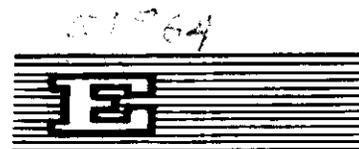




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Ninth meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the
Whole

Niamey, Niger
5-12 April 1988

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-third session of the Commission/
fourteenth meeting of the Conference
of Ministers

Niamey, Niger
14-18 April 1988

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

FIFTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT -
RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

* E/ECA/TPCW.9/1/Rev.1.

** E/ECA/CM.14/1.

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Attendance

1. The fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development was held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 November 1987.
2. Representatives of the following ECA member States attended the meeting: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zaire and Zimbabwe.
3. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations were also represented: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI-UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Organization of African Unity (OAU), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD).
4. Representatives of the following non-ECA member States also attended the meeting: Argentina, Cuba, France, German Democratic Republic, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

B. Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. M. Tchouta Moussa, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In his opening address, he underlined two important recent meetings that have focused on the primordial role of science and technology for the development of the African continent. The first Congress of African Scientists held in Brazzaville, the Congo, in June 1987 concluded by adopting the Brazzaville Declaration which advocated the formation of a non-governmental Pan-African Union of African Scientists. The second Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Africa (CASTAFRICA II), held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, culminated, on 15 July 1987, in the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Declaration and a Special Programme of Assistance to Africa in the fields of science and technology research and development. The conference also stressed the need for setting up a mechanism to follow up the recommendations.
6. Mr. Tchouta Moussa further enumerated the various science and technology policy documents like the Vienna Programme of Action adopted in 1979, the Lagos Plan of Action adopted in 1980 and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, (APPER), adopted in 1985. They all stressed the need for technologies adapted to local milieu, easy to maintain, and making use of local human and material resources, the official leitmotiv being to "produce and consume African". Hence most countries were now insisting on developing

traditional medicines, research on renewable energies, inventory of potentials, establishing standards of commerce, improving the environment, improvement of health care delivery, effective use of water resources, fight against erosion and desertification, improvement of soils, stocking, transformation and transportation of agricultural products, etc., without forgetting the present or future role of new technologies.

7. He was, therefore, gratified that this meeting was addressing itself to these priority items, as evidenced by its agenda. He expressed the hope that at the end of its deliberations, the meeting would propose programmes and projects which would strengthen not only intra-African but also South-South co-operation. He gave the assurance that the Commission would continue to give all its assistance to the member States to carry out these programmes.

8. Mr. M.T. Mapuranga, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, opened his address by extending a warm welcome to all the participants. He underscored the worsening economic situation in the region which was a consequence of natural calamities, prolonged drought and the adverse effects of the inequitable world economic order coupled with the staggering backwardness in science and technology. Despite enormous advancement in the application of science and technology in other regions, Africa continued to lag behind in this respect. He cautioned that science and technology was not the key to all Africa's developmental problems, but it was one of the tools, the effectiveness of which should be envisaged within the proper cultural and socio-economic context. Apart from this perspective, science and technology should be related to a whole range of policies relating to education, research, manpower training, scientific and technological information, agriculture, industry and to the follow-up machinery for implementing recommendations emanating from relevant meetings. He urged the Committee to adopt a comprehensive view to the application of science and technology to development.

9. OAU on its part attached considerable importance to the role that science and technology should play in economic development as spelt out in the Lagos Plan of Action, APPER and UN-PAAERD as manifested by its active participation in international conferences - the first Congress of African Scientists, CASTAFRICA II and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development. He expressed the hope that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts would further enrich Africa's perspective in the furtherance of the application of science and technology.

C. Election of officers

10. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Dr. C.C. Takundwa (Zimbabwe); First Vice-Chairman: Mr. Gusugusu Tharcisse (Burundi); Second Vice-Chairman: Prof. Naguib Ahmed Ibrahim (Egypt); Rapporteur: Mr. R.A. Eniang (Nigeria).

D. Adoption of the agenda

11. The following agenda was unanimously adopted:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization work.
4. Matters arising from the report of the fourth meeting.
5. (a) Working Groups of the IGCESTD:
 - (i) Activities during 1984-1987;
 - (ii) Future of the Working Groups;
- (b) Development of indicators of science and technology in Africa;
- (c) Development of African science and technology information system:
 - (i) ATAS and information systems;
 - (ii) Report on setting up an African science and technology information system;
- (d) IGCESTD and CASTAFRICA II.
6. (a) Machinery for co-ordination of policy-making and planning in science and technology in selected African countries;
- (b) Handbook on rural technologies for food processing and storage of African tubers and cereals;
- (c) ECA's programme of work and priorities in science and technology:
 - (i) Proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1988-1989;
 - (ii) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.
7. Any other business.
8. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

II. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Matters arising from the fourth meeting (agenda item 4)

12. A representative of the secretariat introduced this item by drawing attention to a number of questions dealt with at the last meeting. Some of these formed specific items on the agenda for the fifth meeting and would be dealt with more fully during the proceedings.

13. With regard to the question on new technologies and their implications on Africa's development strategy, the United Nations Committee for Science and Technology Development is co-sponsoring a workshop with the (International Council for Science Unions), on tissue-culture to be held in the first half of 1988 in Nigeria. Moreover, chairs of biotechnology, food processing, nutrition and health would be endowed in several African universities.

14. With regard to paragraphs 20-23 of the report of the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development, the follow-up activities at the regional and international levels led to the preparation of APPER by the OAU and UN-PAAERD by the United Nations.

15. On the mid-decade review (paragraphs 24-28) of the Lagos Plan of Action, the secretariat expects to conclude this work in conjunction with a parallel exercise to be conducted by the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology

during the decade review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology scheduled for 1988.

16. With reference to paragraph 29, WIPO, in co-operation with ARIPO, plans to organize a seminar in Mbabane, Swaziland, on industrial property from 7 to 11 December 1987. WIPO still offers opportunities for training and countries were called upon to contact WIPO for further details.

17. On technical co-operation among developing countries (paragraphs 31-33) a training and demonstration centre had been established in Senegal with the support of the Government of India. It is hoped that similar centres would be established in other parts of Africa. It was also reported that the Indian Government had offered a number of scholarships for which nominations were still awaited from member States.

18. Regarding paragraphs 34-35, it was stated that no comments were received on the report on modalities for mobilizing and generating financial resources of science and technology development in Africa. The secretariat had, therefore, drawn upon available documentation to improve the first draft.

19. Following the presentation of the report by the secretariat, questions were raised on the contributions by the international community towards the development of science and technology in Africa. Some participants also questioned the necessity of having an Advance Technology Alert System (ATAS), when African countries were facing problems using inappropriate existing technologies. The question was whether one should develop science and technology for the sake of its development or should use science and technology for socio-economic development. Policy-makers who are concerned with concrete results fail to see the impact of science and technology in the short term and hence tend to marginalize it. A participant proposed that before each meeting of the Committee, ECA should field a mission to all subregions to appraise the situation.

20. A representative of the secretariat, in reply, referred to the June 1987 meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, on the UN-PAAERD which examined the contributions of the international community including those addressed to science and technology. Concerning the role of ATAS, it was mentioned that it could also have a positive impact as member States could be alerted well in advance on actions to be taken. He added that science and technology should be used as a tool for socio-economic development, and agreed that ECA could send experts to each subregion for on-the-spot assessment of situations subject to financial constraints. It was then suggested that embassies could be used to make contact with the subregions.

Working group activities [agenda item 5(a)]

21. A representative of the secretariat introduced the item on the working groups by producing a brief background to their establishment by the Intergovernmental Committee in 1981. Initially, three working groups were set up to deal with the three subject areas: viz.;

- (a) Science and technology developments;

- (a) Science and technology developments;
- (b) Basic needs (food and agriculture, forestry, health, water, housing and environment);
- (c) Industry including energy, transport and communications.

22. However, in 1983 the Intergovernmental Committee decided to reorganize the working groups' activities on a subregional basis. One country was designated convenor for each subregion, and through the convenor, arrangements were made to convene the first meetings of the working groups.

Activities during 1984-1987 [agenda item 5 (a)(i)]

23. During the period under review, the following working group meetings were convened:

East African sub-group (Addis Ababa, 21-23 November 1984);
Northern Africa (Cairo, 15-19 June 1986);
Southern Africa (Lusaka, 30 September to 2 October 1986);
Central Africa (Yaounde, 11-14 March 1986 and 3-6 March 1987);
Western Africa (Dakar, 6-9 April 1987).

24. These meetings were serviced by the secretariats of ECA and the OAU. Four were sponsored by the United Nations Financing Systems for Science and Technology Development (UNFSSTD), through the OAU project, which provided financial support for the travel and upkeep of participants during these meetings.

25. The working group meetings helped to crystallize ideas on the priority problems in science and technology which required solutions, and culminated in project ideas which each subregion felt required collaborative action. In some cases the working group assigned responsibilities to specific countries to develop full-scale projects based on the project ideas considered during the meetings. The recommendations that emerged pointed to a course of action requiring intervention at three levels: by groups of member States, at subregional levels through intergovernmental institutions, and by the international community.

26. Following the secretariat's presentation, questions were raised on various aspects of the role and activities of the working groups. Many participants, while welcoming the useful work done to identify projects, thought that their financing did not receive serious attention during the working group meetings. Already many projects had been identified and the urgent issue was to secure funding for such projects and get their implementation underway. On the question of financial resources, it was considered that adequate national resources to execute these projects in the spirit of self-reliance be made available. Concern was also expressed as to the extent to which ECA had assisted in securing finance for these projects. All in all, it was felt that African Governments could not hinge their development mainly on the whims of external finances, since these resources, when available, were merely to supplement national effort. Already Africa had a number of development banks at national, subregional and regional levels. Such banks and various multinational corporations could be urged to devote a certain percentage of their profits towards the development of science and technology. It was agreed that the whole question of financing required to be looked at more comprehensively.

27. On the basis of the results obtained from the meetings so far held, the various subregions appeared to have worked in isolation. This was undesirable and free flow of information between subregions was necessary using the available channels of African embassies and MULPOC offices and the co-ordinative efforts of the ECA secretariat in Addis Ababa.

Future of the working groups [agenda item 5(a)(ii)]

28. Considerable discussion ensued on the logistic and financial issues connected with the activities of the working groups and the projects identified or to be identified by them. The meeting noted with appreciation the fact that the first working group meetings for the Eastern and Central African subregions were financed by the member States, and strongly urged all the members to finance future meetings and activities of their respective subregional working groups. However, the secretariat should also continue to seek resources for financing the meetings of the working groups.

29. The meeting considered the possibilities of tying up the subregional working groups to their respective economic groupings and the ECA Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and recommended that the MULPOCs be requested to oversee and co-ordinate the working group activities in their respective subregions.

30. The meeting unanimously agreed that the working groups should continue, and requested the ECA and OAU secretariats to continue providing logistical support to them.

Development indicators of science and technology in Africa [agenda item 5 (b)]

31. In the presentation of this item, a representative of the secretariat stated that a meaningful assessment of the impact of science and technology on socio-economic development requires careful examination of science and technology endeavours in relation to the relevant economic and social system using different assumptions, data sources and analytical methods. Conventional indicators produced by developed countries were generally considered of limited utility in the African context. The primary purposes of science and technology indicators should be to assist in the assessment of the capacity for endogenous and self-sustaining development, by improving policy-making, planning and resource allocation, as well as in the monitoring of development policies. The nations which actively involve science and technology in their development strategies need criteria for regular evaluation of their impact. A study carried out in Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania has revealed that very few African countries have well-defined roles for science and technology. After describing the study, a model set of criteria has been proposed for assessing the impact and effectiveness of the performance of the chain of activities and includes sections on science and technology infrastructure development; science and technology development activities; science and technology application and utilization; and a final set for assessing the impact of science and technology activities on sectoral and national level development.

32. In the course of discussion, several participants expressed reservations concerning the validity of certain of the indicators mentioned in the study. For example, wood consumption as an indicator was considered dangerous to the environment. Pharmaceuticals consumption was an erroneous indicator as the majority of African populations have recourse to traditional medicines. Again, the majority of African populations made use of traditional technologies and hence modern technology utilization as an indicator could also be erroneous. Questions were also raised about the validity of using percentage of GDP allocated to science and technology development as an indicator. The meeting concurred with the secretariat's proposal to submit the study to member States for their comments and to explore the possibility of holding an expert group meeting, in collaboration with the OAU, ARCT and UNCSTD, which would examine the study and the comments and propose criteria, list of indicators together with their relevance and modalities for their utilization. In conclusion, the meeting recommended that the ECA secretariat should carry out, in collaboration with the OAU, ARCT, FAO, UNESCO, ILO and other relevant international organizations, in-depth studies on indicators on science and technology development, relevant to the African conditions, and present the studies for an examination by an expert group meeting.

Development of African science and technology information system ATAS and information systems [agenda item 5(c)(i)]

33. A representative of the secretariat briefed the meeting on the genesis of ATAS Africa. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 34/218 of December 1979 which, inter alia, recommended initiation of arrangements for early identification and assessment of new science and technology developments which may adversely or beneficially affect the developmental process, the United Nations Committee for Science and Technology Development undertook studies and proposed the establishment of ATAS. This was approved by the June 1983 meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. An African expert group meeting, in October 1984, in Mbabane, Swaziland, recommended setting up an African ATAS. A project proposal was prepared by ECA/OAU which was endorsed by the third meeting of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development, by the eleventh meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers and by the twenty-first summit of the OAU. Subsequently, ECA and the OAU, together with some African experts, presented the project at an International Workshop on Advance Technology Alert System held in West Berlin in December 1985 which endorsed it. An expert group which met in Addis Ababa in December 1986 finalized the project proposal which was presented to this fifth meeting. The objectives, activities, structure and functions of ATAS Africa were explained. In conclusion, a representative of the secretariat informed the meeting that the project has been submitted to various donors for possible funding.

34. During discussions, participants unanimously endorsed the ATAS Africa project. The representative of the UNCSTD stated that the Centre accorded high priority to ATAS and was expanding its own concept of ATAS. He congratulated Africa for giving the lead which other regions could follow. Some participants advised that ATAS should be selective in advanced technologies it is to handle. Furthermore, ATAS should monitor the use made of the advice

provided to the countries and document progress made in the utilization of the new technologies. It was pointed out that various information systems existed already, e.g., PADIS, ARCTIS, TIPS, TIES and the secretariat was requested to explore the possibilities of integrating ATAS into one or several of them. It was recommended that the ECA secretariat should seek the financial resources, both within the region and outside, for launching the pilot phase of the ATAS Africa project as soon as possible.

Report on setting up an African science and technology information system
[agenda item 5(c)(ii)]

35. A representative of the secretariat, in his introduction of this theme, recalled that since 1980 the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development had recommended that "existing national, subregional and regional information and documentation systems should be strengthened". Similarly, the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development through the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, had recommended the strengthening of national information systems and networks and had requested United Nations organs, organizations and bodies to consider ways and means of enhancing their co-operation in the efforts to establish national information networks and systems for science and technology in the developing countries. In this connection, ECA has thus surveyed national technological information resources in nine African countries. Similarly, when ARCT was established, one of its objectives was to promote within its member States the transfer and diffusion of technological information. Again, PADIS was created in 1980 to establish a region-wide information and documentation system. The representative of the secretariat further stated that a study was under way to find out the best way ASTIS could be established. These possible alternatives, among others, were being considered, namely (a) ASTIS to be based completely at ARCT, (b) ASTIS to be based completely within PADIS, or (c) joint ARCT/PADIS activity. The meeting felt that the study under way should consider financial implications for each of the alternatives before proposing a final choice.

36. During discussions, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the comprehensive surveys on the situation in industrial property in the African region conducted by WIPO whose report could be very useful during the setting up of ASTIS. Similarly, the wide experience of ILO, ARSO and UNESCO would provide a valuable input to ASTIS. The financial aspect of ASTIS, ATAS and other similar systems was highlighted and several participants delegates expressed reservations at the backlog of contributions to institutions member States themselves had created. The meeting again emphasized the necessity for member States to commit financial resources to science and technology including science and technology information systems without excluding possibilities for external funding. The meeting also stressed the need for strengthening existing information and documentation systems in Africa and finding modalities for co-operation among them.

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) and CASTAFRICA II [agenda item 5(d)]

37. A representative of the secretariat, in introducing this item, highlighted the establishment and activities of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

for Science and Technology Development which was established in 1973. Originally, it was assigned the task of assisting the Commission in the definition and periodic review of the African strategy for science and technology development and to assist the ECA secretariat in the co-ordination of activities and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology for Development. However, its original terms of reference were expanded in 1980 in response to the increasing interest and awareness of the role and complexity of the issues to be tackled by member States in this area. The Committee had contributed substantially to the development of regional strategies in science and technology and is an important subsidiary organ of the Commission concerned with the development and application of science and technology for the socio-economic development of the region. The meeting was informed of the decision taken by CASTAFRICA II to establish a Standing Conference of Heads of National Science and Technology Policy-making Bodies to provide a forum for regular meetings in the field of science and technology policy between senior governmental experts of African member States, in addition to serving as a regional mechanism for follow-up to the CASTAFRICA II recommendations. Thus, the Standing Conference and the Intergovernmental Committee would somewhat handle similar issues, and the Committee's views were sought on this issue.

38. In the course of the debate which ensued, a representative of UNESCO provided clarification and information on the pertinent decisions taken by CASTAFRICA II concerning the follow-up mechanisms. The meeting noted that the establishment of the Standing Conference of Heads of National Science and Technology Policy-making Bodies of African member States had important implications on the Intergovernmental Committee already set up by ECA, and these needed to be examined at the appropriate levels. In this context, the meeting requested the ECA, OAU and UNESCO secretariats to devise appropriate modalities of co-operation in the interest of Africa and avoid duplication.

39. The meeting however reiterated its strong commitment to the activities and importance of the IGCESTD as a major tool for the socio-economic development of Africa.

Machinery for co-ordination of policy-making and planning in science and technology in selected African countries [agenda 6(a)]

40. A representative of the secretariat introduced document S&T/IGCESTD/5/6(i) and stated that a survey of governmental machinery for co-ordination of policy-making and planning in science and technology had been carried out in Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Despite the restricted coverage of countries, the survey still shows the necessity for all African countries to set up and strengthen where it exists such a mechanism.

41. The representative of UNCSTD introduced the document entitled "Policy guidelines for harmonization of activities for the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in science and technology for development" (A/CN.11/84). The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its ninth session, considered this subject and the document and, inter alia, requested that this should be submitted to other intergovernmental bodies dealing with science and technology for their views

and comments. The Committee was of the view that if these policy guidelines are to be useful and effective, the concerned intergovernmental bodies which determine the policies and programmes should be fully involved in the very processes of formulation so that they would be implemented. These guidelines are meant to serve as a frame and point of reference to individual organizations in formulating their own specific policy, determining priorities and formulating programmes.

42. As regards the approach contained in the policy guidelines, the essential elements are the following: (a) delineation of the common objectives towards the achievement of which the resources and energies of the United Nations system should be channelled; (b) standardized and comparable classification of science and technology activities in the medium-term plan and other comparable documents in the United Nations system; (c) increased focus on specific areas such as science and technology policies and planning; new and emerging areas of science and technology; transfer of technology, etc.; (d) concentration on country-level co-ordination, with a view to enhancing the impact of the activities of the United Nations system at the country level.

43. The views and comments of this Committee, particularly on the enhancement of the role of regional commissions in co-ordinating science and technology would be particularly useful. This would be taken into account in finalizing this document which would be considered again by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its tenth session in 1989.

44. The meeting took note of both documents.

Handbook on rural technologies for food processing and storage of African tubers and cereals [agenda item 6(b)]

45. A representative of the secretariat introduced this item and highlighted the importance of suitable and appropriate technologies for processing and storage of African tubers and cereals. Every African country has its own methods of processing and storage and the objective of the draft handbook is to present a survey so that these technologies could be accessible to all African users of the technologies. He stressed the fact that the handbook was still in a draft form and needed further study that could lead to upgrade traditional technologies at present in use in the member States, taking into consideration socio-economic factors. It would also take into account the role of transnational corporations in the agro-industrial operations in Africa, and which could have an impact on the upgrading and utilization of these traditional technologies.

46. During the discussion some suggestions were made towards the improvement of the draft handbook. To start with, the title needed to be modified so as not to restrict itself to rural technologies and the study should clearly indicate to whom it was addressed. The study should take into consideration nutritional and quality factors when discussing processing and ARSO's technical requirements for grain storage. The representative of FAO stated that his organization had prepared two handbooks which were relevant to the ECA study and promised to send copies to the secretariat. A representative of the secretariat welcomed these suggestions and promised to take them into account when finalizing the study.

ECA's programme of work and priorities in science and technology [agenda item 6(c)]

47. A representative of the secretariat introduced this item by explaining the structure and organization of the draft programme of work and priorities to 1988-1989 and the draft medium-term plan (MTP) for 1990-1995 of the ECA science and technology programme. He also highlighted the planned activities and outputs for 1988-1989 envisaged under the three subprogrammes, i.e., development of policies machineries for science and technology; development of manpower for science and technology; promotion of subregional, regional and interregional co-operation. In this regard, it was pointed out the United Nations Headquarters had decided not to present the draft medium-term plan (MTP) to the General Assembly now and to extend the 1984-1989 medium-term plan to cover the period 1990-1991.

48. The presentation was followed by lively debate during which a number of issues were raised. Some participants stated that the presentation of the medium-term plan omitted a specific reference to an analysis of constraints likely to impede the implementation and the targets to be achieved. It was necessary for the plan to indicate the target groups which were likely to be the immediate beneficiaries of the proposed activities. One participant pointed out that the Vienna Programme of Action was significant enough to be included among the legislative authorities for the activities in science and technology especially in view of the likely follow-up to the end-of-decade review expected shortly. Questions were raised as to the modality of considering and approving the MTP as the last ECA Conference of Ministers referred it to a committee which up to now had not met. Several observations and suggestions were also made on specific items in the programme. In reply, a representative of the secretariat provided clarification on the modalities for the plan preparation and approval and indicated that since decision had been taken to defer the introduction of the 1990-1995 MTP, the comments and observations being made were in order and would be taken into account in the subsequent revisions of the document. The specific suggestions and improvements in the text were noted by the secretariat for incorporation in the revision exercise.

Any other business (agenda item 7)

49. The Nigerian delegation reiterated its position on the various agenda items and the meeting took note of the statement.

50. A representative of the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) made a statement on the work of his organization and called for increased support from African member States for ANSTI's activities.

51. A representative of the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) thanked ECA and the members of the Committee for having invited UNCSTD to participate fully at this important meeting.

52. A representative of the secretariat proposed that it would forward to all member States an advance draft agenda for the sixth meeting of IGCESTD for their review prior to its finalization.

Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting (agenda item 8)

53. Participants examined the draft report presented by the rapporteur, as well as the final recommendations. The Committee adopted them after effecting the necessary modifications.

54. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the participants and to the secretariat for their valuable contributions to the success of the meeting. He then declared the meeting closed.

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONS

The fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development made the following recommendations:

1. Working Group activities

That member States support the activities of the Working Groups and allocate funds for the projects identified by the Working Groups; in that connection, since Africa has a number of development banks at national, subregional and regional levels, such banks and various multinational corporations should devote a certain percentage of their profits for science and technology.

2. Future of the Working Groups

That ECA MULPOCs should oversee and co-ordinate the Working Group activities in their respective subregions.

3. Development of indicators of Science and Technology in Africa

That the ECA secretariat should carry out, in collaboration with the OAU, ARCT, FAO, UNESCO, ILO and other relevant international organizations, in-depth studies on indicators on science and technology development, relevant to the African conditions, and present the studies for an examination by an expert group meeting.

4. ATAS and information systems

That the ECA secretariat continues to seek financial resources, both within the region and outside, for launching the pilot phase of the ATAS Africa project as early as possible.

5. African Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS)

That member States commit adequate financial resources to science and technology including science and technology information system without excluding possibilities for external fundings, and that they strengthen existing information and documentation systems in Africa and find modalities for co-operation among them.

6. IGCESTD and CASTAFRICA II

That the ECA, OAU and UNESCO secretariats devise appropriate modalities for co-operation in the interest of Africa and avoid duplication of their activities.

RESOLUTIONS

DRAFT

Resolution 1 on Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 on the Vienna Programme of Action for Science and Technology Development,

Recalling the provisions of operative paragraph 4 of the resolution on the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Also recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution S-13/2 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Further recalling resolutions 248 (XI) and 385 (XV) of the Commission on the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Aware of the catalytic role played by the Working Group of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development established by Commission resolution 445 (XVII),

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development made at its fifth meeting held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 November 1987,

1. Approves the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee;
2. Calls upon all member States to give full and active support to the ECA secretariat and its co-operating agencies in regard to the activities of the Working Groups;
3. Decides that each MULPOC should co-ordinate the activities of the respective Working Group of the Intergovernmental Committee and keep its member States and economic grouping in the subregion fully informed of the tasks and requirements of the Working Group;
4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of this resolution with the co-operation of the OAU secretariat.

Resolution 2 on co-operation between ECA/OAU/UNESCO
on the follow-up of CASTAFRICA II

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 on the Vienna Programme of Action for Science and Technology Development,

Recalling the provisions of operative paragraph 4 of resolution on the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity,

Also recalling Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution S-13/2 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990,

Further recalling resolutions 248 (XI) and 385(XV) of the Commission on the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development made at its fifth meeting held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 6 November 1987,

Aware of the Kilimanjaro Declaration by the second Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Africa which requested the Director General of UNESCO to take the necessary measures with a view to the setting up of a Standing Conference of Heads of National Science and Technology Policy-Making Bodies of African Member States of UNESCO,

Recommends that the secretariats of ECA/OAU/UNESCO should jointly work out modalities for ensuring that the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development and of the Standing Conference of Heads of National Science and Technology Policy-Making Bodies of African Member States of UNESCO are complementary.