

55838-20233

**Distr.
GENERAL**

**S&T/IGCESTD/7/4
27 May 1991**

Original: ENGLISH

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for
Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD)**

Seventh Meeting

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
4 -8 November 1991**

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING

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1. The report of the Sixth meeting of the IGCESTD was presented to the Eleventh Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) held in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 5 to 13 May 1990. The Committee took note of the report and adopted one draft resolution on: Strengthening of capacities in Africa for the development and application of science and technology in the 1990s. Subsequently that draft resolution was adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers as resolution 689 (XXV). The full text of the resolution is given in the annex.
2. Concerning the subject of developing indicators for science and technology in Africa, the secretariat's contacts with UNESCO indicated that the latter was interested in carrying out joint activities with the ECA in this area. This interest was confirmed during the Sixth meeting of the ECA/UNESCO Joint Concertation Meeting held in Dakar from 26 - 27 November 1990 at which it was agreed to include the S&T indicators among the activities to be jointly pursued by the two organisations. Additionally, the report on the development of science and technology indicators was recirculated to the member States for their views.
3. During the period under review, the secretariat organised meetings of the Working Groups and also searched for funds for the implementation of the projects identified by the Working Groups of the IGCESTD. A detailed report on these activities will be presented under item 5 of the agenda.
4. With regard to the concern expressed on the need to stress the transfer and dissemination of technologies, specific actions were underway through the pilot and demonstration units being established under the UNDP project RAF/87/068. Various units have been established to disseminate technologies in food processing (gari production in Ghana, fish preservation in Nigeria and Cameroon, and energy generation in various countries where biogas units have been established). The dissemination activities involve training and demonstration of the use of the upgraded technologies to potential users, entrepreneurs, fabricators and rural development promoters.
5. As a follow up to the decade review of the VPA the secretariat is undertaking the second phase of an exercise concerned with the performance review of institutions for science and technology in Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Malawi. The results of the first phase of this exercise will be reported under item 6 of the agenda.

RESOLUTION

Strengthening of capacities in Africa for the development and application of science and technology in the 1990s

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling its resolution 386(XV) of 12 April 1980 on strengthening Africa's capability to use science and technology for development,

Stressing the increasing importance of science and technology for development in Africa in the context of the rapidly changing international economic environment,

Convinced of the central role that science and technology plays as a vital instrument for the improvement of the quality of life and the eradication of poverty in the context of the promotion of economic growth and sustained development in Africa,

Emphasizing the need to enhance human resources development and utilization in order to promote the endogenous capacity in science and technology of African countries, in particular to face the challenges of development and accelerated technological change posed by the present scientific and technological revolution,

Noting that science and technology information through industrial property is of vital importance for technology transfer and development in Africa,

Noting that the ECA secretariat is required to undertake further responsibilities in the promotion of science and technology in Africa in the future,

Noting further that the ECA secretariat is required to co-ordinate and harmonize the effort made in science and technology development in Africa,

Concerned about of the continued low level of resources devoted to the development and application of science and technology in the member States,

1. Considers that science and technology should be one of the major components in the national, subregional and regional programmes of socio-economic development in Africa,

2. Urges the ECA member States to allocate additional resources to the development and application of science and

technology and strive towards the attainment of the target of one per cent of GNP recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Heads of States and Governments in 1980,

3. Requests the member States to increase their financial support to the activities of the Working Groups in the implementation of subregional projects,

4. Further urges each member State to set up a fund for science and technology for development,

5. Requests that the resources in terms of manpower and funding of the Science and Technology Programme at the ECA secretariat be increased to enable the programme to deal effectively with the increasing responsibilities in the region,

6. Urges ECA member States to fully utilize the technological information facilities available from the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO), the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and to support those organizations,

7. Aslos urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system such as UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and UNESCO, to allocate adequate financial resources to strengthen the science and technology capacity in Africa.