



**REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

VOLUME I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/32/42)

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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 31/179 in which, inter alia, it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries at Buenos Aires from 27 March to 7 April 1978 and requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to act as the Secretary-General of the Conference. In the resolution, the Assembly also decided that the Sessional Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the Governing Council of UNDP would function as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, that the Committee would be open to the participation of all Member States as full members and hold three sessions and that the Preparatory Committee would elect its own bureau to be composed of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur; decided to establish a small secretariat composed of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of UNDP for substantive purposes and of the concerned services of the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council for organizational purposes; and requested the Secretary-General to convene the first session of the Preparatory Committee in January 1977.

2. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries convened at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 17 January 1977.

II. PREPARATION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. INTRODUCTION

3. In his opening statement to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, the Secretary-General of the Conference said that there were moments in the endeavours of the United Nations in the service of the peoples of the developing countries which might turn out to be historic and that that moment, when the Preparatory Committee was beginning its deliberations, could well be such a moment. He felt that participants should infuse in all they proposed and planned a profound awareness that technical co-operation among developing countries had a political and intellectual dimension of world-changing force. For several centuries organized human and international intercourse had moved on north-north and north-south axes, which reinforced north-south dependencies of all kinds and solidified an international economic order in which economic, financial, technological and commercial strength overwhelmingly resided in northern regions. Even the new post-war process under which northern countries directed some of their wealth towards post-colonial reconstruction of newly-liberated countries did not end dependency relationships, but often encouraged the importation of models of development by the south that were not always appropriate and sometimes even retarded true progress.

4. The Secretary-General of the Conference then observed that the Preparatory Committee was meeting to prepare a world conference whose objective was to identify and agree upon collective means that could enable nations of the south more directly to communicate intellectually and technically; more effectively to concert their development efforts; more efficiently to search out and draw upon design experience and technical talents for development that were often more appropriate among them; and, above all, more rapidly to arrive at conditions of national and collective self-reliance. The developing countries had accelerated their consultations and joint planning towards economic co-operation among themselves. Technical co-operation among developing countries would have a tremendously important role to play in seeking to ensure the growth of the technical foundations for such economic co-operation. Just how the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the plan of action which it would adopt might be synchronized with economic co-operation among developing countries was a subject that deserved continuing attention in the months ahead.

5. The Secretary-General of the Conference emphasized that the Conference was, in the first instance, a Conference for the developing countries, both individually and collectively. Greater collective strength among southern countries would contribute to a reduction of "transfer dependencies" and to the strengthening of healthy, more genuinely global economic intercourse and to more precisely targeted definitions of what was really needed from the northern world. Currently there was a growing consensus that development efforts and benefits should reach directly to the poorest of the poor within the developing countries. It could not be denied that models and approaches to achieve that objective could only be enhanced

if their common and accumulating experience was brought to bear to a far greater extent than had been possible to date. He was greatly encouraged by the general universality of support for the Conference and also for the over-all programme goals of technical co-operation among developing countries. The States Members of the United Nations were all grateful to the Governments of Canada and the Netherlands for their special contributions that enabled those developing countries under special difficulties and the least developed countries to participate in regional meetings on technical co-operation among developing countries. He hoped that all participating Governments would approach the Conference with a common determination to make it succeed, since it was a conference that included the entire membership of the United Nations, which had a stake in the establishment of a new international economic order.

6. Turning to specific matters before the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference observed that, in view of the shortness of time that it had for the preparation of a fully-fledged United Nations global conference, the Committee could not afford to allow protracted problems over financing the Conference to hinder its concentration on substance. The financial implications envisaged and the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions were set out in his report (A/CONF.79/PC/4 and Corr.1). In his view, the budget request before the Committee reflected the minimum needs foreseen.

7. In that connexion, he urged that the provision of an adequate budget for an information support programme to prepare for and cover the Conference was of critical importance. The time-table for its approval was very tight, since the Committee's recommendations had to be submitted to the members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in February in order to enable it to recommend to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the use of his facilities for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures. Technical co-operation among developing countries as a subject and the Conference itself needed very carefully planned information support. Unlike earlier United Nations conferences, the United Nations Conference on technical co-operation among developing countries was not a subject that had already received wide attention, culminating in the convening of a conference; nor was technical co-operation among developing countries visibly linked to a single development sector, or a cluster of sectors, whose importance was self-evident. The "clientele" for technical co-operation among developing countries was the whole of the developing world. For the Conference to succeed, the information support programme had to relate the Conference to the essential objective of furthering mutual self-reliance among developing countries, had to address itself to some of the attitudinal and practical barriers to increased technical co-operation among developing countries, and had to be designed to heighten understanding of the productive process which technical co-operation among developing countries would unfold. The programme would draw upon the resources of the Division of Information of the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and its Centre for Economic and Social Information.

8. On the over-all arrangements envisaged for the organization of the Conference, the Preparatory Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/3). The time available for the formulation of proposals had been extremely limited. Nevertheless, he believed that viable guidelines and working procedures for the appropriate co-ordination and division of labour between the Conference secretariat in the United Nations Development

programme (UNDP) and the relevant units of the United Nations Secretariat had been assembled. He intended marshalling all the available facilities of UNDP behind the Conference. He was especially glad that in meetings of the Programme Working Group last October, and ever since, UNDP's partner participating and executing agencies had demonstrated their keen support and readiness for active involvement and contribution. The Programme Working Group had constituted itself as the interagency task force for the Conference and had already met that morning.

9. Offering some of his own preliminary thoughts about approaches to the substance, the representation and the agenda of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Conference observed that the subject of technical co-operation among developing countries embraced the entire spectrum of the development process, from needs assessment, programme and project design and formulation, through every aspect of implementation, supplies and services and evaluation. Equally, technical co-operation among developing countries spanned the entire process of international development co-operation, the availability and cost-effective use of its resources and the machinery necessary to achieve those purposes. It involved human as well as technical and material resources. It had to mobilize financial resources. It involved the role of richer countries in support of technical co-operation among developing countries. It was by definition wholly multidisciplinary and omnisectional. It was intergovernmental, yet it had also to draw upon the valuable resources of quasi-governmental and non-governmental institutions. In view of those exceedingly broad dimensions, he requested the guidance of the Committee on the sequence of steps and activities that would be required in pre-Conference work, through the actual work of the Conference itself, and on to the action plan follow-up. He was convinced that the planning, sorting, selecting and phasing process would demand a well-conceived relationship between the Preparatory Committee, the staff of the Conference secretariat, the interagency task force, and such specialized resources as the Committee might decide to enlist. Exceptional thought should be given not only to the types of persons who would attend the Conference but also to the extent and content of the specialized briefings that the Committee might wish to recommend to Governments.

10. Much of the foregoing had to be based upon the Preparatory Committee's judgement as to the likely final agenda of the Conference itself. In the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/3), the Committee had for its consideration a revised provisional agenda, based upon the views of the Governing Council of UNDP and taking into account the results of the regional intergovernmental meetings held to date with the most valuable support of the respective regional commissions. The provisional agenda provided for an appropriate working breakdown between substantive or programmatic aspects of the challenges of technical co-operation among developing countries and the mechanism, modalities and resources for its advancement. Finally, he recommended to the Committee that it consider an agenda that sought to break free from the traditional, highly formalized conduct of most other major intergovernmental world conferences in order to allow for the most imaginative and courageous dialogue on a highly challenging subject.

11. The Secretary-General of the Conference then added that UNDP was assigned central responsibility for technical co-operation among developing countries and for the organization of the Conference because UNDP, existing as it did only to serve the peoples of the developing countries in their long and heroic struggle to escape the oppression of poverty, had the implicit duty to assist those peoples in overcoming the additional oppression of intellectual and technical isolation from

each other in respect of their common development needs. In essence, the General Assembly might have given the UNDP partnership its ultimate challenge: to demonstrate that it could be fully responsive to changing patterns and perceptions of development history and international economic and social relations; that it could search energetically through all societies for the most appropriate intellectual, technical and material resources that the peoples of the developing countries need; that it could help to assemble new capacities and heighten its own performance to help achieve and sustain a greater degree of equality, justice and sharing among all peoples. It was in that belief that he had accepted the responsibilities assigned to him as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It would be false to the expectations of the peoples they existed to serve and false to the ultimate goals of the new international economic order if, on that first day of preparation for the Conference, the Committee members were to restrain that vision or underestimate the significance of what they were charged to do. In conclusion, he urged that the participants solemnly pledge to make their enterprise the success that history demanded it to be.

12. The Chairman, in his statement of thanks, emphasized that technical co-operation among developing countries was not an isolated activity but an integral part of an over-all effort for more dynamic and more fruitful international co-operation and for the establishing of the new international economic order. The Committee therefore expected the active co-operation of the participating and executing agencies and the regional commissions in its preparatory work. The Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of UNDP had prepared a number of basic documents which would be very useful to the Committee in its deliberations on substantive matters. In those important deliberations other documents of direct relevance should also be considered, such as the recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (see DP/69) and the reports of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Georgetown in 1972, the Fourth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Algiers in 1973 (see A/9330 and Corr.1), the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lima in 1975 (see A/10217 and Corr.1), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its fourth session, held at Nairobi in 1976 (TD/217), the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo in 1976 (A/31/197, annex) and the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City in 1976 (A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1).

13. The Chairman then invited the Under-Secretary-General, Commissioner for Technical Co-operation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to address the Committee.

14. The Under-Secretary-General said that it was with great expectations that the Office of Technical Co-operation was participating in the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretary-General of the Conference had given them the broad horizons of technical co-operation among developing countries and had put that form of co-operation into its historical context. The United Nations had been able to make the international community realize the richness of the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries, a concept which had become a reality. However, he noted with regret that the implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries was still encountering some scepticism and prejudice and it should be one of the objectives of the Conference to assess the obstacles in order to overcome them.

15. The Office of Technical Co-operation had taken several measures to promote technical co-operation among developing countries and the resources of its regular programme of technical co-operation had been devoted to those activities. A focal point was reviewing the ways and means of extending that form of technical co-operation and was collaborating with a focal point established in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to promote economic co-operation among developing countries. The systematic sharing of experience and results through those two focal points had unfolded valuable perspectives and linkages between economic and technical co-operation among developing countries.

16. He added that, if it were considered useful, the United Nations would be ready to contribute to the preparation of a document on item 6 (a) of the draft provisional agenda for the Conference, namely technical co-operation among developing countries and its interrelationship with economic, scientific, social and cultural co-operation among developing countries. To conclude, he expressed the hope that the Conference would adopt not only resolutions and a general plan of action, but establish also a concrete and action-oriented programme for the implementation of which developed and developing countries would commit themselves.

B. General discussion

17. All delegations expressed their full support for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries and the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in particular. They viewed technical co-operation among developing countries as providing a new, important and dynamic dimension to international co-operation for development and a form of mutual self-reliance which would benefit not only the developing countries but the international community as a whole. They stressed that it was not meant as a substitute for vertical technical assistance from the industrialized countries but as a potent means of widening the base of technical assistance.

18. Several representatives expressed the conviction that technical co-operation among developing countries was the sort of new horizon that could help to create conditions which would be to the good of the developing countries as well as to the common good.

19. Many representatives emphasized that technical co-operation among developing countries was a vital instrument in the establishment of the new international economic order and therefore pointed out that the objectives of the Conference should be viewed in the over-all context of the struggle for that new economic order. They felt that, inasmuch as developed countries had a special responsibility in respect of the Programme of Action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974), they also had a special responsibility to promote technical co-operation among developing countries. One delegation stated the view that the potential for development through co-operation among developing countries is fully utilized only if the poorest stratum of the population derives a real benefit from it.

20. Several delegations stressed that the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries should contribute by its contents to the strengthening of international peace and security and to the development of mutually beneficial international economic co-operation based on equality of rights. The results of the Conference should contribute to the consolidation of political

independence and economic autonomy of the developing countries and to the growth of their industrial potential, which would lead to upgrading of the social, economic and cultural conditions of their peoples. The preparation and holding of the Conference should become an incentive in creating progressive socio-economic structures and in the securing of rapid development of the productive forces of the developing countries, as well as components in the struggle to overcome colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism, and foreign aggression and occupation in order to eliminate all forms, whatever they may be, of exploitation of natural and human resources of the developing countries by foreign monopolies and transnational corporations.

21. Several delegations saw in technical co-operation among developing countries a real opportunity for promoting new forms of co-operation based on solidarity, mutual respect, respect of independence and national sovereignty and the right of each nation to choose its own political and economic system. Some felt that it was connected with struggles for self-determination and national sovereignty over natural resources.

22. Many representatives pointed out that development could not be regarded as the privilege of developed countries alone, but that it should be shared by developing countries as well. The developed countries had a real responsibility in this regard, but any arrangements by them for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries could only be successful if carried out in a harmonious manner with the co-operation of the United Nations development system.

23. Some representatives drew attention to the fact that technical co-operation among developing countries was not a new concept, as forms of such co-operation had been practised for several years in Asia under the Colombo Plan and in Latin America, but that, with the active programmes now undertaken by the United Nations development system to promote it, technical co-operation among developing countries had now assumed new dimensions.

24. Some delegations pointed out the importance of the involvement of all developing countries, including the least developed and the most seriously affected, in activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries.

25. It was generally agreed that, in the initiation of programmes and projects related to technical co-operation among developing countries, special attention should be paid to the needs of the least developed and geographically disadvantaged and poorer countries among the developing countries. It was also agreed that ways and means should be explored to expand the participation of those countries in technical co-operation among developing countries. In this connexion, one delegation proposed the establishment of an international fund for technical co-operation among developing countries, giving priority to the least developed and geographically disadvantaged countries.

26. Some delegations stressed the importance of the roles of the national Governments of developing countries and the public sector in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries through institutional and other arrangements and urged that the Conference should pay adequate attention to that role. Some delegations suggested that the Conference should consider the respective roles of the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations in promoting and participating in technical co-operation among developing countries. A few other

delegations emphasized that there was a major role which the private sector could play in promoting and conducting technical co-operation among developing countries. One delegation suggested that item 7 (b) of the draft provisional agenda be amended to read "Participation of public and private sectors" rather than "Participation of public and private institutions".

27. Many delegations stressed that in their efforts to promote technical co-operation among developing countries, they should not isolate it from other areas of international economic co-operation and that the identification of priorities and sectors should be approached in the perspective of the relationship of technical to economic co-operation among developing countries as one of its vital and viable components.

28. Some delegations referred to recent international intergovernmental conferences where economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was discussed, particularly the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held at Mexico City in May 1976 and the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo in August 1976, and felt that the recommendations of those conferences should have great relevance for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It was also stated that since the concept and operation of technical co-operation among developing countries were to permeate the whole of UNDP's activities, technical co-operation among developing countries should be used as a vehicle for securing more advanced technology through UNDP's projects and programmes.

29. The request was also made to ensure the use of Arabic as a working language for the future work of the Preparatory Committee as well as for the Conference, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/179, paragraph 9.

30. The representatives of three participating and executing agencies addressed the Preparatory Committee and assured the Chairman and the Committee of their full and enthusiastic support for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries and their readiness to co-operate in the preparations for the Conference. One of them indicated that his agency would be represented at the regional intergovernmental meeting for West Asia to be held at Kuwait in May 1977. Another stated that his agency had already embarked on programmes relating to technical co-operation among developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and gave examples of the kind of programmes his agency had initiated. He also referred to the information system which his agency had launched in its field of operation, which could usefully supplement the Information Referral System (TCDC/INRES) which UNDP had launched. Another explained that, after his agency had taken certain decentralization decisions, it had placed greater emphasis on the use of local institutions, thereby strengthening their capacities for technical co-operation among developing countries.

31. The representative of a regional commission also addressed the Preparatory Committee and pledged full and active co-operation. He made suggestions on the provisional agenda for the Conference. He expressed concern over the wide range of issues under item 6 which might mitigate against detailed consideration of the items of relative priority. Considering, however, the close interrelationship between subitems (a), (b), (c) and (g) of item 6, he felt that there might be an advantage in taking them together for consideration. He added that, in view of its importance and priority, it might be useful to consider the information system for technical co-operation among developing countries as a separate item on the agenda. In that case, subitems (d) and (e) could be taken together.

32. Many delegations addressed themselves to the various sections of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the organization of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/3), which was listed as subitem (a) of agenda item 3.

33. There was general agreement that the regional intergovernmental meetings on technical co-operation among developing countries held in preparation for the Conference, which were referred to in paragraphs 9-16 of the report, had been successful and that their results were very encouraging. It was felt that the proposals and recommendations of those meetings, based as they were on the particular experience and problems of the regions concerned, would provide valuable material for the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee and ultimately of the Conference itself. Many delegations therefore proposed that the Conference secretariat prepare for the second session of the Committee a report consolidating and analysing the proposals and recommendations of the regional meetings which should go beyond a mere collation of ideas.

34. One delegation observed in this connexion that one of the four regional meetings, namely the meeting for the West Asian region, was not scheduled to convene until the final week of May in Kuwait, just one week before the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Therefore there would be no time to analyse, correlate and publish the recommendations of the regional meetings before the second session. In the circumstances, one delegation wished to request the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to investigate the feasibility of increasing the period of time between the two events.

35. The representative of the host country for the West Asian regional meeting said that her Government was strongly in favour of the West Asian regional meeting being held before the second session of the Preparatory Committee. She felt that the meeting should be a successful one since it would have the benefit of the experience of the Special Unit and of the suggestions made at the three earlier regional meetings.

36. Many delegations observed that, while UNDP should play the central and co-ordinating role in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, the contribution of the participating and executing agencies and of the regional commissions was important for the success of the Conference. They hoped that the support would be forthcoming in full measure and that the meetings of the interagency task force would yield fruitful results.

37. On the question of documentation, several delegations felt that, in addition to the main documents envisaged in paragraphs 21-26 of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference and the suggested paper consolidating and analysing the recommendations of the regional meetings, it would be useful for Governments to prepare and submit individual papers on their experiences at the national level. Some delegations expressed the view that it would be better to avoid a rigid approach to the question of documents as new requests for documents were likely to be forthcoming at the next session of the Committee.

38. Some representatives observed that technical co-operation among developing countries had a very wide range and that its actual meaning and scope required more precise definition. Therefore it would be useful for the Conference if a document were prepared on the concept and scope of technical co-operation among developing countries and its relationship to economic co-operation among developing

countries and other forms of international co-operation. Other representatives said that they would prefer the Conference to concentrate on matters of organization and implementation of technical co-operation among developing countries rather than on conceptual questions.

39. Some delegations felt that it would be helpful to have a document prepared for the Conference on the role and participation of developed countries in technical co-operation among developing countries.

40. Other suggestions in regard to documentation for the Conference were that a catalogue of national arrangements to stimulate technical co-operation among developing countries which could be regularly brought up to date should be compiled, and an analysis should be undertaken of the technical experience so far acquired by developing countries.

41. On the structure of the Conference, the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/3) suggested that the Conference could consist of a plenary, which would consider items 1 to 6 of the provisional agenda (DP/202, para. 9), a committee, which would consider items 7 and 8, and a working group, which could consider item 9, the plan of action to promote technical co-operation among developing countries. The representative of the host country pointed out that the arrangements for meetings of the committee and the working group could be somewhat complicated having in mind the desirability, as expressed by several delegations, of enabling all participants to attend meetings of the plenary, the committee and the working group. He thought it inappropriate to separate items 7 and 8, which related to institutional arrangements at the national and international levels to promote and conduct technical co-operation among developing countries, from item 9 and felt that items 7, 8 and 9 should all be discussed by the committee, which could also meet as a working group and discuss matters more informally.

42. In the light of those views, which were shared by other representatives, it was generally felt that a suitable framework for the plenary, committee and working group should be established. In that connexion, one delegation said that in its view there was no need to determine the framework of the working group too much in advance because that framework would manifest itself as requirements arose.

43. In regard to the information support programme proposed in paragraphs 28 to 31 of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, it was the general feeling that, in order to ensure the success of the Conference, it was important to launch a detailed and carefully planned campaign to publicize the Conference itself and other activities to promote technical co-operation among developing countries.

44. One delegation observed that the potential users and audiences of the programme were on the whole well identified in the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference. However, it should be borne in mind that, in spite of the existence of different information systems, useful information was often scarce and hard to come by. The support programme should therefore clearly bear in mind what kind of information specific users really needed, in what form such information was needed and at what time.

45. Another delegation proposed that the Special Unit should re-examine carefully those elements of the information support programme which pertain to Conference publicity and relegate to a long-term endeavour the educational programme needed to prepare both the public and private sectors to participate successfully in technical co-operation among developing countries. That delegation proposed that item 6 of the draft provisional agenda for the Conference be modified by the addition of a further element, namely "The formulation of a comprehensive information and educational programme to explain the significance and ramifications of technical co-operation among developing countries and the role therein to be played by the public and private sectors of society".

46. Another suggestion on information support was that it should include information of experiences of technical co-operation among developing countries in various countries.

47. In regard to the draft plan of action envisaged in paragraphs 32 to 34 of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, some delegations felt that it should be flexible enough to permit the incorporation of valid proposals made by participating countries at the Conference itself. Most delegations stressed that the plan of action should be practical and result-oriented. A few delegations felt that it should define the specific role of UNDP in that effort.

48. All delegations supported the suggestion of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/3, para. 32) that the secretariat prepare the first draft for consideration at the second session of the Committee, that being the best way of starting the formulation of such a plan.

C. Draft provisional agenda for the Conference

49. Most delegations expressed the view that the draft provisional agenda as set out in document A/CONF.79/PC/2 was generally acceptable.

50. Speaking on items 6 and 8 of the draft provisional agenda, one representative observed that item 6 (f) relating to the identification of possible sources and methods of financing technical co-operation among developing countries appeared to overlap with item 8 (a) relating to administrative and financial arrangements at the bilateral, regional and interregional levels. He felt that it would be better to keep financial and administrative matters apart.

51. One delegation, supported by several other delegations, proposed that, in view of the important and central role of UNDP in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, item 8 (b) of that agenda, namely "Role and participation of the United Nations system" be amended to read "Role and participation of UNDP and other organizations within the United Nations system". In support of this proposal, the importance of the flexible nature of UNDP was also emphasized so that in promoting technical co-operation among developing countries the provision of advanced technology through its regular activities should be ensured.

52. In regard to this proposal, another delegation said that as technical co-operation among developing countries was a system-wide and universal concept, it did not think that UNDP should be singled out. UNDP should not become solely

directed towards technical co-operation among developing countries at the expense of its other functions. It therefore preferred the original wording. Yet another delegation opposed the amendment as UNDP could not be expected to work alone in so vast a field without the active support of the participating and executing agencies and the regional commissions.

53. A suggestion was advanced that a new subitem should be added under item 6 to read "Measures to reduce through technical co-operation among developing countries the brain drain which affects developing countries". The representative who advanced that suggestion also referred to the annotations for the draft provisional agenda which were appended to A/CONF.79/PC/2 and suggested that the last sentence in paragraph 1 under item 6 (a) be amplified to read as follows:

"Although technical co-operation among developing countries is neither a new form of co-operation nor a substitute for traditional forms of international co-operation, it has new implications and new possibilities when it is viewed as the result of its active support by UNDP, the United Nations specialized agencies and organizations as well as by non-governmental organizations and other interested institutions outside the United Nations system and in the context of innovative and action-oriented strategies for development which are implicit in the concept of mutual self-reliance."

54. Some delegations referred to the active interest in technical co-operation among developing countries shown by representatives of developed countries and indicated that greater support by developed countries would be very helpful in stimulating that co-operation. A proposal was advanced for the inclusion of another subitem under item 8 to read "Role and participation of developed countries", as well as the preparation of a document on that subject. Yet two delegations felt it was unnecessary to have this aspect as a separate item, as the role of developed countries was fully covered by agenda items 8 and 9 and part of agenda item 6.

55. One delegation suggested the addition, in item 6 of the provisional agenda for the Conference, a new subitem reading as follows:

"Technical co-operation among developing countries and its relation towards economic and social co-operation among all States".

56. A proposal was also made to expand the text of subitem (a) of item 6 of the draft provisional agenda for the Conference so as to include technical co-operation among all countries and in particular among developing countries.

57. Some delegations expressed support for the following drafting of subparagraph 6 (a) of the draft provisional agenda:

"Enhancement of the role of national Governments and state agencies of the developing countries in administrative, legal and financial activities for achieving technical co-operation among developing countries".

D. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

58. It was agreed that, in regard to subitem (c) of agenda item 3 which dealt with the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference, the Secretariat be

requested to prepare a draft on the basis of the rules of procedure adopted by other United Nations conferences, taking into account the latest version of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, and that that draft be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

E. Recommendations on the budget for the Conference

59. Since it had been decided initially to establish an informal working group to discuss the budget, only general or preliminary observations on the recommendations on the budget for the Conference set out in the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/PC/4 and Corr.1) were made by delegations in the general debate and most of them reserved the right to make more detailed observations on the budget when it was discussed in the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

60. In their general observations, many delegations fully supported the budget and some even considered it too modest compared to budgets of other United Nations conferences. Some delegations felt that a larger sum than that proposed should be allocated for the information support programme, while others considered that sum to be excessive. Several delegations expressed the opinion that it would be advisable to create the Conference secretariat by drawing personnel from a number of units of the UNDP and United Nations secretariats, which would lead to a substantial economy of budgetary means. A few delegations, while fully supporting an extensive and well-balanced information programme in support of the Conference itself, felt that that portion of the programme which was educative in character should be relegated to long-term activity.

61. Some delegations pointed out that administrative and other expenses involved in the preparation and holding of the Conference should be covered by the UNDP budget. As to the possible additional expenses that could occur and were planned to be financed from the United Nations regular budget, those expenses should be to the maximum possible extent covered out of the resources obtained as a result of economies, cutting of expenses on other programmes and termination of programmes.

62. The Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries met on 13 and 14 January 1977. On 17 January the Chairman of the Working Group made a statement to the Preparatory Committee on the outcome of the work of the Group. He explained that he had undertaken to summarize the relevant parts of the debate in a manner which, together with the general endorsement of the budget, might give some guidance to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and other bodies concerned. However, it was to be clearly understood that the comments made by the representatives of some developed countries were met by the counter-argument in support of the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference of the representatives of many developing countries. The Chairman said that the draft decision on the financial aspects of the Conference, which contained an endorsement in general of the recommendations in the report (A/CONF.79/PC/4 and Corr.1), noted that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should review the financial requirements bearing in mind the comments made in the Preparatory Committee. He then stated that many delegations had expressed their readiness to endorse the budget in general, as had been done in the draft decision before the Committee. The concerns expressed were not directed to the over-all size of the budget but rather to details of allocations within the budget. On

specific items, he said that some members of the Group had wanted more justification on the amount of consultancies required, two members had pointed out that revision downward might be possible for some of the secretariat's posts in the light of the possible delayed recruitment factor and that post-conference activities were needed. The same comments were made regarding the secretariat of the Conference. On the Information Support Programme, some members had expressed the view that the United Nations and UNDP information divisions could be more actively involved and that target audiences envisaged should be identified in budget terms, stressing the importance of the specialist target group. Several delegations had argued for more attention to be given in developed countries to information on technical co-operation among developing countries. Finally he stated that the Working Group had recommended the addition of five regional advisers to assist both the least developed countries and others in urgent need, even non-independent territories, in the preparation process of the Conference. The Working Group had been informed by the Secretariat that the five regional advisers would involve expenditures estimated at \$142,500 for staff costs and travel. The Chairman then recommended to the Preparatory Committee the adoption of the draft decisions contained in A/CONF.79/PC/L.2 and A/CONF.79/PC/L.3.

63. The Preparatory Committee proceeded to consider A/CONF.79/PC/L.2 and L.3, and several amendments were proposed. The texts of A/CONF.79/PC/L.2 and L.3, as orally amended and approved, were included in the decisions of the Committee (see para. 68 below, decisions 1 (I) and 3 (I)).

64. One delegation expressed reservations about the budget estimates for the Conference in 1977. It also expressed dissatisfaction about the way in which the Preparatory Committee had organized its work.

65. Another delegation felt that the former delegation's comment on the subject was not correct since the Preparatory Committee had acted in accordance with the will of the General Assembly in paragraph 8 of its resolution 31/179 and had commented in detail on the budget which was adequate for the implementation of a successful United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries in 1978.

F. Closure of the session

66. The Secretary-General of the Conference thanked all members for assisting in moving forward on what he deemed to be one of the most important activities of the United Nations and UNDP. He also expressed his appreciation for the advice he had received on the budget and assured the members of the Preparatory Committee that such advice would be used effectively. He thanked the developed countries for their interest and participation, the Chairman and members of his bureau for arranging the proceedings and all members of the Preparatory Committee for their co-operation in initiating the preparations for a successful Conference in 14 months' time.

67. The Chairman concluded the work of the first session of the Preparatory Committee by drawing the attention of members to the presence of the Minister of Trade of Guinea and said that that symbolized the importance of the meeting. He continued that the Committee's task had been difficult. The meeting had consolidated the developing countries' acceptance of mutual co-operation for development. He stressed that technical co-operation among developing countries

was of a multidisciplinary and omnisectoral nature. Its promotion was in the interests of all States, both developing and developed. He also felt that it would assist in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations development system as a whole. The preparations for the Conference and especially the drafting of the plan of action would be useful work in accelerating economic and social development. He recommended the full involvement of local organizations and sectors in the developing and developed countries and also of United Nations agencies and the regional commissions in the preparations for the Conference. He expressed the hope that the next session of the Preparatory Committee would devote its time to substantive rather than organizational matters. He thanked the Secretary-General of the Conference and the secretariat for their conscientious work.

III. DECISIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

68. At its 6th meeting, on 17 January 1977, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following decisions:

1 (I). Recommendations on the budget for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

1. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, having considered the proposals of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the recommendations on the budget for the Conference contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference, 1/ having noted that a further amount would need to be appropriated by the General Assembly in 1977 in order to implement the recommendations made therein, further noting that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would review financial requirements to implement the proposals made by the Secretary-General of the Conference submitted in the light of the comments in the Preparatory Committee on the substance of the proposals, decides to endorse the recommendations made by the Secretary-General of the Conference on the over-all budget level for 1977 and to request him to initiate the necessary action through the Secretary-General of the United Nations under the standing procedure for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to obtain a further advance sufficient to cover the balance of the requirements arising in 1977 and to utilize the funds in an effective manner, taking into account the comments made in the Preparatory Committee, in order to ensure the successful preparation of the Conference.

2. The Preparatory Committee further decides to request the Secretary-General of the Conference to include, also, in his report to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, adequate budgetary provisions for five regional advisers to assist the least developed countries and other developing countries in urgent need in the preparation of their national reports.

2 (I). Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on the organization of the Conference. 2/

3 (I). Provisional agenda for the Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries agrees, on a tentative basis, on the following provisional agenda for the Conference, to be finalized by the Committee at its second session:

1/ A/CONF.79/PC/4 and Corr.1.

2/ A/CONF.79/PC/3.

1. Opening of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
5. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
6. Technical co-operation among developing countries as a new dimension of international co-operation for development:
 - (a) Technical co-operation among developing countries and its interrelationship with economic, scientific, social and cultural co-operation among developing countries;
 - (b) Technical co-operation among developing countries as a means of enhancing the availability and effectiveness of development resources for international co-operation and its interrelationship with over-all international co-operation;
 - (c) The role of technical co-operation among developing countries in exploring new approaches and strategies for solving development problems common to developing countries;
 - (d) Expansion of the participation in technical co-operation among developing countries of the least developed and geographically disadvantaged countries;
 - (e) Measures for enhancing confidence in the existing and potential capabilities of developing countries for mutual technical co-operation;
 - (f) Development and operation of an action-oriented information system on the technical capacities available in developing countries for use by other developing countries;
 - (g) Identification of existing and possible sources and methods of financing technical co-operation among developing countries;
 - (h) Measures for reducing, through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, the brain drain affecting developing countries;
 - (i) Measures for stimulating and strengthening consultancy, engineering and other technical services as well as the supply and procurement of such services and of equipment and materials of developing countries through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries;

- (j) Development of a comprehensive public information and educational programme designed to make the importance and nature of technical co-operation among developing countries better known, and particularly the role to be played therein by both public and private sectors.
7. Institutional arrangements at the national level to promote and conduct technical co-operation among developing countries:
 - (a) Administrative, legal and financial arrangements;
 - (b) Participation of public and private sectors.
 8. Institutional arrangements at the international level to promote and conduct technical co-operation among developing countries, and the participation of developed countries, the United Nations system, and other international organizations:
 - (a) Administrative and financial arrangements at the bilateral, multilateral, regional and interregional levels;
 - (b) Role and participation of the United Nations Development Programme and of the other organs and organizations of the United Nations system;
 - (c) Role and participation of other international organizations.
 9. Adoption of a plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries.

4 (I). Structure of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries recommends that the Conference should be composed of a plenary and a committee and that the plenary would hold a general debate under the consideration of item 6 and that the committee would consider items 6 (f), 7, 8 and 9.

5 (I). Documentation

1. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries decides to request the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare and submit to the Committee at its second session a preliminary draft of the documentation to be submitted to the Conference under items 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference. The draft plan of action should take into account:

- (a) The recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries 3/ and of the regional meetings held for the preparation of the Conference;

(b) The suggestions and recommendations of the participating and executing agencies and of the regional commissions;

(c) The experience gained in the implementation of projects related to technical co-operation among developing countries;

(d) The comments of delegations at the first session of the Preparatory Committee and in other forums such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and its Sessional Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and the General Assembly.

2. The draft plan of action should focus on the forms and mechanisms as well as the substance of this type of international co-operation and present a consolidated strategy for initiating, organizing, promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries in all its fields and at all its levels. The pertinent parts of the decisions and documents adopted by recent international meetings and conferences, such as the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo, 4/ and the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City, 5/ should also be adequately considered in the provisional draft of the Plan of Action.

6 (I). Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries decides to request the Conference secretariat to prepare and submit to the Committee at its second session draft provisional rules of procedure along the lines of other similar rules of procedure adopted by recent United Nations conferences and relevant rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

7 (I). Provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries approves the following provisional agenda for its second session:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference;
 - (b) Report of the interagency task force;
 - (c) Draft provisional agenda for the Conference;

4/ A/31/197, annex.

5/ A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1.

- (d) Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference;
 - (e) Recommendations on the budget of the Conference.
3. Documentation for the Conference:
 - (a) Draft plan of action;
 - (b) Outline of other documentation to be submitted to the Conference under items 6, 7 and 8 of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference.
 4. Date and draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Preparatory Committee.
 5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council.

8 (I). Date and duration of the second session of the Preparatory Committee

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries decides to hold its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 19 September 1977.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

69. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 17 January 1977. The Committee held 6 meetings (1st to 6th).

70. The session was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

B. Membership and attendance

71. In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/179, the Preparatory Committee was opened to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations as full members.

72. The following States members were represented at the first session of the Committee: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Guyana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

73. The United Nations Secretariat was represented as follows: Office of Technical Co-operation, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

74. The following United Nations bodies were represented: United Nations Children's Fund and United Nations Development Programme.

75. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; and World Bank.

76. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

77. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Organization of African Unity and World Tourism Organization.

C. Election of officers

78. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 31/179, the Preparatory Committee, at its 2nd, 3rd and 5th meetings, elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Slobodan Ristić (Yugoslavia);

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Christo Kossev (Bulgaria),
Mr. Raúl Desmarás-Luzuriaga (Argentina),
Mr. Benjamin I. Bassin (Finland);

Rapporteur: Mrs. Gillane Allam (Egypt).

D. Adoption of the agenda

79. At its 2nd meeting, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.79/PC/1), as amended. The agenda, as adopted, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference;
 - (b) Draft provisional agenda for the Conference;
 - (c) Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference;
 - (d) Recommendations on the budget of the Conference.
4. Date and draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.
5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council.

E. Documentation

80. At its first session, the Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/CONF.79/PC/1	2	Provisional agenda with annotations
A/CONF.79/PC/2	3 (b)	Preparation for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries: draft provisional agenda for the Conference
A/CONF.79/PC/3	3 (a)	Organization of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries - report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.79/PC/4 and Corr.1	3 (d)	Recommendations on the budget for the Conference - report of the Secretary-General of the Conference
A/CONF.79/PC/L.1 and Add.1-3	5	Draft report of the Committee

F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

81. At its 6th meeting, on 17 January, the Committee adopted the draft report on its first session.

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