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Fifteenth session of the Commission/
Sixth meeting of the Conference of
Ministers
Addis Ababa, 9-12 April 1980

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

(Addis Ababa, 10-16 March 1980)

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development was held in Addis Ababa from 10 to 16 March 1980. The meeting was opened by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU): Angola, Algeria, Burundi, the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, the Sudan, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia.

3. The following United Nations organizations and bodies were represented at the meeting: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Africar Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) were also represented.

Opening address by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

4. In his opening statement, the Executive Secretary reviewed the significance of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, explaining that it was the first expert meeting to be held at regional level since the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD). It therefore provided an opportunity to take stock of the outcome of UNCSTD and to reflect on its relevance to Africa. It coincided with the exercise of formulating an African strategy for development in the third United Nations Development Decade, which gave full recognition to the significant contribution of science and technology to the attainment of the strategy's goals and objectives.

5. He pointed out that UNCSTD had had limited success in meeting the expectations of the many who had hoped that it would be of significant help in redressing the imbalance in scientific and technological relations between the rich and the third world countries within the framework of the establishment of a new international economic order. Changing the old international economic order demanded a larger measure of concerted action by the third world countries than had been envisaged. It was indeed illusory to expect genuine initiatives for such change to emerge from action

taken only by the industrialized world as had been clearly demonstrated at recent negotiations between the developed and the developing countries. He therefore urged the Committee, in formulating a Plan of Action for the African region, to pay special regard to those measures likely to lay down a good basis for the development and accumulation of technological power by the third world countries. In that respect he directed the attention of the Committee to the consideration of new and innovative approaches in several areas of national activity, including science and technology policy and planning and the development and proper utilization of indigenous scientific and technological manpower. The development of technical entrepreneurship, increased and better use of existing large production facilities and of the innumerable small wayside blacksmiths and mechanical workshops, the exploitation of opportunities for effective transfer of skills to indigenous personnel, the reorientation of research and development programmes to problems of the local environment and the forging of links between local innovative systems and production systems.

6. Success in the attainment of those objectives and in the implementation of the programme of action proposed by the Committee was dependent on the concrete expression of political will by the governments concerned by ensuring that appropriate machinery was created and that adequate financial resources were provided for those activities. He also drew attention to the establishment by the United Nations General Assembly of an interim fund for science and technology development and called upon the Committee to develop measures for using the resources expected to become available under this fund.

Election of officers

7. The meeting unanimously elected Mr. Haile lul Tebicke (Ethiopia) as Chairman, Mr. B. Benzaghou (Algeria) as First Vice-Chairman, Mr. S.M. Silangwa (Zambia) as Second Vice-Chairman and Mr. M.L. Kyomo (the United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. M.L. Kaba (Guinea) as Rapporteurs.

B. AGENDA

8. The meeting unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. (a) Resolutions and decisions adopted by UNCSTD
 - (i) Programme of Action on Science and Technology
 - (ii) Women, science and technology
- (b) United Nations General Assembly decisions on the recommendations of UNCSTD
5. Proposals for an African Programme of Action
 - (a) National level

- (b) Subregional level
 - (c) Regional level
6. Machinery for Implementation of the African Programme of Action
 7. Other matters
 8. Adoption of report and closure of meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Resolutions and decisions adopted by UNCSTD: United Nations General Assembly decisions on the recommendations of UNCSTD (agenda item 4)

9. Parts (a) and (b) of agenda item 4 were considered together. In introducing this item to the experts, the representative of the secretariat drew their attention to the salient points in the following principal documents: **resolutions** and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.14/742); decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the recommendations of UNCSTD (E/CN.14/754); and **resolution** adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its Fifth Meeting on Development Strategy for Africa for the Third Development Decade (E/CN.14/749).

10. With regard to the preparatory process for the Conference, he reviewed the historical background to the Conference and lamented the limited impact that Africa had had on the outcome of the Conference as embodied in the Vienna Programme of Action. He urged delegates to rectify the situation by prescribing relevant measures to ensure greater African impact through the Programme of Action for Africa.

11. He stressed the paramount importance of the following: the application of science and technology to the establishment of a new international economic order and the determination of the goals of the third United Nations Development Decade; the strengthening of the **endogenous** scientific and technological capacities of developing countries and the provision of adequate financial support and institutional means for implementing the recommendations contained in the Vienna Programme of Action. He drew the attention of the Committee to the decisions of the General Assembly relating to the endorsement of the Vienna Programme of Action, including its decision to establish the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development, the establishment of a new secretariat for Science and Technology and the global financial arrangements for Science and Technology with special reference to the initial prospects for the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

12. With regard to the preparation of the Programme of Action for Africa for 1980-1984, he called the attention of the participants to the priorities set for the region as reflected in the Development Strategy for Africa for the Third United Nations Development Decade adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers during its fourth meeting held in Rabat, Morocco, in March 1979 and subsequently approved by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at their Assembly in Monrovia, Liberia, in July 1979.

13. He asked the Committee to note that the outcome of UNCSTD had not been conclusive in the sense that it had failed to take decisions on important aspects of the questions of the strengthening of the scientific and technological capacities of developing countries and the restructuring of the existing pattern of international scientific and technological relations. Since those issues would be a major item for deliberation by the United Nations Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee was invited to make proposals for an African common stand on them as well as on those issues on which agreement had not been reached within UNCSTD.

14. A lively discussion followed this introduction, and several issues were raised by the participants for thorough consideration before an attempt was made to crystallize the elements of the Programme of Action for Africa. Particular attention was paid to increased and effective African participation at international forums; financing of science and technology activities at the national, subregional and regional levels; the issues on which UNCSTD had failed to reach agreement and other important matters relating to the development of endogenous capabilities.

15. With respect to the need for increased and more effective African participation at international forums, the Committee made the following recommendations:

(a) That African governments should increase their representation and take steps to ensure that they participated effectively in meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development (IGCSTD);

(b) That United Nations missions to African countries should include science and technology officers with the task of ensuring that African Governments improved their performance in science and technology debates;

(c) That machinery should be developed for co-ordinating African participation in IGCSTD and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in order to strengthen the voice of Africa in those bodies and in negotiations in other bodies related to the implementations of a new international economic order, for which an effective African lobby would be needed;

(d) That measures should be taken to ensure that Africa was represented at a high level African representation in the staff of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, in that of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology Development and in all United Nations institutions established to deal with science and technology for development;

(e) That the secretariats of ECA and OAU, each within its competence, should provide full assistance to countries unable to finance delegations at sessions of IGCSTD, IGE and similar forums.

16. On the provision and use of funds for science and technology activities, the following measures were recommended:

(a) That an attempt should be made to ensure the emergence of an African consensus on the guidelines for the administration and use of the resources (interim and long-term) of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

(b) That the African region should demand that it be allocated at least 40 per cent of the resources of the Interim Fund; and that the justification for such an allocation should be developed during the current meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Committee;

(c) That concrete projects for the utilization of the Interim Fund (national, subregional and regional) emphasizing the strengthening of national and regional science and technology mechanisms should be quickly drawn up;

(d) That the Administrator of the Fund should place emphasis on projects involving the provision of equipment and the effective use of local expertise at the national and regional levels;

(e) That serious consideration should be given to the creation of a Third World Bank for Science and Technology Development and of national financing agencies for science and technology.

17. With regard to the questions on which UNCSTD had failed to reach agreement, the Committee strongly felt that African delegations at IGCSTD sessions dealing with those questions should, as a minimal requirement, defend the agreed positions highlighted in the text of the Chairman of Committee I of UNCSTD.

18. The Committee considered that it was essential for African policy- and decision-makers to muster enough political will and commitment to be able to take positive and decisive steps for the implementation of action programmes relating to the development and use of endogenous science and technology capability, for example by making adequate provision in their national budget for the financing of science and technology activities, by restructuring that part of the science and technology infrastructure which related to the productive systems by reorienting the educational system towards the development of the problem-solving skills of indigenous personnel and by evolving a collective approach to attempts at developing an African common stand at negotiations on international issues.

19. At the conclusion of the debate on this item, the Committee set up a drafting committee to facilitate the preparation of recommendations for the African Programme of Action and related resolutions emerging from the meeting. The drafting committee was composed of the representatives of Burundi, Egypt, Guinea, the Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan. It was decided that the drafting committee would be open-ended to allow the participation of experts from other delegations in its deliberations.

Proposals for an African programme of action (agenda item 5)

Machinery for implementation of the African programme of action (agenda item 6)

20. The Committee considered agenda items 5 and 6 together. The two principal documents submitted under them were Mobilizing Science and Technology for Development in Africa: Strategy and dynamic action programme for the 1980s and beyond (E/CN.14/757) and Programme of Action for Africa (E/CN.14/757/add.1) which were introduced by a representative of the secretariat. He said document

E/CN.14/757 represented an attempt to spell out a strategy for development to guide African Governments in their thinking, planning and action on bringing about the socio-economic changes necessary for improving the quality of life of the majority of their people. That objective required them to invest science and technology resources in the raising of African standards of living and the relieving of misery in rural areas and urban slums where the majority of their population lived and worked. In particular, he stressed the role of science and technology in integrated rural development. He said attention should be paid to measures to ensure the appropriate application of science and technology in spearheading development in agriculture; transport and communications; industry, including agro-allied industries; health and sanitation; energy; education and manpower development; housing; urban development and the improvement of environment.

21. The action programme included in the paper was for the 1980s and beyond, but it was the view of the secretariat that the Committee, while taking note of the long-term proposals contained in the document, should spell out a short-term programme of action for implementation during the period 1980-1984. The secretariat had prepared the draft proposals contained in document E/CN.14/757/Add.1, which was intended to serve as a background paper for use by the Committee in formulating such a short-term programme.

22. He called the attention of the Committee, to the following points which he thought it might wish to take into account in preparing its proposals for the Short-term Programme of Action for Africa:

(a) The importance of profiting by the experience of the late-developers, such as Brazil, China and Japan, in the development of science and technology within their communities, with due regard paid to the local African environment;

(b) The need to develop technical entrepreneurship so as to give Africans self-confidence and courage necessary for technical invention and innovation;

(c) The importance of giving due recognition to and developing mechanisms for the utilization of existing technological potential in the informal sector (wayside mechanics, village blacksmiths, etc.);

(d) The expansion of the narrow roles currently assigned to formal mechanical and engineering workshops (e.g. railway workshops) to that of providing engineering/production services required in several sectors of the economy;

(e) The importance of developing rural technologies in areas such as solar energy, biomass, and wind power to satisfy the technological needs of rural areas;

(f) The need to ensure that adequate measures are taken to preserve the quality of the environment by minimizing or completely eliminating the harmful effects of technological activities carried out in several sectors of the economy;

(g) The importance of establishing an inventory of natural resources as a prerequisite for planning their rational exploitation and utilization.

23. Following this introduction, the participants commented extensively on the two documents presented by the secretariat and, with particular reference to the document E/CN.14/757/Add.1, highlighted areas that required strengthening, and made the following additional proposals, all of which the Drafting Committee was to pay due attention to in the preparation of the 1980-1985 Programme of Action for Africa:

(a) The proposals for action to be implemented within the 1980-1985 time frame should be concrete and realizable;

(b) Studies should be undertaken of examples of successful science and technology practices in the third world. These practices should be geared to ensuring the over-all development of the majority of the population, and arrangements should be made to disseminate aspects of them which may be usefully applied in the African scene. In undertaking the above studies, an effort should be made to examine the environmental conditions including the ecological and socio-cultural conditions, under which such successes occurred;

(c) African Governments should prepare manpower profiles which might be of help in the effective deployment of existing human resources and provide base data for the planning of future education and training programmes;

(d) Research and development should be directed to finding ways of meeting identified over-all needs of the society and needs of the productive sector so as to ensure that adequate linkages are established between the innovative activities and the productive system;

(e) Science and technology activities in any country should ideally be carried out for the purpose of providing services and commodities to satisfy community needs of the majority of the people and achieving self-reliance and self-sustaining development;

(f) An effort should be made to devise specific programmes aimed at developing and mobilizing national design and the capacity to absorb technology;

(g) Existing national, subregional and regional information and documentation systems should be strengthened;

(h) A directory of African experts in science and technology should be compiled in order to facilitate their identification and effective use in the implementation of local, subregional and regional projects and programmes;

(i) In seeking funding for the implementation of the short-term programme of action for Africa, all sources, including the UNESCO Special Fund for R and D and the United Nations Industrial Development Fund administered by UNIDO, should be tapped;

(j) Specific programmes and projects for dealing with the problems of drought and desertification in Africa should appear in the 1980-1985 programme;

(k) The programme of action should provide for machinery for dealing with the issues for which UNCSTD failed to find a solution;

(l) Attention should be given to technical co-operation among developing countries in the proposals for the implementation of the action programme;

(m) Emphasis should be placed on ensuring the proper orientation and use of existing institutions prior to setting up new ones;

(n) Provision should be made for specific programmes and activities for the development of national negotiating capabilities in science and technology;

(o) The programme of action should contain proposals for means of stimulating the popularization of science and technology;

(p) Note should be taken of the position adopted by the Group of 77 on the international development strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade and of the position taken by the participants in the Non-Aligned Summit in Havana in September 1979 with respect to co-operation among developing countries in the field of pharmaceuticals, especially with regard to the establishment of regional co-ordinating machinery in this field.

24. The representative of the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology Development provided information on the modes of operation and use of this Fund. He invited African Governments to submit their project proposals as early as possible.

25. Statements were also made by representatives of other United Nations organs and bodies and of intergovernmental regional organizations on the subject matter of the two principal documents considered under this agenda item. Their various suggestions were taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the Programme of Action for Africa.

Other business (agenda item 7)

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development

26. Introducing document ECA/NRD/CESTD/80/WP.4 concerning the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development set up by resolution 248 (XI) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1973, the representative of the secretariat reminded the Experts that the composition and terms of reference of the Committee and the tenure of the first 20 members had been determined at the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee. Since the time of the establishment of the Committee the concerns of science and technology in the region had expanded to embrace many new issues, and it was therefore now considered desirable to extend the Committee's terms of reference to reflect those issues and to open participation in the Committee to all ECA member States. He invited the Committee to consider this proposal and the related draft resolution for submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

27. Considerable debate ensued on this matter, and there was a strong desire expressed for the continued operation of the Intergovernmental Committee, which provided a medium for the consideration of science and technology issues in the region. It was agreed that the Committee should be concerned with issues such as:

- (i) The development of scientific and technological education;
- (ii) Autonomous/appropriate technology;
- (iii) The transfer of technology;
- (iv) The concept of scientific and technological capability in Africa;
- (v) Technological innovation;
- (vi) Patent documentation as a source of technological information;
- (vii) Technology contracts;
- (viii) The structure of industry and restrictive business practices and their effects on technology development and transfer;
- (ix) Technology assessment;
- (x) Financial institutions and the promotion of science and technology;
- (xi) Social implications of technology choices;
- (xii) Technology dependence: Operational meaning, causes and reduction;
- (xiii) Scientific and technological research in member States.

28. With the above observations and considerations, the Committee decided to present to the sixth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers to be held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 12 April 1980, for its endorsement:

(i) The proposal for an African programme of action for science and technology for development for the 1980s and beyond contained in document E/CN.14/757;

(ii) The Programme of Action for Science and Technology Development in Africa, 1980-1985, contained in document E/CN.14/757/Add.2.

29. The Committee adopted a Programme of Action for Science and Technology development in Africa submitted to it by its Drafting Committee and contained in document E/CN.14/757/Add.2.

30. It also approved two resolutions for submission to the ECA Conference of Ministers for adoption at its sixth session and adopted a resolution on the mobilization of resources for science and technology for development. These resolutions are annexed to this report.

31. The Committee considered a draft resolution sponsored by Angola, the Congo, Algeria, Guinea, Mozambique and Ethiopia, expressing concern about the danger posed by the development of nuclear technology by the racist regime of South Africa. In essence, the sponsors felt that such developments were likely to perpetuate the colonial and apartheid policies of that regime.

32. The Committee adopted this report after making minor amendments to the draft.

33. The meeting was closed by the Chairman, who expressed gratitude to the participants and the secretariat for their contributions to the work of the Committee.

D. RESOLUTIONS

Draft resolutions for submission to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa for adoption at its sixth session

1. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 248 (XI) of 22 February 1973, by which it established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Also recalling its resolution 268 (XII) of 28 February 1975, in which it commends the work accomplished by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Recognizing that the Committee has provided a useful regional machinery for examining science and technology issues relevant to the development of member States,

Also recognizing that since the establishment of the Committee in 1973, the issues of science and technology in the region have grown rapidly in importance and complexity,

1. Decides that the Committee should continue to operate;

2. Decides that full membership in the Committee will be open to all African States and that it will normally meet at least once a year and submit its reports and recommendations to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa through the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

3. Also decides that the Intergovernmental Committee of African Experts for Science and Technology Development should establish working groups to examine specific problems and issues for its consideration;

4. Urges all member States to make one government institution responsible for science and technology matters, to serve as a focal point for the work of the Intergovernmental Committee and to nominate representatives to participate in meetings of the Committee, on the understanding that such nominations should take into account the need to maintain a high degree of effectiveness and follow-up through continuity;

5. Invites all member States to participate actively in the Committee and to make an effective contribution to its work;

6. Further decides that the Committee's terms of reference will be as follows:

- (i) To assist the Commission in the definition and periodic review of strategies and programmes for the development of science and technology in the African region;
- (ii) To examine, and advise the Executive Secretary on, specific issues bearing on the implementation of such strategies;
- (iii) In general, to actively assist the Commission and its Executive Secretary in the promotion of science and technology and in the formulation of measures to ensure their application to national development in member States;
- (iv) To give special consideration in its activities to the needs of the least developed member States;
- (v) To advise the Executive Secretary on ways and means of mobilizing resources of all kinds for the implementation of strategies, programmes and projects for the development of science and technology within the region.

2. Strengthening Africa's capability to use science and technology for development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 in which, inter alia, the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development with the objective, in particular, of strengthening the technological capacity of developing countries to enable them to apply science and technology to their development,

Concerned about the persistence of the old international economic order and its technological dimensions; the ability of existing national machinery in African countries to cope with endogenous development of technology, the weak-linkage pattern of research and development and national production activity, particularly as reflected in the persistent orientation to research of general interest and free knowledge, and the low-level priority accorded to science and technology and, in particular, the low share of available national financial resources accorded to them,

Also concerned about the weak representation and ineffective participation of African countries at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and international conferences aimed at the establishment of a new international economic order,

Bearing in mind that activities carried out during the period following the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the implementation of the Programme of Action for Africa during the period 1980-1985, 1/ which seeks to strengthen the capabilities of African countries to generate their scientific, technological and productive capacities so as to enable them to solve their own problems and meet their own needs, are crucial for the scientific and technological progress of member States, individually as well as collectively,

Recognizing that the implementation of these activities would call for the provision of increased resources at the levels of Governments and regional commissions, which will be called upon to assume a co-ordinating role for science and technology co-operation programmes and projects at the regional level,

1/ E/CN.14/757/Add.1/Rev.1.

Recalling Resolution 6 of the African Regional Meeting on the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development held in Cairo, Egypt which called for the strengthening of the ECA Science and Technology Unit both structurally and financially,

Also recalling the recommendations of the Vienna Programme of Action which called for the strengthening of the regional commissions in the field of Science and Technology,

1. Urges the Governments of the African countries not later than 1983, to adopt and implement national and, as far as possible, regional policies, laws and regulations on the transfer and development of technology, and also to consider structuring their national legal framework so as to promote the development and the improvement of indigenous technology and thereby facilitate their technological transformation and increased participation in world production and trade;

2. Also urges the Governments of the African countries to ensure their participation in United Nations-based functions and activities, carried out after the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology including those of the United Nations Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and related institutional arrangements, and to assure active African participation by competent governmental delegations in all other international activities related to and aimed at restructuring the existing international legal framework within the principles and objectives of the establishment of a new international economic order and at strengthening the science and technology capability in Africa by formulating, inter alia:

- (i) An international code of conduct for the transfer of technology;
- (ii) A code of conduct for transnational corporations;
- (iii) A revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property;

3. Requests the Organization of African Unity to consider ways and means for supporting missions of competent African delegations to post-conference international meetings;

4. Requests the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, in co-operation with the competent regional and international organizations, to prepare studies on the experiences of developing countries in respect of the regulation of the transfer of technology, highlighting those measures which are most relevant in the conditions prevailing in African countries;

5. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to take, as a matter of urgency, appropriate action for the structural and financial strengthening and restructuring of the Science and Technology Unit to enable it to shoulder its increased responsibilities.

Resolution adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee of African Experts for the Development of Science and Technology

Mobilization of resources of the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development

The Intergovernmental Committee of African Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Recalling the objectives of the establishment of a new international economic order as set out in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974,

Expressing regret that the Vienna Plan/Programme of Action was unable to provide for financing for science and technology for development commensurate with the needs of the developing countries,

Convinced of the paramount importance of the transfer and application of Science and Technology for the development for all developing countries and in particular the African countries,

Bearing in mind that Africa has the majority of least developed, most seriously affected, land-locked and island developing countries,

Noting that the Pledging Conference for the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development will take place in New York on 27 March 1980,

1. Expresses its strong hope that all countries, in particular the developed countries and others in a position to do so, will contribute to the Interim Fund so that the minimum target of 250 million dollars proposed by the General Assembly of the United Nations will not only be attained but also exceeded and it will be possible to take immediate and future action in favour of developing countries in general and African countries in particular;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in close and active co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to encourage all African Governments to request, from organizations and governments friendly to Africa financial support in an amount appropriate for the purposes of the Interim Fund, thereby enabling it effectively to promote the accelerated economic development of the whole of Africa through science and technology.

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to transmit this decision to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in the hope that he will have it distributed immediately to all countries as an official document relating to the Pledging Conference for the Interim Fund.