

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records\*



SECOND COMMITTEE  
46th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 24 November 1978  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MWANGAGUHUNGA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

- AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 58: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)
- AGENDA ITEM 70: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(continued)

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

**Distr. GENERAL**  
A/C.2/33/SR.46  
29 November 1978

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.2/33/L.10)

1. Count YORK (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community and its member States, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.10 on the preparations for a new international development strategy. The fact that the Community had taken the initiative in presenting that draft resolution to the Committee was an expression of the high importance which it and its member States attached to the formulation of a new international development strategy that would provide a comprehensive framework for collective efforts by the international community aimed at generating accelerated development in the developing countries.

2. During the past two years, major international conferences had clearly expressed the need for concerted action and more co-ordinated policies in order to improve the functioning of the world economy and to promote significant progress towards a more just and equitable international economic order. In the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution, the sponsors had outlined the principles which led them to the conviction that a new international development strategy would greatly enhance efforts to reach that common aim.

3. At its present session, the General Assembly should outline a balanced framework of general goals and objectives for the new strategy, defined in terms of co-operation, interdependence, growth, equity and mutually beneficial structural changes at the international and national levels. The primary goal must be the accelerated development of the developing countries, and that objective could be attained only if both developing and developed countries co-operated in the spirit of partnership and shared responsibility. The strategy should also recognize that durable development could be achieved only in an environment of stability and sustained growth in the world economy, which in turn was dependent on more equitable participation by the developing countries. The new strategy must take due account of the importance of global economic interdependence and encourage mutually beneficial structural changes and adjustments in economic relations at the national and international levels.

4. To that end, the sponsors had outlined a series of interrelated goals and objectives in section I, paragraph 1, emphasizing, inter alia, the importance of enhanced economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, of ensuring the participation of all sectors of the population in developing countries in the development process, of increasing the participation of the poorest strata of the population in that process by improving their productive capacity and of recognizing the need to respect national policies and priorities. The strategy should encourage further adjustment policies in the developed countries and an increasingly liberalized trading system aimed at promoting employment in developing countries. Furthermore, it should recognize that the development process should be directed primarily towards the improvement of human well-being

(Count York, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

in all its aspects by promoting greater justice and freedom for all. The sponsors did not wish to prescribe particular measures for specific sectors of development. However, they did feel that the strategy would have to take account of the different structures and levels of development in developing countries and apply differentiating patterns of co-operation within an over-all framework that reflected not only the common purpose but, in particular, the solidarity of the developing countries.

5. The strategy should define the role and commitments of both developed and developing countries, without regard to their economic and social systems. It should define realistic objectives that could be adjusted to respond to developments in the world economy with a view to achieving tangible results, rather than merely creating an atmosphere of expectation.

6. Section II of the draft resolution dealt with the urgent task of establishing appropriate intergovernmental machinery for the formulation of the new strategy in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 1980. It requested the Economic and Social Council to establish appropriate preparatory machinery in accordance with its role as the central forum of the United Nations for the formulation of policy recommendations on global economic and social issues and to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. It also requested the necessary assistance in the preparatory process, in the form of contributions from the Secretary-General and all organs and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Committee for Development Planning, and the utilization of all relevant studies and research. The sponsors trusted that the Secretary-General would co-ordinate all those inputs. In that respect, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, with the co-operation, in particular of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, would have an eminent role to play. The sponsors were prepared to consult with other delegations in a flexible manner concerning any further procedural details and hoped that such consultations would lead to a consensus on the framework for a new international development strategy, thereby laying a solid foundation for the preparatory work.

AGENDA ITEM 58: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued)  
(A/C.2/33/L.38)

7. Mr. MESTIRI (Tunisia), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.38, entitled "Preparations for an international development strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade", said that the sponsors had made every effort to take account of the views of other groups, in the hope that the General Assembly would unanimously adopt a text that would provide clear political guidelines to facilitate and give the appropriate orientation to the preparatory work on the formulation of the new international development strategy.

/...

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

8. The main objective of the new strategy must be to promote the development of the developing countries in accordance with the principles of the new international economic order. The sponsors were concerned at the paucity of the results achieved during the first two Development Decades, the lack of progress in the restructuring of international economic relations and in the follow-up to the various important international conferences held since 1970 and the adoption of protectionist measures which further aggravated the situation of the developing countries, blocking their economic progress and preventing them from occupying their rightful place in international economic relations. However, the preambular part of the draft resolution also reflected the sponsors' awareness of the interrelationship between the solution of international economic problems and accelerated development of the developing countries as well as the links between economic and social progress. The draft resolution also emphasized that the strategy should include objectives and policies for promoting the objective of national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries and that it should include specific measures and actions aimed at meeting the pressing problems of the land-locked, island and most seriously affected developing countries.

9. Section I, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the draft resolution outlined the major objectives of the strategy in the economic areas that were of the greatest interest to the developing countries with a view to ensuring their equal, active, effective participation in the formulation and implementation of all decisions affecting the international community, without which international economic interdependence would be meaningless. Paragraph 10 emphasized the need to define the role and the commitment of all countries, primarily the developed countries, and the need for agreement on quantified and time-bound targets of means, including the volume of external resources required for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the strategy. In that connexion, he pointed out that the reference in the second line of that paragraph should read "paragraphs 1 to 9 above".

10. The results of conferences relating to the establishment of the new international economic order already held should be taken into consideration in the preparation of the new strategy, and the Group of 77 emphasized the importance to the strategy of achieving successful results in ongoing and future negotiations and conferences on major international economic issues relating to the establishment of the new order. The strategy should also take account of the international political situation. In section I, paragraph 12, the sponsors emphasized that colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, interference in internal affairs, apartheid, racial discrimination and all forms of foreign aggression and occupation constituted major obstacles to the economic emancipation and development of developing countries and peoples.

11. Section II of the draft resolution dealt with institutional arrangements and was based largely on previous experience. The sponsors considered that the Preparatory Committee, which should be open to the participation of all States,

/...

(Mr. Mestiri, Tunisia)

should be similar to that which had been established for the preparation of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade. However, they were prepared to consider any other proposal which would preserve the necessary close relationship between the General Assembly and the Preparatory Committee, without prejudice to the natural role of the Economic and Social Council. The Preparatory Committee was requested to submit a preliminary draft of the new strategy to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

12. As the representative of the European Economic Community had noted, little time remained before the 1980 special session. Consequently, Governments should participate actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee, which should be provided with adequate conference services and, in particular, with technical inputs from all relevant organs and agencies within the United Nations system in accordance with the objectives adopted by the General Assembly. To that end, section II, paragraph 7, requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation with the responsibility for providing over-all guidance, orientation and co-ordination for contributions of the relevant secretariat of the United Nations system to the formulation of the new strategy, in accordance with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 32/197 and Economic and Social Council decision 1978/70.

13. After studying the draft resolution submitted by the States members of EEC, and in light of the views expressed by other groups, the Group of 77 was aware that certain basic differences existed regarding the orientation and substance of the proposed strategy. However, it felt that those differences could be overcome and was prepared to engage in consultations with a view to negotiating an agreed text, particularly since there was unanimous agreement on one objective, namely, the need to reach agreement on a new international strategy which would have a greater chance of success than its predecessors.

AGENDA ITEM 70: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(continued) (A/33/3, 43, 151, 188, 206, 298, 303 and Add.1; A/C.2/33/L.39)

14. Mr. ZYSS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that UNESCO, as the specialized agency with global responsibility for science within the United Nations system, attached great importance to the forthcoming Conference on Science and Technology for Development and, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII), was making every effort to contribute to the preparatory work.

15. UNESCO's activities were aimed primarily at assisting member States in the formulation of national policies in the field of science and technology, particularly through convening of regional ministerial conferences; enhancing scientific and technological expertise by fostering co-operation between public bodies and the scientific community through its regional offices; organizing and stimulating integrated intergovernmental research programmes on important issues; increasing

/...

(Mr. Zyss, UNESCO)

the capacity of member States to participate in the advancement of science, and harnessing the benefits of scientific progress to promote development by training experts and technicians and assisting in the creation of national scientific and technological research centres.

16. UNESCO unreservedly placed at the disposal of the Conference the rich experience it had acquired in the course of 30 years of fruitful activity in the field of international scientific co-operation. To that end, pursuant to the decisions adopted at its nineteenth General Conference, it had established a special unit within the secretariat to co-ordinate its contribution to the preparations for the Conference. It was also preparing a series of documents for submission to the Conference, and at its current session the General Conference had adopted a resolution inviting the Director-General to develop further UNESCO activities concerning preparation for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development by drawing on UNESCO's own resources within the social as well as the natural sciences and on the help of organizations, institutions and experts associated with UNESCO's work in the same field.

17. At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the Conference, UNESCO would participate actively in the preparation of the draft programme of action. As the Director-General of UNESCO had stated in his opening address to the current session of the General Conference, it was essential that that programme of action should establish ways and means of enabling all States to develop their scientific and technological potential. The transfer of technology was not sufficient in itself; it was also necessary to develop the capacity of developing countries to acquire the knowledge they needed and to choose independently and under the best possible conditions appropriate imported technology adapted to their requirements. With a view to promoting that goal, the General Conference had adopted a resolution aimed at promoting its contribution to the clarification of the conditions for the use of science and technology to satisfy the social and economic needs and aspirations of the poor groups of the populations and to promote endogenous development nationally and locally, and to the identification of the social and cultural objectives which should be included in the programme of action to be adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

18. The programme of action should be aimed at making the best possible use of existing organizations within the United Nations system to promote the use of science and technology for development, on the lines of the institutional arrangements outlined in document E/C.8/29, which had been prepared by the Secretary-General in response to a request by the Economic and Social Council and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/197. It was essential to increase substantially the resources available to the United Nations system for the development of science and technology. Together with other organizations in the system, UNESCO could undertake a more comprehensive programme if it had the necessary resources.

/...

19. Drawing on the experience it had acquired over the years in the field of international scientific co-operation, UNESCO looked forward to contributing actively to the follow-up to the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which it regarded as one of the most important United Nations undertakings in recent years.

20. Mr. STRAUSS (Czechoslovakia) said that advances in science and technology were becoming one of the decisive factors in the development of productive forces, and were having a direct impact on the solution of the basic problems of the times at both the national and the international levels. Accordingly, Czechoslovakia had supported the idea of holding a world-wide Conference on Science and Technology for Development. He was sure that the Conference would make a positive contribution to future international co-operation in science and technology.

21. The preparations for the Conference should proceed from the premise of the deepening interrelationship between social and cultural and economic and technological development. The development of co-operation between countries with different social systems should be able to solve all aspects of the problem of co-operation in science and technology. A prerequisite for success was respect for the principle of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in domestic affairs, as well as the principle of non-discrimination in international relations.

22. As part of the preparations for the Conference, Czechoslovakia had already submitted a paper giving a general outline of its views on the Conference and on the development of science and technology as a whole. It had expressed the conviction that implementation of the measures set out in the document jointly submitted by the socialist countries to the ECE regional preparatory meeting would promote the successful development and deepening of scientific and technological co-operative relations. In submitting their document, the socialist countries had made a number of proposals for mutual co-operation in science and technology at the national, regional and world levels.

23. Successful economic development in Czechoslovakia had been closely connected with the utilization of the achievements of science and technology. Under socialism, favourable conditions had been established for scientific and technological research, and science and technology in their turn had become an important factor in the dynamic development of society and an instrument of education for all spheres of life. The comprehensive planned development of science and technology and its use for social and economic progress was an integral part of life in a socialist society. The observer for CMEA had stressed the importance of scientific and technological co-operation among the socialist countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis, starting with the co-ordination of research and culminating in the creation of international research groups and institutes. An integral part of that co-operation was the exchange of information and experts.

24. Guided by the United Nations Charter and by the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Czechoslovakia aspired to develop equitable and friendly relations with all countries. Co-operation in the scientific and

(Mr. Strauss, Czechoslovakia)

technological field was an organic part of those relations. Czechoslovakia had already concluded agreements for scientific and technological co-operation with a number of countries and was seeking to intensify its contacts with a view to regulating its scientific, economic and technological relations on the basis of co-operation between countries with different social systems and the elimination of barriers to relations between States.

25. Co-operation in science and technology was a major goal of Czechoslovakia's technical assistance to developing countries. That assistance was designed to promote their efforts for comprehensive economic and social development and gradually to strengthen their economic independence. It was prepared to provide assistance to the developing countries in the scientific and technological fields by sending Czechoslovakian experts abroad and by offering courses in applied science and technology in Czechoslovakia to trainees from developing countries. It could also provide advisory services in many areas, the machine-tool industry in particular, as well as in the use of natural and mineral resources, the lumber and construction industries, the building of power stations, the chemical and food processing industries and health services.

26. Czechoslovakia regarded international scientific and technological co-operation as a great storehouse of economic and social development for all countries, and as an instrument for strengthening peaceful coexistence. It stood ready to promote any effort towards comprehensive scientific and technological development for peaceful purposes.

27. Mrs. KONGSHEM (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the two prime objectives of the Conference on Science and Technology for Development were to apply science and technology in establishing a new international economic order and to strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries so as to increase their self-reliance in that field. The Nordic Governments were in full agreement with those objectives. The determined use of socially relevant science and technology would open an important avenue for improving the economic and social situation in the developing countries and for redressing the structural imbalance in the world economic system. While development of an autonomous technological capacity was primarily a task for each nation individually, joint international action was also called for. Such action would channel increased scientific and technological resources to the developing countries and would remove obstacles to their scientific and technological development.

28. At the time of the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of Less Developed Areas, in 1963, it had been widely believed that a massive transfer of science and technology from the industrialized countries would substantially reduce the problems of the developing countries. Access to that technology, however, had been found to be more difficult than originally envisaged. The assessment and selection of science and technology was a difficult problem for all countries. It was crucial for technology-importing countries to be able to select, adapt and assimilate science and technology appropriate to their development needs. The forthcoming Conference would have an important role in attacking that problem. The main effort should be

/...



(Mrs. Kongsheim, Norway)

concentrated on elaborating an action programme for strengthening the innovative and productive capacities of the developing countries themselves. In the view of the Nordic countries, self-reliance in relation to science and technology implied that the society concerned should be able to make decisions regarding its development on the basis of its own values, the optimal use of its own and foreign resources and the fullest possible control over the main factors influencing decisions. It did not mean technological self-sufficiency or isolation from exchanges with other countries. All nations were to a large extent affected by outside factors, and interdependence must be expected to increase in the future. Genuine and balanced interdependence would be impossible if the developing nations were frustrated in their efforts to increase their self-reliance.

29. The call for more appropriate technologies in developing countries should be viewed in that perspective. Moreover, the question of appropriateness must be seen in relation to the specific needs, conditions and factor endowments of a given country. Appropriate technology was not necessarily simple technology. It should be borne in mind that needs were satisfied not through modes of production but through products. Ideally, the assessment of technologies should include social, cultural, environmental and political criteria as well as economic ones. Those criteria should apply over the whole range of development activities and goals.

30. The Nordic countries welcomed the trend towards promoting autonomous scientific and technological capacity. The building of such capacity was also a prerequisite for benefiting from transfer of technology. The action programme to be adopted at the Conference must be elaborated with due regard to those interrelated aspects.

31. The development of autonomous scientific and technological capacities would demand intensified research and education by the developing countries, co-operation between them, and the establishment of common institutions. Those efforts should be helped by increased aid from the organizations of the United Nations system as well as from the industrialized countries.

32. The utilization of scientific and technological potential in solving development problems should be regarded as a priority field of action for the United Nations system. The Economic and Social Council should call on the relevant organs and specialized agencies, especially UNESCO, to undertake clearly defined tasks within a co-ordinated United Nations programme and to co-operate closely in its implementation. The central role of UNDP as the United Nations institution responsible for the co-ordination and financing of technical assistance should be maintained and enhanced.

33. Those and other international objectives would demand considerably increased resources, as already called for in 1970 by the World Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development. The reasons for the failure of that Plan should be studied and assessed for the benefit of the new programme of action.

34. The new programme must also be seen in the context of other negotiations, such as those on an international code of conduct for the transfer of technology. Such a code should set universally applicable guidelines which would serve the interests

/...

(Mrs. Kongsheim, Norway)

of all countries, and in particular protect the position of the technology-acquiring countries. Above all, it should help to eliminate unfair, restrictive and other business practices which had frequently prevented the recipients from absorbing acquired technologies and created costly dependence on the sellers of technology. The Nordic countries hoped that the resumed Conference on an International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology would be conducted in a positive spirit and that participants from all countries, particularly the home countries of the large transnational corporations, would show enhanced political readiness to solve the remaining problems. The code of conduct to be elaborated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations should also be borne in mind. The code could be the means of promoting business practices that were in conformity with the needs of the developing countries. Standard contracts should be worked out to ensure that the technology transferred would improve the technological capacities of the recipient countries.

35. The Nordic countries believed strongly that consideration of the impact of science and technology upon women, and also of the participation of women in the application of science and technology for development, should be an integral part of the preparations for the Conference and of the Conference itself. The introduction of new technologies had thus far tended to have an adverse impact on women, and thereby to widen the gap both in earnings and in social status between women and men. The Conference could serve as a catalyst and point the way to the inclusion of women in decisions on science and technology and in their implementation for development. Technological developments could affect men and women differently. Structural changes following efforts for industrialization often affected family patterns and the economic and social situation of women. For example, their important role in subsistence agriculture often became marginal with the introduction of modern agricultural technology. Other sectors formerly dominated by women's home industries were forced to yield to modern industrial technology. The Conference should help to change that situation by emphasizing the role of women in development as each agenda item was dealt with. In addition to its general responsibility for bringing the situation to the notice of the international scientific community, the Conference should also propose and encourage analyses of specific issues in respect of the effect of transfers of technology on the role of women and of opportunities for the special technological expertise of women in various sectors to be used to the full. She hoped that the UNITAR study on women and technology would be ready in time to become part of the documentation for the Conference.

36. On behalf of the Nordic countries, she also wished to comment on the draft outline of the programme of action in document A/33/303. Since it could be of value during the preparatory process, she hoped that it would be brought up to date before the third session of the Preparatory Committee. However, it did not in itself form an appropriate basis for a draft programme of action. An additional, more analytical document was required, constituting more of a general synopsis, including proposals for the structure of the future programme of action. In the view of the Nordic countries, there should be an introduction which would form a conceptual framework for the subsequent recommendations for action. The introduction could also describe the present situation with regard to the distribution of research and development resources in the world. The draft programme should also contain an analytical section in which the main problem areas

/...

(Mrs. Kongslem, Norway)

involved in mobilizing science and technology for development could be identified and discussed. They should be followed by substantive recommendations, which should be practical and action-oriented, and as far as possible their respective priorities should be determined. The recommendations should contain the concrete measures needed for the implementation of a given goal, and should be structured according to national, regional and international action. A programme of action drawn up along those lines would be an instrument of crucial importance for attaining the economic and social development that was fundamental to the goals of the new international economic order, and as such would constitute a useful input to the new international development strategy.

37. Mr. KLESTIL (Austria) said that after more than two years of work at the national and regional levels, the preparatory process for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development had shifted to the international level. In the remaining months before the Conference, the international community must give shape and substance to a programme of action that would fully recognize the fundamental importance of science and technology to the development process, and would enhance international scientific and technological co-operation in a manner that would contribute effectively to the establishment of a new international economic order.

38. In drawing up such a programme of action, particular attention would have to be paid to ways and means of applying science and technology to the specific needs of developing countries and of helping them to build up their scientific and technological infrastructure. Special consideration would also have to be given to the human and social aspects of the measures included in the programme of action. Special efforts would be required to combat poverty and meet basic human needs, particularly in the area of employment. There would also have to be massive and wide-ranging action in the field of education and training, and in facilitating access to scientific and technological information, particularly through the establishment of appropriate information and documentation systems. With the objective of self-reliance in mind, emphasis would also have to be placed on the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, with a view to strengthening their ability to generate indigenous scientific and technological capacities.

39. It was vital for the success of the Conference that the best possible use should be made of the remaining preparatory period, and that all Member States should co-operate as closely and constructively as possible in the elaboration of the programme of action to be adopted by the Conference. Only in that way could negotiations on the main elements of the programme of action be far enough advanced for agreement to be achieved on them in time for the Conference. The draft resolution submitted by the Group of 77 (A/C.2/33/L.39) augured well for such an endeavour, and would provide a very useful framework to enable the Preparatory Committee to carry on its work expeditiously and in an organized and purposeful manner. The preparation of the documents requested in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would make heavy demands on the Conference secretariat. His delegation was therefore particularly grateful for the indications given by the

/...

(Mr. Klestil, Austria)

Secretary-General of the Conference of the way in which he intended to proceed in order to have the documents ready for study by Governments and to be acted upon at the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee.

40. In identifying the main elements of the programme of action, special attention would need to be paid to the programme's structure. The report on possible alternatives requested in the draft resolution could be particularly valuable in determining the most appropriate structure. In his delegation's view, it would not necessarily have to follow the items of the Conference's agenda or the various levels at which action would be required. It might be better to orient it more towards those areas of action on which there was already broad agreement, or where such agreement appeared to be attainable in the course of further preparatory work.

41. His delegation hoped that in the coming months the debate on the major issues before the Conference would not be limited to Governments but would also involve other producers and users of science and technology as well as the public at large. The ACAST Colloquium to be convened just before the Conference could make a valuable contribution in that respect and could provide important inputs for the Conference itself. To enable developing countries to participate as fully as possible in that exercise, the Austrian Government proposed to cover the cost of the stay of about 30 scientists from developing countries for the duration of the Colloquium. It was also important for non-governmental organizations to be involved.

42. With regard to the organizational aspects of the preparations for the Conference, he noted that, immediately after the decision of the General Assembly at its thirty-second session to hold the Conference in Vienna, contacts had been established between the Austrian Government and the Secretary-General of the Conference and other officials of the United Nations Secretariat. The organizational and technical preparations were now well advanced and would ensure the best possible setting for that important international gathering. He expressed his Government's appreciation of the support and co-operation it had received from the Secretary-General of the Conference and his staff, and from the other units of the United Nations Secretariat involved in the preparations.

43. Mr. MWAMBA (Zaire) said that, in a world in which science was evolving at an ever-accelerating pace, the mere fact that the developed countries held a monopoly on technology meant that the scientific and technological gap between the developing and the industrialized countries would continue to widen. The industrialized countries were therefore duty-bound to assist countries lacking an adequate scientific and technical infrastructure in their efforts to change the existing state of affairs, and the forthcoming Conference provided an ideal framework for attaining that objective. The results of the Conference should help the developing countries to hasten the establishment of the new international economic order.

/...

(Mr. Mwamba, Zaire)

44. The success of the Conference would depend on a number of factors, one of the most important of which was the contribution of the industrialized countries to the preparatory process. The Preparatory Committee should concentrate on helping third world countries to meet their needs in science and technology, as that was essential to the achievement of genuine economic growth. Economic growth would not be a reality unless it was accompanied by scientific and technological development tailored to each individual country. The Conference should not aim merely at adopting resolutions but rather should couple its final recommendations with the political means for their application at the national, regional and international levels, so that all third world countries could share in the benefits of modern science and technology as quickly as possible. The Preparatory Committee's session in January should focus on making it possible to attain that objective at the Conference. It should also deal once again with the draft outline of the programme of action to serve as a provisional text, which would, of course, require some minor revision in order to reflect any proposals put forward by Governments which had not yet submitted their national papers.

45. Mr. KAZEMBE (Zambia) said that science and technology were essential ingredients of self-reliant development. The forthcoming Conference would be a major international effort to provide a viable basis and define strategies and programmes for the establishment of the new international economic order. The results of the Conference would constitute a significant input for the formulation of the new international development strategy for the 1980s. The Conference would also afford developing countries a unique opportunity not only to assess their efforts at the national and international levels but also to adopt effective measures to eliminate existing obstacles to the optimal application of science and technology in their socio-economic development activities.

46. As to the industrialized countries, the Conference should afford them an opportunity to demonstrate their genuine desire to assist the developing countries by all appropriate means, including reorienting existing policies and adopting new approaches to the promotion of unimpeded technological transfers and the application of appropriate science and technology in the developing countries. In particular, the industrialized countries should seize the occasion of the Conference to demonstrate their readiness and willingness to support the development and strengthening of indigenous capacity for science and technology. The role of the United Nations development system and of other international assistance organizations and non-governmental bodies in that common endeavour was obviously crucial.

47. The issues to which he had referred should be dealt with energetically at the Conference, especially if the existing imbalance resulting from excessive dependence of developing countries on foreign technology, know-how and equipment was to be reduced and perhaps eliminated. His country welcomed the opportunity of the Conference to lay a firm foundation for its future efforts to apply science and technology to socio-economic activities undertaken in connexion with national development plans. Its preparations for the Conference had included symposia and meetings at which issues pertaining to the Conference had been discussed in relation

/...

(Mr. Kazembe, Zambia)

to the country's socio-economic development plans and activities. The Conference had also been discussed in government circles, in the local news media and by non-governmental bodies and concerned citizens. Those discussions had provided the material for Zambia's national report. In fact, over 100 position papers submitted by governmental, non-governmental and private institutions had been analysed at the national symposium and were reflected in the Zambian national paper. Zambia had also participated in the regional preparatory meeting held at Cairo.

48. His country was fully cognizant of both the significance and the magnitude of the task confronting it in the critical area of science and technology for development. It realized that the development and strengthening of its existing scientific and technological system would require increasing the number of indigenous personnel, ensuring that such trained personnel were placed in their respective areas of specialization, ensuring adequate investment in physical infrastructure, formulating an appropriate and effective policy for foreign technological assessment and importation, and creating a policy structure which not only ensured adequate investment in the scientific and technological system but also enabled that system to play its full role in national socio-economic planning and activities. Those were but some of the relevant issues in respect of which the Conference should adopt action-oriented proposals.

49. The forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee should provide the opportunity for a critical assessment and synthesis of inputs from member States, the United Nations system and other institutions and organizations. The draft plan of action should be a faithful reflection of the preparatory process, and the success of the Conference would depend in no small measure on the quality of the last-minute efforts made at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

50. Every possible measure should be taken and appropriate assistance provided to enable developing countries to complete their planned preparations, thereby guaranteeing their effective participation in the Conference itself. To that end, his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39 and hoped that it would be adopted by acclamation.

51. Mr. PEEL (Canada) noted that an important new stage had been reached in the preparations for the Conference. The first phase of preparation had been focused on activities at the national and regional levels and had provided the basic material for the participants in the Conference. In the second stage, which was about to begin with a draft outline of a programme of action, every effort should be made to achieve the greatest possible convergence of ideas. The new stage would demand a high degree of precision and definition, and timing was of the essence in the period ahead. His delegation welcomed draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39 as evidence of the achievement of a common viewpoint and as a timely step in the preparatory process. The draft outline of the programme of action in document A/33/303 seemed to be a valuable first effort and, when brought up to date, would provide a solid base for the synthesis of ideas that must begin immediately in anticipation of the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

/...

(Mr. Peel, Canada)

52. Preparations at the national level in Canada had begun some 18 months earlier with a process of wide involvement and consultation with the non-government sector aimed at making the concepts and ideas of the Conference more widely known. The process of consultation and analysis which had been set in motion should and would be continued beyond the Conference itself; for the Conference should be viewed not as the culmination but as the beginning of a concerted effort to bring science and technology to bear on the solution of world problems.

53. The Canadian experience with the application of science and technology to national development had shown that the creation of an adequate science and technology component in any society required prolonged and sustained efforts over several decades, and that an ad hoc or laissez-faire approach to science was no longer adequate or effective. What was needed was a set of deliberate plans and policies for the support and use of science at the national level.

54. A number of issues mentioned in the draft outline of the programme of action were already under discussion in technical forums of the United Nations, and the Conference should not, therefore, attempt to duplicate the technical negotiations that were under way. It should instead focus attention on the ways and means of bringing technology to bear effectively on the development process. With regard to recommendations in the draft outline implying the establishment of new institutions within the United Nations system, his delegation hoped that every effort would be made to maximize the effectiveness of existing institutions. His delegation was, on the whole, satisfied both with the preparations to date and with the first attempt to produce a draft outline of the programme of action, and would be glad to pass on informally to the Secretariat more detailed comments on the draft outline.

55. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the Conference, because it was only through the application of science and technology that developing countries could resolve the tremendous socio-economic problems facing them and bring about necessary social transformations. The improvement of technology had always been the corner-stone of economic progress, and free and full access to technology was therefore imperative if under-development was to be overcome.

56. His Government being aware of the importance of science and technology to its development effort had established a high-level Commission for Science and Technology to promote the transfer and adoption of technology needed to develop the country's resources. Ethiopia had already submitted its national paper, and a national seminar would be held in December to finalize its position for the Conference. The objectives of the Conference had been well received by the

/...

(Mr. Worku, Ethiopia)

Governments of developing countries, and it was to be hoped that the results of the Conference would live up to their expectations. His delegation agreed, on the whole, with the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, particularly with regard to the concept of appropriate technology. In its view, technology was a tool to attack the problems peculiar to a given country, and not something to be adopted as a status symbol.

57. His delegation was also satisfied with the draft outline of the programme of action in document A/33/303. However, it felt that determining the priority of the various subject areas alone was not sufficient; it was equally if not more important to differentiate the priority development needs of different categories of countries. The aim of the Conference should be not only to help countries already relatively well off in terms of science and technology to improve their lot, but also to mobilize efforts to help the poorest among the developing countries to take off. In that connexion, his delegation urged the Secretary-General of the Conference to make every effort to enable the least developed countries to benefit fully from the Conference.

58. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that, despite a growing awareness of the importance of science and technology for development, the lack of scientific and technological infrastructure had severely hampered the development efforts of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. The forthcoming Conference could play a crucial role not only in raising global consciousness of the significance of science and technology for development but also in helping the developing countries to achieve greater self-reliance through the adoption of a rational science and technology policy reflecting well-defined priorities. The Secretary-General of the Conference had rightly emphasized the political dimensions of the Conference, at which his delegation hoped many Governments would be represented at a high level.

59. His country's national paper clearly recognized the urgency of embarking upon an extensive and effective application of appropriate science and technology to improve the living standards of the people. The National Council for Science and Technology in Nepal, his country's focal point for the Conference, was currently concerned with the formulation of a national science policy, the promotion of research and development activities in science and technology and the dissemination of scientific knowledge among the masses. His Government recognized the need to orient education and research activities towards the solution of national problems.

60. Nepal was concerned to reduce its dependence on foreign technology and technical know-how, and believed that sound training of national cadres would greatly enhance and strengthen national capacity for scientific and technological development. Greater co-operation among developing countries in the establishment of scientific and technological infrastructure would promote both national and collective self-reliance. Developing countries faced with similar development challenges could benefit immensely from exchanges of experience, and, in that connexion, his delegation favoured the establishment of a world technological

/...



information network to enhance the productive potential of developing countries by providing them with better access to information on technical, economic and legal aspects of the choice, transfer and development of technology. He stressed the importance of identifying areas for intergovernmental co-operation. One such area might be access to technological information through documentation systems. Within that area, access to information concerning patents mentioned in the ESCAP and ECA papers was an example of a field in which intergovernmental co-operation was clearly needed.

61. International co-operation was essential to the successful outcome of national activities in science and technology. External aid projects and programmes should be directed towards providing expert consultants, study fellowships, equipment grants and financial assistance for operational activities. The United Nations could play a significant role in co-ordinating and facilitating such co-operation, and the United Nations system and other international organizations should play a greater role in the training of scientific and technical personnel in developing countries through programmes at the subregional, regional and interregional levels.

62. His delegation regarded the forthcoming Conference as an important link in the ongoing process of establishing the new international economic order. It agreed with the Secretary-General of the Conference that the principles and objectives embodied in the resolutions on the new international economic order should be borne in mind when decisions were taken on the programme for the Conference. Action-oriented programmes resulting from the Conference would provide a significant input to the international development strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade.

63. Mr. SAUNDERS (Bahamas) said that the forthcoming Conference, one of several international events designed to promote the new international economic order, would succeed only if participants possessed the necessary diplomatic skill, sense of responsibility and, most importantly, political will.

64. Developing countries had been hindered in their efforts to acquire the necessary technological base for achieving economic and social development because of a number of constraints. Existing technology had been designed mainly to solve the problems of the developed world and, when applied to the developing world, had proved unsuitable or too expensive. Moreover, such technology as was applicable to developing countries had been jealously guarded by transnational corporations. Consequently, a gap had opened between the rich and the poor countries, resulting in the technological dependence of the entire third world on the so-called first world. The Conference should play a decisive role in securing better access for the developing countries to science and technology, especially with regard to the role of transnational corporations, which were the main vehicle for the transfer of technology to developing countries.

(Mr. Saunders, Bahamas)

65. While the Conference was expected to result in increased support for research and development activities at all levels, special emphasis should be placed on the national and subregional levels. In addition, research and development activities should be carried out in the industrialized world on specific problems of developing countries. The latter countries would thus be better able to apply science and technology to their development efforts and to reduce significantly the technological gap.

66. Mr. BELINGA (United Republic of Cameroon) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the Conference to bring the objectives of the Conference into line with the development needs of the third world, since it was only through such an adjustment that the Conference could differ from those that had preceded it. In particular, his efforts with regard to the mobilization of public opinion and documentation were an encouraging sign. Only if States were provided with the necessary documentation could the Conference formulate recommendations for specific measures. His delegation believed that, on the basis of the national and regional papers, the Secretary-General should prepare an analytical study covering a range of immediately operational solutions, and for that reason it supported draft resolution A/C.2/33/L.39.

67. His delegation was convinced that the Conference would be successful only if it marked the end of a negotiating process, and for that reason it felt that the Preparatory Committee should become a forum for negotiation between developed and developing countries. His Government attached great importance to the Conference and was participating actively in its preparation. In addition to submitting its national paper in good time, it had served as host for a regional meeting organized by WIPO to study the question of access to technological information and for a meeting of African scientists preparatory to the regional meeting in Cairo. Finally, Cameroon had participated in the Conference organized by the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation that had brought together Ministers and their assistants concerned with scientific policy.

68. The United Republic of Cameroon wished to reduce its technological dependence, and for that reason had established a number of training centres as well as various research and development institutes in the fields of agricultural machinery, soil, animal husbandry, education and health. His delegation had been pleased to note that at its second session the Preparatory Committee had designated as fields of study the very subjects of concern to his country.

69. The various meetings he had mentioned had confirmed his Government's conviction that science and technology were essential factors in development and that it was only mastery of them that would make possible the lessening of the technological gap between developed and developing countries. The science and technology that would provide solutions to numerous problems were still inaccessible to poorer countries because of their exorbitant cost and the fact that their transfer was often hampered by restrictive clauses that perpetuated the dependence of the third world countries on the donor countries.

/...

(Mr. Belinga, Cameroon)

70. For that reason, his Government believed that one of the most important tasks of the Conference would be to change the pattern of international co-operation in order to create a national and subregional capacity for importing, adapting and producing technology. It went without saying that assimilation of science and technology by developing countries implied that the latter should enjoy full legislative autonomy, unhindered by existing principles of international law that were not adapted to the present needs of developing countries. Accordingly, the objectives and principles of the new international economic order should be confirmed in the programme of action to be adopted by the Conference, in order to avoid perpetuation of the status quo. Finally, his delegation believed that the Conference should reach an agreement establishing the foundations of a new and equitable international legal system that would allow science and technology to play a role in the improvement of the human condition and in social and economic progress on a world scale and that would strengthen the technological capacity of the third world countries.

71. Mr. RABEMANANTSOA (Madagascar) said that practical action at the country level to reduce the scientific and technological disparities between the major industrialized countries and the developing countries would not be fully effective unless it proceeded from a true spirit of international collaboration. It was only through an increased contribution of the technological means, resources and experience of the developed countries that progress could be made towards a more equitable economic order.

72. The Secretary-General of the Conference had rightly spoken of political will - on the part of the developing countries, to achieve perfect unity in order to derive maximum benefit from the Conference, and on the part of the industrialized countries, to participate in the readjustment of economic relations and to sustain and increase the resources of developing countries.

73. Lastly, with regard to the problem of the brain drain, his delegation had been surprised to learn from document E/1978/92 that a consultant had remarked that a collective approach should be made to the appropriate authorities in developed countries for the purpose of urging them not to recognize the diplomas of developing countries and not to finance studies by their nationals indiscriminately. Apparently, science and technology on the one hand and political will on the other had the same centre but not the same circumference.

74. Mr. VILLA (Philippines) said that in recent years his country had devoted particular attention to science and technology for development. A conference convened by his Government in 1976 had brought together some 600 local scientists and technologists and about 80 international scientists from 24 countries. Their recommendations had confirmed the critical need for new initiatives in the food, energy and natural resources sectors. His delegation therefore welcomed the priority attention that those sectors would receive at the Conference. Increased national awareness of the role of science and technology for development had been enhanced by the preparatory activities for the forthcoming Conference, which had included a national workshop and a subregional conference.

/...

(Mr. Villa, Philippines)

75. His Government expected the Conference to focus on recommendations that would result in practical and implementable arrangements to strengthen national capacity to apply science and technology to development. One serious obstacle to the effective harnessing of science and technology for development was in the transfer of technology from developed to developing countries, which had proved too costly to developing countries and in many cases had turned out to be inconsistent with national goals. His delegation hoped that the Conference would succeed in adopting recommendations that would facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries.

76. An important concern of the Conference would be the establishment of institutional arrangements and mechanisms for exchange of information. In that regard, his delegation believed that the national focal points already established for the Conference could be maintained on a permanent basis. At the subregional or regional level, centres of knowledge of appropriate technologies could be established, while existing ones could be further strengthened. The regional commissions could also be strengthened to serve as data banks.

77. Many developing countries relied to an important extent on information disseminated by various United Nations agencies. There was further room, however, for strengthening the role of the United Nations system in the field of transfer of technology and dissemination of information. Some agencies duplicated each other's functions, and there seemed to be a tendency to under-utilize the information and advisory services of the United Nations system. Moreover, those services were not always responsive to specific situations.

78. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction that unanimous support appeared to have been achieved for the draft resolution that would define the measures to be taken to finalize preparations for the Conference. His delegation hoped that the Conference would make a major impact on the efforts of developing countries to accelerate their development, improve the well-being of their people and reduce international inequalities.

79. Mrs. DERRE (France) said that many consultations were taking place in her country in preparation for the Conference. The national paper submitted by France had given priority to training and had expressed willingness to arrive at desirable arrangements in many of France's co-operative activities, with a view to making them more effective under a development strategy that was in accordance with the wishes of the international community. Her delegation believed that efforts in the field of scientific and technological information should be increased in order to overcome the real obstacles encountered in that connexion. France had already taken action to that end; the National Industrial Property Institute had made compilations of French patents available to the national patent offices of many developing countries.

80. With regard to the Conference itself, her delegation hoped that the subjects to be considered would not bear on one problem to the detriment of others. The programme of action to be formulated should be oriented toward concrete measures,

/...

(Mrs. Derré, France)

and the resolutions of the Conference should lead to concerted action within the United Nations system. For that reason, her delegation had difficulty in accepting paragraph 2 (b) of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/33/L.39. In its view, the reference to "a theoretical and conceptual framework" to be included in the preliminary draft programme of action was contrary to the interests of development and conflicted with the desire for concrete measures.

81. Her delegation believed that the compilation in document A/33/303 should be reworked in order to give it a more synthesized and coherent presentation. Omissions should be corrected in the light of the views expressed during the preparatory work, particularly at the African Regional Conference.

82. With regard to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft resolution, she agreed with the representative of the United Kingdom that the regional economic commissions, having presented their papers, should continue to study the question within the framework of their existing resources. Since the meaning of paragraphs 5 and 6 was unclear to her delegation, it would not comment further on the draft resolution.

83. Many scientific conferences paralleling the Conference were to take place - in Tallin, Singapore, Mexico, Abidjan and Vienna - and her delegation would like to know in what way they were co-ordinated with the work of the Preparatory Committee and whether the Secretariat would participate in those meetings.

84. Mr. GRESFORD (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development) said the Secretary-General of the Conference would have been pleased to note the general view of representatives that preparations for the Conference were proceeding well. The Secretariat would take due note of all the suggestions made by representatives.

85. Referring to the national papers contained in document A/33/303, he said that there seemed to have been agreement on a number of substantive issues. One was that indigenous capacity for science and technology was essential in order to bring about self-reliance and to allow science and technology to contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of developing countries. Scientific policy must be established by Governments themselves and should be integrated in the economic and social development process. Access to information as an element of the transfer of technology was a vital question, and the hardware and software involved in such transfers should be seriously considered. Training, education and manpower should be provided on an adequate scale appropriate to the needs of developing countries in order to contribute to the achievement of their self-reliance. The theme of removing obstacles to and providing incentives for the application of science and technology should permeate the programme of action. Another important issue was the impact of science and technology for development on the status of women in developing countries.

86. There was agreement that the next step should be the drawing up of an action-oriented programme of action that would contain real proposals for Governments and the international system to act upon. That could be done by establishing priorities and by giving consideration to the necessary institutional arrangements.

/...

(Mr. Gresford)

87. Replying to questions put by members of the Committee, he said that the scientific meetings mentioned by the representative of France were monitored by the Secretariat in many ways. In some cases, Secretariat representatives participated in the meetings, and in others provision was made for acquiring the documented findings of the meetings well ahead of the Conference. The important conferences of non-governmental organizations were to submit background papers to the Conference itself. As the Secretary-General had already said, the Secretariat would provide the documentation required under paragraph 2 of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/33/L.39. The question of reconciling the phrase "theoretical and conceptual framework" in paragraph 2 (b) with an action-oriented programme could be dealt with in the course of preparations for the Conference. Document A/33/303 and Add.1 would be updated on the basis of the Latin American regional paper and national papers not yet received. The preliminary draft programme of action called for under paragraph 2 (b) would be available in December as an unofficial document in English only, and translations would be ready in January. As the representative of Canada had said, timing was of the essence in order that documents should be ready for the third session of the Preparatory Committee, and he urged Governments to submit their papers as soon as possible.

88. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Secretary-General of the Conference and his assistants, and said that the Committee concluded its general debate on item 70.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.