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

(Addis Ababa, 10-12 November 1975)

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## ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

### Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa from 10 to 12 November 1975.

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. David Wasawo, Chief, Division of Natural Resources, Science and Technology, who addressed participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji. He welcomed representatives of ECA member States and of the various agencies and reminded them that the main task of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts was to secure the implementation of the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology to Development. The Committee had already discussed the Plan at its earlier meetings and made appropriate recommendations. Reference was made to the secretariat's activities during 1974 for promoting the plan in a number of African countries and among donor organizations. He stressed that the successful implementation of the plan would depend on the evolution of appropriate national institutions capable of relating science and technology policies to overall development programmes and hoped that the Committee would offer some guidance on how ECA could assist in this regard. Finally he made reference to the current discussions on the establishment of the new international economic order and what it meant to Africa in terms of resources transfer, sovereignty over natural resources, transfer of technology and other issues relevant to science and technology. The proposed United Nations Conference on Science and Technology was another important issue deserving the attention of the Committee. He hoped that the Committee would consider those issues in earnest and offer some guidance both to the secretariat and to ECA member States as a whole.

### Election of the officers

3. The Committee elected Mr. Haile Lul Teoicke, Ethiopia, as Chairman; Mr. T. Sedalo, Togo, as first Vice-Chairman; Mr. Felix N.C. Oragwu, Nigeria, as second Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Yousef Morsi Hussein, Egypt, as Rapporteur.

### Attendance

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia.

5. Also present were observers from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Science and Technology; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO); Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and the East African Community.

Adoption of the agenda

6. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Opening of the meeting
  2. Matters arising from the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development
  3. Review of the implementation of the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology to Development
    - (i) Report on the ECA secretariat's activities
    - (ii) Country reports
  4. Second United Nations Conference on Science and Technology
  5. Future work and activities of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
  6. Other business
  7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Matters arising from the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

7. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced the item by drawing attention to document S&T/CESTD/3.3 on matters arising from the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.
8. He pointed out that the regional project for the promotion of the African Regional Plan referred to in the first and second reports of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts had been approved in principle by UNDP. It was envisaged that, in line with the advice received from UNDP, a meeting would take place soon among representatives of ECA, UNESCO and UNDP to review the project, after which UNDP might be expected to take a decision on its financing.
9. With regard to the information from specialized agencies requested by the second meeting, the secretariat had so far received two contributions which were being processed for distribution to member countries.
10. The question of holding country seminars for the promotion of the African Regional Plan was kept in mind by the secretariat although it did not have specific funds for that activity. However, the secretariat was anxious to know whether any countries had plans for holding seminars in the future so as to enable it to offer assistance in the organization and running of such seminars.

11. In line with the CASTAFRICA recommendation, three joint UNESCO/ECA/OAU secretariat meetings had been held as a follow-up to CASTAFRICA and a fourth one had already been planned to take place before the end of 1975.

12. On the question of publicizing the African Regional Plan, assistance had been rendered to the editor of the Cameroon Tribune in his effort to serialize the African Regional Plan in his paper. It was also pointed out that reports from the East African Academy at Nairobi, Kenya, indicated that it had reproduced the African Regional Plan and distributed copies to its branches in Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya.

13. Both the Permanent Consultative Committee of the Maghreb and the East African Community had been invited to the third meeting and it was heartening to see a representative of the East African Community at the meeting.

14. The report and recommendations of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development had been well received by the second Conference of Ministers of ECA which had met at Nairobi during February 1975. That Conference had adopted resolution 268(XII) on the implementation of the African Regional Plan.

15. During the discussions which followed, one representative wanted to know why the results of the CASTAFRICA conference were not included on the Committee's agenda as indicated in paragraph 55 of the report of the second meeting of the Committee. In reply, a representative of the secretariat assured the meeting that the CASTAFRICA recommendations had led to the establishment of the ECA/OAU/UNESCO intersecretariat machinery to follow-up conference decisions and that ECA would endeavour to provide a report on the progress made in that regard.

16. Several delegations expressed concern at the delay in securing approval for the draft UNDP project for the promotion of the African Regional Plan and felt that the assistance covered by the project was now needed by some African countries. A representative of the secretariat assured participants that everything possible was being done to finalize the matter in consultation with UNDP and UNESCO.

17. On the question of publicizing the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology to Development, one representative informed the meeting that a seminar had been held at Dar es Salaam, and he envisaged that a bigger seminar on the same theme might be organized in the near future. Many representatives welcomed that effort and those of the Cameroon Tribune in publicizing the Plan and hoped that the Committee would be informed of the impact such activities had in the respective countries.

18. One representative reported that ECA had contacted the African countries asking them to indicate whether or not they favoured the three regional projects proposed by the African Regional Group of UNACAST. While the contacts were in progress, UNESCO was also organizing subregional consultations on areas of science and technology in which co-operation was possible and the next such subregional seminar was scheduled for 24-27 November 1975 at Nairobi for the countries of east and southern Africa. In addition, OAU was also pursuing various proposals in the same field. He felt strongly that there was duplication of effort and urged

greater co-operation amongst the various agencies and the rationalization of their activities. A representative of the secretariat assured him that efforts were being made by OAU, ECA and UNESCO to initiate appropriate action to minimize duplication.

19. One representative recalled the discussion on co-operation between ECA and OAU at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and wondered why OAU was not represented at the present meeting. In reply, the secretariat representative assured the Committee that OAU had been invited to the meeting.

20. On the question of financing the implementation of the African Regional Plan, one representative suggested that ECA might take advantage of the close links that exist between the OAU and the Arab League to secure funds for some of the projects in the Plan.

21. In conclusion, the Chairman stressed the need to harmonize the activities of the various agencies dealing with the application of science and technology to development in Africa.

#### Review of the implementation of the African Regional Plan

##### (i) Report on the ECA secretariat's activities

22. Introducing document S&T/CESTD/3.4, a representative of the secretariat drew attention to difficulties and shortcomings as well as achievements in implementing the African Regional Plan during the period 1973-1975.

23. He noted that missions to 11 countries had been undertaken during the period under review for the purpose of rendering advisory assistance to member States, but the missions had been too short to allow broad consultations. A report was also given on the secretariat's efforts to promote the African Regional Plan and mobilize resources for its implementation.

24. The major concern of ECA at present was to render assistance to the least developed countries in the region which might gain much from the development of subregional and regional co-operation. In that connexion, the secretariat also directed its efforts to promotion of subregional projects such as the creation of centres for marine science and technology, information and documentation centres and research and development centres on solar energy. Nine countries had expressed their interest in and support for the idea of establishing such centres and the next stage, when more favourable replies had been received, would be to convene subregional meetings to elaborate the projects and work out methods of co-operation amongst the countries concerned. In that regard ECA was anxious to see that member States pooled their efforts and resources for the effective solution of common problems.

25. Finally, he informed the meeting that the Executive Secretary intended to establish a joint ECA/UNESCO mission which would make it possible to obtain more detailed information on what further action should be undertaken for the development of science and technology in Africa.

26. In the discussion which followed, one participant expressed regret that ECA could not obtain more funds to render support to the least developed countries. He supported the idea that greater results might be achieved if more member States expressed their readiness to assist neighbouring countries and recommended that member States should be requested to indicate areas in which they were ready to assist other countries and what areas existed for mutual co-operation. He supported the idea of creating the subregional centres mentioned in the report of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee and also stressed the necessity for the Committee to give all possible support to the ECA secretariat's efforts to obtain more funds for the implementation of the African Regional Plan.

27. Another representative raised certain questions concerning the results obtained so far from the missions; the prospects for further promotion of subregional projects; and the possibilities of obtaining more funds. In reply, the secretariat representative stressed in particular that the missions had showed that various countries had different levels of scientific and technological development and the intensity of activity in this field varied from country to country; that several subregional projects had already been elaborated and submitted to UNDP and other agencies for their consideration; and that in order to obtain more funds the secretariat had approached many agencies but had had no success as yet.

28. Some participants expressed their satisfaction with what the ECA secretariat had done with its limited resources and stressed that more initiatives should come from countries themselves.

29. One representative raised a question concerning the cost of creating the subregional centres envisaged in the proposals made at the second meeting. In reply, a representative of the secretariat explained that the cost would not be known before detailed projects had been elaborated.

30. The Chairman invited members to present brief reports on the implementation of the African Regional Plan in their respective countries.

(ii) Country reports

Nigeria

31. The representative of Nigeria informed the meeting that previous country reports had provided information on the existing scientific research councils, institutes and departments and the functions of each establishment in the various sectors. In those reports it was stated that a series of studies was being conducted on an interministerial basis. Symposia and specialist committees were reviewing scientific activities and identifying technical and allied problems which hindered development in various sectors. All those activities are under the direction of the Nigerian Council for Science and Technology.

32. The following sectors were being examined:

Agricultural sector: food and industrial crops, tree crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries.

Manufacturing sector: agro-based industries, solid mineral based industries, petro-chemicals, iron and steel development and metal industries.

Fuel and power: fossil fuel, electricity generation, nuclear and solar energy.

Natural resources: land resources survey, mineral resources, and water resources.

Transport and telecommunications: road transport development, railways, inland waterways, marine, transport and telecommunications.

Housing: housing, urban development and the environment.

Health: medical research priorities.

33. The analytical and diagnostic phase of the work was now completed in all sectors. The second phase of the work was concerned with the action programmes which had been formulated for science and technology development. The Nigerian Council for Science and Technology (NCST) had determined a set of dynamic policies to guide the activities in science and technology throughout the country. Those policy measures included:

- Scientific and technical manpower development policy;
- Research and development policy;
- Transfer of technology policy;
- National co-ordination of science and technology policy;
- International co-operation policy. Instruments had been created to give effect to those policies.

34. In addition, NCST, in conjunction with other government agencies, had identified long-term programmes and priorities for research development and innovation in science and technology in various sectors. For the period 1975-1980, which coincided with the third national development plan, certain priority research programmes in support of the economic and social programmes of the country had been identified. A number of research institutes and agencies were being established to give effect to the programmes in the various sectors of the National Development Plan. Financial provisions had also been made for the institutes.

35. Work on policies, programmes, institutions and financial allocations for action programmes in science and technology was thus nearly completed and integrated into national economic and social development. It was still necessary however, to ensure that each programme was carried out according to the policies and for that purpose NCST had recently been strengthened by the Government to undertake on a continuing basis co-ordination and evaluation of all government scientific research councils, institutes and departments. NCST was thus a national instrument for ensuring that: (i) the main areas of national development received adequate scientific research support; (ii) the programmes of research were directly linked to the programmes of development; (iii) adequate resources (financial and manpower) and facilities were available for research; (iv) there was no wasteful duplication; (v) the thrust in science and technology was maintained and evaluated and any constraints eliminated in order to achieve the overall modernization of the country.

Those policy measures and programmes were now being compiled in the "National Policies and Priorities for Research in Science and Technology". The document, when completed, would be made available to all interested organizations as a guide for the Nigerian scene in science and technology development.

United Republic of Tanzania

36. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania said that since the last meeting of the Committee, the working committees of the Tanzania National Scientific Research Council had continued with the exercise of identifying programmes and projects within the framework of the African Regional Plan. The Committees were able to identify in broad terms projects in the following fields: agriculture, industry, health and sanitation, building and construction, natural resources, food and nutrition, scientific manpower development. A summary of those projects could be made available to the ECA secretariat.

37. Owing to the limited expertise of the members of the working committees, it was not possible to elaborate costed projects in a form acceptable to the National Planning Commission. The Council had therefore decided that seminars should be organized to enable members of the working committees to obtain some working experience in project formulation and costing. One seminar had been organized in October 1975 using the local expertise available in the various ministries and public institutions. A follow-up seminar was expected to be mounted before the end of November 1975. It was envisaged that after the seminars members would be in a position to polish up the programmes and projects which had already been identified.

38. In the United Republic of Tanzania the third five-year development plan which was expected to commence in July 1975, had been postponed owing to the unfavourable economic position of the country. It would therefore be possible to submit the projects to the planning commission before the third five-year development plan was launched. The Council would also be able to incorporate projects within the annual plans during the five-year development plan period. In that way, the exercise of identifying projects within the framework of the African Regional Plan would be treated as a continuing activity.

39. The Council had already approved the establishment of a National Scientific Research Information (or Documentation) Centre. With consultancy assistance from UNESCO, it had been possible to identify the national needs for collecting research information and for the provision of up-to-date information to the scientific community.

40. With the assistance of the International Development Research Centre of Canada, a two-and-a-half year research project on a compost latrine had already started. It was expected that the results of the project would enable the United Republic of Tanzania to develop, using local materials, a compost latrine which would be cheap enough to build and reduce health hazards connected with human waste disposal. It was a dry system which did not require water and would be suitable for dry rural conditions.

41. With regard to regional projects, the United Republic of Tanzania had already accepted the three projects proposed by the ECA secretariat. A seminar was held at the University of Dar es Salaam which identified various aspects of the establishment of a Marine Science Development Centre. The University of Rhode Island had already indicated great interest in participating in the project. It was hoped that that institution would form the basis of co-operation with other African centres. As reported, a plan was under way for the establishment of a Research

Documentation Centre. The United Republic of Tanzania also had great interest in the exploitation of technologies for energy resources. OAU, ECA and UNESCO should get together to reach agreement on co-operation in that venture.

### Egypt

42. The representative of Egypt said that a report had been made on the structure and organization of scientific and technological research activities in his country at the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and it appeared in the proceedings of the CASTAFRICA Conference. He hoped that a more detailed account would be published and distributed through the documents for the CASTARAB Conference in 1976. He added that the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology constituted the central machinery for the co-ordination of scientific and technological research activities in the country and also carried out a considerable research programme through research agencies which reported to the president of the Academy. Those agencies included: the National Research Centre, the Atomic Energy Establishment and specialized research institutes such as the Oceanography Institute, the Petroleum Research Institute, the Theodora Bilharzia Institute for Indigenous Diseases, the Metallurgical Research Institute, the Observatory Institute and the Meteorology and Standardization Institute.

43. The National Research Centre was the biggest research body in Egypt. It was a multiple research institute in various disciplines of science and was comprised of 15 main divisions dealing with different branches of science such as agriculture, applied chemistry (textile, polymers), engineering, medicine, physics, biology... etc.

44. From the experience gained during the last 20 years and in view of the country's conviction that science should be used to solving national problems and of the fact that Egypt had trained manpower for the application of science and technology, the National Research Centre had adopted a new policy by which it might recruit scientists for the solution of national problems.

45. With joint efforts and co-ordination between the National Research Centre and the Academy, and after studying the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology Development, five main research programmes had been accepted for adoption by the National Research Centre in January 1976. They were: (1) Food and agriculture; (2) Health and environment; (3) Natural resources; (4) Energy; and (5) Transfer of technology.

The method chosen necessitated the establishment of the following offices responsible for policy implementation: (a) Programmes office; (b) Marketing and sponsored research office; and (c) R&D office.

46. Egypt was eager to render support to other African countries in promoting co-operation in the field of science and technology. That view had been expressed through the country's decision to make its facilities for joint scientific research projects available on a bilateral or multilateral basis and through the granting

of fellowships and sponsoring short scientific visits. As a first step, it was suggested that a definite programme of effective co-operation could emerge through mutual consultations between the ECA secretariat and the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology.

#### Togo

47. The representative of Togo stated that the establishment of the Ministry of Scientific Research had given a big boost to scientific and technological activities in the country. Operating under the Ministry was a National Institute of Scientific Research which was responsible for the co-ordination of research as well as directing research within institutions under its direct jurisdiction. He also made reference to the Togolese Association of Scientific Research which played an important role in that area.

#### Morocco

48. The representative of Morocco reported that efforts had been made to develop scientific research. In Morocco research was undertaken in both the private and the public sectors and attention was devoted permanently to technology appropriate to local conditions. In order to avoid duplication a co-ordinating agency had been established. He also noted that research undertaken within the university and other institutions was under the supervision of the Ministry for higher education.

#### Ethiopia

49. The representative of Ethiopia reported that during the second meeting of the Committee, the country had been in the throes of preparing the Fourth National Five-Year Plan and had therefore been unable to report in detail on developments for implementation of the African Regional Plan. Although the Fourth National Five-Year Plan had since been postponed, it did not mean that the development of science and technology had stopped. Many research institutes were functioning in different sectors of the national economy and especially in agriculture, medicine and standardization.

50. He stressed that the new Government had realized the importance of developing science and technology for the country and was taking action to build up new research institutions as well as to establish governmental machinery to co-ordinate the efforts of different ministries and to elaborate short- and long-term plans. A National Science and Technology Commission had been established recently to be responsible for the national policy in this field. The educational system had been restructured to facilitate the implementation of science and technology.

51. Finally a special institution, the "Zamacha", had been established to inform people of new developments including information about the importance of science and technology for development, particularly in the field of health, hygiene and education.

Uganda

52. The representative of Uganda stated that Uganda was one of the African countries that an ECA representative had visited in connexion with the African Regional Plan.

53. A National Research Council had established in Uganda in 1973. The Council co-ordinated all research in Uganda and formulated all policies relating to research in science and technology and had a research unit which undertook research in certain such priority areas as agricultural research, research in processing agricultural raw materials and building materials.

54. The results achieved were still limited partly because the Council had been set up only two years ago and partly because of problems of manpower. Well-trained scientists and experts in technology were still few and when they became available they were assigned to other areas with more immediate priority.

55. With regard to regional projects Uganda liked to associate itself with other States which had fully endorsed the areas identified by the African Regional Group of UNACAST. In that connexion, he wanted to ask the representative of the East African Community to expand on the regional research projects that the East African Community was currently undertaking.

56. In the field of research in industrial development, the African Regional Plan identified several critical areas in industry which yearned for research. The list of projects was quite large and so each African country should choose the projects felt to be critical at its own stage of development. In Uganda's case he found that the following three were critical areas: (a) Creation, within the Ministry of Industry, of units responsible for project identification and preparing feasibility reports. Such units should be manned by both economists and industrial engineers; (b) Development of local consulting organizations to provide engineering and technical services in project studies, project and product design; (c) Development of local industrial service laboratories. Some efforts in that direction were being made by the Government with assistance from UNIDO in setting up a Mobile Maintenance Unit.

Second United Nations Conference on Science and Technology

57. A representative of the ECA secretariat drew attention to the earlier discussions on the item as reflected in document E/CN.14/624. The text before the meeting was an extract from the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group which was due for consideration by the Economic and Social Council's Committee on Science and Technology in February 1976.

58. The importance of the proposed Conference could not be overemphasized and African countries should be prepared to make a greater impact at the proposed conference than had been the case at the 1963 Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the Benefit of the Less Developed Areas. It was possible to do so provided countries made adequate preparations for the meeting and it would ensure that Africa's interests were well presented and considered by

the Conference. Experience at similar conferences in the past had proved that a very close follow up of the preliminary consultations, now going on, was quite vital so as not to lose impact at the final meeting.

59. In connexion with the preliminary preparations, ECA had already indicated to United Nations Headquarters that additional resources would be necessary. As far as could be foreseen, they might consist of one additional staff member, consultants to collect and analyse information from African countries, travel funds, resources to finance the organization of a regional conference and communications charges.

60. The representative of the secretariat further informed the meeting that 14 African countries were members of the Economic and Social Council Committee on Science and Technology for Development which would review the report of its Intergovernmental Working Group on the question of convening a United Nations Conference of Science and Technology. He hoped that the African region would take advantage of its representation on the Economic and Social Council Committee to ensure that the African view was fully taken account of in the preparatory consultations. Furthermore, he informed the meeting that the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, which had four African members, would meet at Geneva in November 1975 and was expected to review and comment on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Working Group. It might be useful to convey to it the views of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on the proposed United Nations Conference.

61. The Deputy Director of the Office for Science and Technology, United Nations briefed participants on important developments in science and technology topics which had been considered by the seventh special session of the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session. He highlighted the issues which would be placed before the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development to be held in New York from 2 to 20 February 1976, particularly the World and African Plans for the Application of Science and Technology.

62. With regard to the preparations for the 1976 Conference, he reported that the intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development had emphasized that the Conference should be action-oriented and that provision should be made for effective follow-up. In that respect, it was felt that, in its recommendations for action, the Conference should differentiate between the needs of the various regions, rather than trying to attain a common denominator which would be too general for practical application.

63. There was also agreement - which was important for the regional commissions - that the subject areas for the Conference should be selected on the basis of national and regional reviews to be undertaken as part of the preparatory process. Such regional meetings should select a maximum of five subjects of agreed regional significance. The preparatory committee of the Conference would then, in turn, select five subject areas from among the proposals received from the five regions. Countries having a particular interest in one or another of those areas would prepare studies relating to that subject.

64. The Intergovernmental Working Group had recommended a detailed agenda broken down into four principal topics:

- (1) Science and technology for development with subtopics such as the choice and transfer of technology for development; elimination of obstacles for the better utilization of science and technology; and methods of integrating science and technology in socio-economic development.
- (2) Institutional arrangements and new forms of international co-operation in the application of science and technology with subtopics like the building up and expansion of institutional systems in developing countries for science and technology; research and development in the industrialized countries on problems of importance to developing countries; mechanisms for exchange of scientific and technological information and experiences significant to development; promotion of co-operation among developing countries and the role of developed countries in such co-operation.
- (3) Utilization of the existing United Nations system and other international organizations to implement the above goals in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.
- (4) Science and technology and the future, which was to be a debate on a report by a panel of experts to be convened on the subject.

65. The Working Group explicitly specified that the preparatory period of the Conference should be an integrated and fundamental component of the Conference itself, comprising preliminary national and regional analyses of relevant socio-economic problems which could be solved with the help of science and technology.

66. A final decision on the Conference, which was to have been taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session at the end of 1976, had been pre-empted by the unanimous resolution adopted by the seventh special session of the General Assembly regarding the Conference. The preparatory work for the Conference consequently could start, both at the regional and at the national level. The continued implementation of the African Plan of Action for the Application of Science and Technology to Development might be linked with the preparations for the Conference on Science and Technology for Development. National, subregional, and regional seminars on both topics covered, in part, the same subject and aimed at raising the awareness of the public, of the scientific and technological community as well as of decision-makers on the importance and usefulness of science and technology.

67. Panels on carefully selected specific topics could be particularly useful for identifying the needs of African countries and pinpointing the requirements in regional meetings in the framework of the preparation of the Conference. The National Committees on Science and Technology, could receive a new impetus by focusing on the preparation of the Conference and by defining the actual and specific concerns of African countries in science and technology.

68. Many delegations indicated their considerable interest in the question of the proposed United Nations Conference on Science and Technology. They wanted ECA to keep all African countries fully informed of all decisions on that matter so as to enable them to be better prepared for the Conference when it took place. Considerable emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen secretariat resources so that it could fully discharge its role regarding the convening of a regional preparatory meeting and in carrying out various co-ordinating activities connected with the preparations for such a conference. Participants felt strongly that ECA should undertake a review of the situation with regard to the development and utilization of science and technology in Africa and make it available to the African countries.

#### Future work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts

69. A representative of the ECA secretariat drew attention to the fact that until now the practice had been that ECA secretariat proposed topics for discussion at the Committee's meetings. However, the secretariat was increasingly of the view that members of the Committee were better informed of the problems confronting the African countries which could be included for discussion at the Committee meetings. In other words, the ECA secretariat expected greater initiative from members in the formulation of agendas for future meetings. The secretariat was ready to assist the Committee in implementing its terms of reference, but members could assist ECA in pointing out the areas of particular importance which they knew better because they were working in the field.

70. Reference was made to the difficulties experienced by the secretariat in communicating with member States in connexion with arrangements for the Committee's meetings and the representative of the secretariat invited the views of participants on how those difficulties could be overcome.

71. In the lengthy discussion which followed some participants held the view that more time should be given to members to consider the above request.

72. The representative of ILO suggested that the ECA secretariat should carry out a study and submit a document on the question of the transfer of technology indicating successes and difficulties in that important area which has been under discussion for several years.

73. Some representatives expressed a desire to have a review of ECA secretariat difficulties in the implementation of the African Regional Plan. One wanted to know how much money would be requested for the implementation of the whole ECA programme in science and technology.

74. With regard to communications with Governments, some participants expressed the view that, in addition to formal channels for correspondence, copies of such communication might be sent to governmental agencies within member States directly responsible for science and technology development.

75. The Committee noted that not all the undertakings it planned were implemented in full; for example the subregional projects recommended by the second meeting had not yet been executed; funds for implementation of the African Regional Plan

requested by the Committee had not yet been obtained, etc. It was stressed that members of the Committee and other African countries had to send more meaningful information to the secretariat to enable it to prepare proposals, taking into consideration the aspects which had not been accomplished.

76. In reply, the representative of the secretariat stated that it was only in 1973 that the second Conference of Ministers had considered science and technology as one of the important sectors of ECA activities and appointed the Committee to review the secretariat's work in the field as well as to assist in following the right policy. The secretariat would like therefore to have more suggestions from members of the Committee either during or after the present meeting. Such proposals would be considered for inclusion in the agenda for the next meeting.

#### Any other business

77. The representative of the East African Community informed the meeting about the achievements in mutual co-operation among Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda in the field of developing scientific research by institutions of the East African Community.

78. He listed specialized institutions for research in many sectors which had made important findings but at the same time he stressed that in varying degrees the countries concerned had experienced some problems in the utilization of the findings for speeding up economic development.

79. Finally he stated that co-operation in science and technology gave opportunities to participating countries to develop research services which would have not been possible on an individual country basis.

#### Adoption of the report

80. It was agreed that, in the light of the suggestions made by the participants, the ECA should circulate the final report to the members as soon as possible to enable them to make any comments they might wish to introduce. Such amendments would be submitted to the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development. Subject to those observations, the draft Committee adopted the present report.