the Second Committee decided to transmit to the General Assembly for its consideration the draft resolutions submitted by Austria (A/C.2/32/L.38) 4/ and by Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Cameroon, Uruguay and Venezuela (A/C.2/32/L.90/Rev.1). 5/

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

4/ Reissued under the symbol A/32/L.43.

5/ Reissued under the symbol A/32/L.44.

United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974,

Recalling section III, paragraph 7, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, in which it decided that a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should be held in 1978 or 1979,

Recalling paragraphs 2 and 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2028 (LXI) of 4 August 1976,

Recalling also its resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976, in which it decided, inter alia, to convene the Conference during 1979, in time for the General Assembly to take action at its thirty-fourth session in the light of the results of the Conference and in which it established the preparatory mechanism for the Conference,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 31/184, 6/

Taking note also of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development on its first session, 7/

Considering that the vital role of science and technology is universally recognized and that the General Assembly has recommended that science and technology should be called upon to play a more direct and important role in the process of stimulating development and reducing international inequalities,

I

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 2123 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977;

2. Decides to hold the Conference on Science and Technology for Development at an appropriate time in 1979, bearing in mind the decision contained in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 31/184;

3. Affirms that the Conference should be aimed at, inter alia, the development, through enhanced international co-operation in science and technology, including the transfer of technology, of the independent scientific and technological capacity of developing countries, in particular through technological innovations, in order to facilitate the solution of their economic and social problems;

6/ A/32/230 and Add.1 and 2.

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

4. Decides that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, when acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, is open to the participation of all States as full members;

5. Urges all States, in consultation, when necessary, with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to take all necessary measures to make positive contributions to the preparatory work of the Conference;

6. Requests the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to give high priority to the preparations for the Conference;

7. Affirms that the Secretary-General of the Conference is invested with full responsibility for the co-ordination of all substantive work of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations current reports on the state of preparations for the Conference;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive and analytical progress report on the state of preparations for the Conference;

II

Reaffirms the provision in paragraph 5 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2033 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, in which the Council recommended the increase in the participation of developing countries in the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and requests the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the role of the Advisory Committee in the preparations for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to undertake effective consultations with Governments with a view to implementing the above-mentioned resolution and appointing the members of the Advisory Committee, taking into account, inter alia, the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

18. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development

The General Assembly, noting the importance of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, decides that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, shall meet from 23 January to 3 February 1978 and decides also to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should schedule the fourth session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development from 6 to 10 February 1978.