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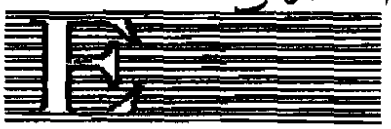

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UNITED NATIONS
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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT (IGCESTD)

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 22 -25 November 1993

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Opening and duration of the meeting

1. The Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, from 22 to 25 November 1993. The meeting was opened at 11.00 am on 22 November 1993 by Mr. Ahmed Bahri, Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Mr.Wawa O. Leba, Director of ESCAS Department, Organization of African Unity gave a statement.

B. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cap Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Representatives of the following United Nations organs, organizations and bodies attended the meeting: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO).

4. The following intergovernmental organisations and international institutions were represented at the meeting: the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA)

C. Election of officers

5. The Committee unanimously elected the following officers:- Chairman: Mr. Asrat Bulbula (Ethiopia); Vice-Chairman Mr.L. B.B.Bigou (Benin), First Rapporteur: Prof. V.K. Bhandari (Botswana), Second Rapporteur: Mr.Luis Alves (Cap Verde)

D. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

6. The Committee unanimously adopted the following agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Bureau
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
4. Matters arising from the report of the Seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESD)
5. Report on the activities of the subregional Working Groups for science and technology
6. Strategies and guidelines for the management of science and technology:
   (a) Methodologies for the planning and management of science and technology policy for development;
   (b) The role of subregional and regional technological associations and professional institutions in the management of science and technology;
   (c) Acquisition and transfer of nuclear science and technology for agricultural production and food preservation;
   (d) Institutional capacity building in science and technology policy;
   (e) Integrating science and technology, economic and development policies;
   (f) Technology assessment for better technological priorities and choices.
7. Any Other Business
8. Adoption of the report
9. Closure of the meeting

7. The Committee adopted the Provisional Programme of Work as presented by the Secretariat. It was noted that under item No. 3, the programme may be concluded by Thursday.

II ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

8. The meeting was opened by Mr. Ahmed Bahri who read the opening statement on behalf of Mr Layashi Yaker, the Executive Secretary who could not be present because of other obligations. After welcoming the participants, he thanked their respective governments and institutions for accepting the invitation and their support in sending high level delegations to the meeting. He appraised the participants on the decisions taken by the Nineteenth ECA Conference of Ministers to upgrade the Committee to an African Regional Conference on Science and Technology within the revised intergovernmental structure of the Commission. He also informed the Committee of the Secretariat's effort in mobilising resources for the Working Group's activities which were implemented since November 1991, and thanked the financing agencies for their support. In this connection the Committee was reminded of the need to seek new funding

modalities for the subregional activities and to examine measures for increasing member States' commitment and support for them. He drew the attention of the participants to the proposed establishment of the African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAND) which would provide an enduring basis for sustaining research and development on the African continent. A related and equally important development was the First Presidential Forum held in Gaborone, 30th October and 1st November 1993, aimed at mobilising political leadership to support science and technology in the region.

9. Turning to the business of the eighth meeting, he observed that its overriding theme was on the management of science and technology resources. In this regard, the secretariat was expected to present various papers based on its activities during the 1992-93 biennium. The issues to be considered covered important aspects vis: methodologies for planning and management of science and technology policies and the related institutional aspects of science and technology, the integration of science and technology policies with economic and development policies, and technology assessment as a tool for better technology choices. The Committee would also consider the role of subregional and regional technological associations and professional institutions in fostering regional integration within the framework of the attainment of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. Finally he expressed appreciation for the contribution made by the Committee to the development of regional strategies in science and technology and looked forward to a successful outcome of the eighth meeting.

10. Mr. Wawa O. Leba presented an opening address on behalf of Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity. After welcoming the participants, he assured the Committee that the OAU attached great importance to science and technology and was concerned with the implementation of resolutions, declarations and plans previously adopted by the African leaders. He informed the meeting that up to date more than 30 Member States ratified the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, which will enter into force after the ratification by 2/3 of OAU Member States. He pointed out that the Treaty emphasized the role of Science and Technology in the integrated development process, and he called for concerete steps to promote Science & Technology among Member States. In this regard he referred to the existing collaboration between OAU and ECA in general and in particular in elaborating on the Protocol on Science and Technology which will be shortly presented for adoption.

11. The Committee was called upon to come up with concrete results and present modalities for operationalizing science and technology. With regard to financing, he drew the attention of the the meeting to the current political changes taking place in the world which might have repercussions on the science and technology endeavour in the African region. Finally he confirmed OAU's readiness to continue collaboration with ECA in the activities emanating from the work of the Committee.

Matters arising from the report of the Seventh meeting (Agenda item 4)

12. After the presentation of this agenda item member States commended the Secretariat for actions taken on the resolution calling for the creation of the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology. ECA's Conference of Ministers has accepted the proposal of the Intergovernmental Committee to set up the Conference which will meet every two years. The Intergovernmental Committee is superseded by the Conference which will hold its first meeting in 1995.

13. In addition, the participants called for:

- the active participation of Ministers responsible for science and technology in the African region to strengthen leadership and commitment

- the need to follow-up on the proposed study on science and technology indicators

- the need for a sustainable development plan of action in science and technology with provision of adequate resources

- the setting-up of an enabling environment for commercialization of research results

- an African network for popularizing science and technology

- the need to establish or revisit national science and technology policies, bearing in mind such means as science and technology parks and technology incubators

- the greater use of the TOKTEN program to avail of the expertise of expatriate scientists

- a prospective study in science and technology in the African region in the next 20 years

Report on the activities of the subregional Working Group for science and technology (Agenda item 5)

14. A representative of the Secretariat introduced document S&T/IGCESTD/1/5 and pointed out that during the period under review the secretariat secured funding for the implementation of a number of subregional projects. With the financial backing of the Foundation for Research Development of South Africa, the Southern Africa Working Group held a Workshop in Maseru during 2 -4 May 1993 on the Large scale production of school science equipment. The meeting approved elements of a feasibility study which would include mathematical equipment and agreed on modalities for associating member States very closely in this exercise.

15. The Eastern Africa Working Group held a training seminar on Technology Assessment in Kampala during 20-24 September 1993. The meeting was funded by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The seminar covered methodologies and capacity building for technology assessment, as well as the African countries' experience in that field.

16. The implementation of a Workshop on the development of a subregional policy in science and technology for the Southern Africa subregion was stalled due to logistic problems with the venue. Note was taken of the fact that the implementation of the project on the Procurement. Repair and Maintenance of Scientific Equipment in the Southern Africa Subregion was not held due to lack of funds. Substantive preparations were done in respect of the conference on the development of a subregional science and technology policy for West Africa, but the funding and collaborating agency was not in position to carry out the activity during 1993. It was envisaged that the two above activities would be implemented early during the 1994-95 biennium. Regarding future activities, plans were in hand to hold a meeting of the Northern Africa Working Group in Tunis during 13 - 16 December 1993.

17. During the discussions which ensued, the meeting stressed the need for member States to commit financial resources to undertake the activities of the Working Groups, and it was pointed out that relevant intergovernmental organisations like PTA and SADC should be called upon to assist in the financing of such activities.

Methodologies for Planning and Management of Science and Technology policy for development [Agenda item 6(a)]

18. A representative of the secretariat presented document S & T/IGCESTD/1/6(a) by stressing the importance of each country to have a clear national vision of its science and technology and to provide means for attaining it. Since science and technology are very crucial resources, their development must be properly guided by a clear national policy and can not be left to the market forces. The critical measures called for, and forcefully enunciated in the Lagos Plan of Action, are for the member States to set up explicit policies, plans and strategies to guide their science and technology activities which should contribute to the pace of economic development. He outlined the necessary steps and procedures for the formulation of national science and technology policy and the role to be played by national focal point which should oversee, coordinate, and advocate the science and technology ethos throughout the production and service sectors. The successful role of the political leadership in ensuring effective development and utilization of science and technology in the industrializing countries of Asia was underlined and advocated for the African countries to emulate. The proper management of science and technology policies was of paramount importance to ensure optimal use of the scarce science and technology resources at the disposal of the member States. The use of appropriate management techniques including technology assessment was underscored.

19. During the discussion that followed, the need to have standardised indicators was stressed. It was also pointed out that in view of the intersectoral nature of science and technology, the highest office in a country should provide the leadership and strong political commitment. Unfortunately the scientists and technologists are not vocal enough. With the advent of new and emerging technologies, there is need to inform the policy makers to enable appropriate and timely choices. Suitable legal frameworks and mechanisms should be in place to enhance commercialization of research results and to encourage entrepreneurship.

The role of subregional and regional associations and professional institutions in the management of Science and Technology [Agenda Item 6(b)]

20. A representative of the secretariat introduced this item, saying that ECA had undertaken a study of such associations and institutions, in view of their importance in the promotion and management of science and technology at national, subregional and regional levels. In countries and regions where they are active, the quality and standard of life of the populations have improved considerably. In the African region they have not been very effective for lack of: funding, individual incentive and collective support. He urged member States to support such associations and institutions, and mobilize the necessary resources, tapping as much as possible from the private sector, and not relying too much on the public sector. The study has revealed that such associations and institutions should make themselves more visible by giving evidence of their contribution to the community through practical projects and programmes. This has been their major weakness. Such organizations should be responsible for popular publications in local papers, radio and television programmes on science and technology, exhibitions and fairs that can popularise their own activities.

21. At the regional level it was necessary for the ECA in collaboration with OAU and ADB to organize training and workshops for such organizations on measures that can enhance their effectiveness in socio-economic development, and work jointly in the support of subregional and regional programmes and projects in science and technology.

22. In the discussion that followed, participants congratulated the secretariat on the quality of the document, and highlighted activities they were undertaking at their national level in promoting such associations and institutions through the creation of an enabling environment to help them flourish. One participant urged the delegates present to respond to the request from the secretariat by sending them a list of professional associations and institutions active in their own countries. The issue of funding was raised by most delegates, and the secretariat urged them to adopt innovative methods like tapping rich individuals and organizing popular events, to raise local funding for supporting the associations and institutions.

23. The regional and international organizations present highlighted their own approach to the management of science and technology, stressing on interaction with the consumer communities through pilot projects on technology incubation, and the organization of popular events like

traditional theatres to popularize basic technologies. Support to existing non-government associations like the Panafrican Union for Science and Technology based in Brazzaville was necessary.

Acquisition and transfer of nuclear science and technology for agricultural production and food preservation [Agenda item 6(c)]

24. A representative of the secretariat presented document ST/IGCESTD/1/6(c) and highlighted various salient points therein. He indicated that the paper outlined the transfer and use of nuclear science and technology in the development of agriculture and food production which could contribute to Africa's food self sufficiency. The Committee was briefed on the thrust of IAEA support in the development of local capacity and capabilities in the member States in terms of equipment and human resources. In addition, transfer of nuclear science and technology is achieved through conferences, symposia, advisory groups and publications sponsored by the IAEA.

25. With reference to experience of the African region in nuclear science and technolo the meeting was called upon to note the level of participation of African countries through technical cooperation projects, regional coordinated programmes and interregional coordinated programmes. Particular attention was drawn to the specific use of the nuclear techniques in soil fertility, water management studies, crop improvement, animal production and health, insect and pest control, monitoring of agrochemicals and residues and food preservation.

26. During the discussion which ensued, participants made a number of observations concerning the problems in the acquisition and use of nuclear science and technology. In this regard problems of high cost investment, the psychological fear and concern about the harmful effects of nuclear technology and difficulties associated with applicability of nuclear science and technology amongst rural communities were mentioned. However, besides these difficulties, note was taken of the successful and useful application in the sterilisation of hospital equipment, and treatment of agricultural produce. The committee was informed that the diffusion of mobile irradiation units could reach rural communities and ECA was promoting a project proposal to make such units available in Africa.

27. While noting the potential contribution of nuclear science and technology to agricultural production and food preservation, the Committee stressed that it would be useful to bring out the cost effectiveness of using this technique. Furthermore it was necessary to popularise and increase awareness of the benefits and safety of nuclear science and technology in the member States and in the population generally. Finally the committee recommended that a comparative study should be carried out by the ARCT, with the collaboration of IAEA/FAO/OAU/ECA/UNIDO and other relevant agencies, on the use of the various techniques in food preservation. The results of such a study would provide useful information to member States on the available alternative technologies and permit them to make choices on an informed basis.

Institutional capacity building in science and technology policy [Agenda Item 6(d)]

28. A member of the secretariat presented this agenda item. He reiterated that science and technology policy institutions (STPI's) are needed in order to realise the vast socio-economic potential of nations through the application of science and technology. Further this creates an awareness among decision makers of the comparative economic advantage of having national human intellectual resources and capacity in science and technology. The various mechanisms set up in the last 30 years in a number of African countries to address the science and technology issues and functions have had to be reorganised and rationalised due to financial constrains, political changes and the general ineffectiveness in making science and technology play its full role in socio-economic development.

29. The speaker stressed the need that countries which had yet to create science and technology policy institutions should establish such bodies. He noted that these STPI's should establish functional arrangements for the development and commercialisation of technologies endogenously developed, as well as the creation of S&T capabilities required for the diffusion, absorption and upgrading of both endogenous and foreign technology. Ideally the membership of STPI's should be drawn up from various sectors: scientific community, public , private and small scale users. The resultant interface could strengthen the link between the various key players and help to create the required critical mass. He further noted a need for government to enact legislation to induce effective private sector involvement in the endogenous technological development. Regional cooperation would be useful to address common problems by exchanging and sharing resources.

30. In the ensuing deliberations delegates shared national experiences in matters pertaining to strengthening of STPI's and in increasing the role of science and technology in development. Further they stressed the need for member States to make available at least 1% of GDP for purposes of fully operationalising science and technology. It was clarified that OECD has guidelines as how to compute science and technology statistics. It was imperative that the focal point on STPI's should be well identified and known to African member States, regional and international organisations. The need to have dynamic leadership for STPI's was paramount in ensuring success. Furthermore the allocation of science and technology resources should stress more on the share for the development and application aspects.

Integrating science and technology, economic and development policies in Africa [Agenda Item 6(e)]

31. A representative of the secretariat highlighted the various factors than can be brought in to create an enabling environment to enhance the application of science and technology for socio-economic development. He stressed a need to have appropriate development policies that are mutually supportive to enhance the science and technology instruments to enable them to play the correct role. The use of seed and venture capital credit and direct foreign investments and licensing, could foster the right investment climate to attract private sector/entrepreneurs.

Further advantage is to be gained by formulation of an integrated 'techno-economic' policy based on a vision of short and long term social and technological change. He suggested that the focus and thrust of S&T policies should emphasis innovation, application and diffusion rather than research. Research and development must be reoriented and better connected to industry. Emphasis was placed on the great opportunities for African countries affected by the present global climate of shared resources and new opportunities created by scientific and technological advances and the liberalization of the markets.

32. In the discussions that followed, the setting up of science and technology parks as a means of implementation of science and technology was recorded for some of the African States. Delegates discussed the impediments to the free movement of scientists and entrepreneurs in Africa and stressed the need for their free mobility. Attention was drawn to efforts underway to promote such mobility of people and goods in the Preferential Trade Area, (PTA) region. Issues of Intellectual property rights were raised with respect to the Paris Convention and delegates were advised to protect African inventions. Delegates dialogued at length on the suggested reallocation of science and technology resources to favour development and application aspects rather than research in order to accelerate the development process.

Technology Assessment for better technological priorities and choices [Agenda Item 6(f)]

33. A representative of the secretariat presented this agenda item. He first explained the problems of wrong technological choices in the African region, leading to social and environmental disturbances, in particular environmental pollution, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, carbon dioxide increase, green-house effect, heavy soil erosion, desertification, drought, climatic changes, population displacements, and ensuing social and political instability. These have forced countries to review their technological choices. Such choices have to be based on technology foresight that includes technology forecasting, monitoring and evaluation of social, cultural and environmental impacts. A methodology for such an exercise including the different steps was elaborated upon. One prerequisite is the existence of a technology transfer and assessment unit in the institution in charge of this exercise.

34. The speaker stressed why technology assessment was necessary for adopting some advanced technologies like biotechnology and new materials that can add value to traditional African exports and enhance their competitiveness. He also said that some developing countries have to think of production by the masses rather than mass production to cope with unemployment problems. Finally he highlighted the role of the United Nations in collecting and diffusing relevant information on environmentally sound technologies, and in organising training for experts and policy makers in this area.

35. In the discussion that followed it was brought out that developing countries could capitalise on the issue of environmentally sound technology acquisition by using environmental pollution and global climatic changes as a bargaining point in their favour. Appropriate technological choices depend on the specificity of the countries concerned. One delegation highlighted the

10M concept forming part of technology management, including: Management, Mode, Materials, Machine, Manpower, Methods, Maintenance, Measurement, Market and Money. The issue of an adequate balance between technology transfer regulations and free flow was also clarified. Promotion rather than control should be encouraged to accelerate the development process.

Any other business

36. One participant raised the issue of the Science and Technology Day for Africa which is celebrated on June 30th of each year. The need for identifying a proper theme and to have proper material, such as posters was expressed. ECA and OAU are to provide the theme to member States.

37. The Committee discussed and agreed on the setting-up of a Working Group on Science Parks, incubators and international business centers to promote the commercialization of research results. The members of this Working Group will include Botswana (leader), Egypt, Morocco, Zimbabwe and Senegal, ECA, UNIDO and ARCT. The Working Group will report on its activities at the first meeting of the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology. Members of the Working Group are requested to send a written report on their ongoing activities in this area to ECA.

Closing of the Meeting

38. A representative of the Member States thanked the Government of Ethiopia for having facilitated the holding of the meeting and for allowing participants to visit the Plant Genetic Resources Centre which is conducting very useftul work, relevant for other countries of Africa. The Chairman of the session thanked the participants for their cooperation, and the secretariat for having facilitated the work. The Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the Secretariat thanked the Chairman for his excellent conduct of the meeting and appealed to the participants to follow up on the recommendations at their national level. The Chairman then declared the meeting closed at 6:00 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. UPGRADING THE PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE TO MINISTERIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL

The meeting recognised the successful efforts of the UNECA to transform the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts into an Africa Regional Conference on Science and Technology. It was further recommended that the conference be particular and specific on involvement and attendance at Ministerial level in order to get the imperative political support for S&T programme.

ITEM 6(a)

2. METHODOLOGIES FOR THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF S&T POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT

(i) There is urgent need to influence policy makers in particular Heads of State to spearhead the development and activities of Science and Technology. The First Presidential Forum held at Gaborone in Nov. 1993, is a beginning and a sign of willingness of Heads of State to participate actively in this field.

(ii) While noting the importance of high visibility of national S&T focal points to implement and monitor science and technology, similar importance must be attached to the work and efficiency of S&T policy institutions. Government should set up dynamic management structures at national level to respond to fast-changing development.

(iii) The focal point for Science and Technology programmes, should be located at the highest possible level of government in order to supplement and urge strong political commitment to the S&T programmes. This could be done by interaction impressing on the political leadership that the only way out of Africa's debt burden and poverty is by the implementation of Science and Technology programmes, which will add value to the economic products.

(iv) Commercial institutions and the private sector should be encouraged to participate in the funding of science and technology at national level.

(v) There is need for the establishment of an early warning system in Technology Assessment in order to determine the validity and possible emergence of certain technologies.

(vi) Governments in the region should be urged to commit at least 1% of their GDP to promote Science and Technology activities.

(vii) There is need to review the work of UN and other regional organisations dealing with methodologies for the Planning and Management of S&T policies in order to harmonize and agree on terminologies, concepts and classifications as guidelines for implementation

(viii) Research results should be marketable in the economy investing in such research bearing in mind also that the manner in which results are presented may affect the market for the research. Researchers should carry out research which is problem oriented and targeted in order to facilitate dissemination and commercialization of research results.

(ix) There is a need to involve, in the formulation or reviewing of science and technology policy, the stake holders who will be affected or effect the implmentation of the policy.

ITEM 6(b)

3. ROLE OF SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(i) Member States should create an enabling environment for professional, regional and other associations and institutions engaged in promotion of Science and Technology, through such measures as subsidies and tax exemptions.

(ii) National professional associations and institutions of science and technology should exercise their own initiatives in funding of their associations and institutions.

ITEM 6(c)

4. ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND FOOD PRESERVATION

(i) There is need to enhance national capacities to acquire and utilise nuclear science and technology in the development of agriculture, food processing and food preservation; by encouraging member States to take full advantage of the IAEA services.

(ii) Efforts should be made to initiate and strengthen cooperation in nuclear science and technology in areas of training, research, information exchange and technology application.

(iii) ARCT in collaboration with other organisation like FAO, IAEA, UNIDO and ECA, is mandated to undertake a study of the comparative merits of technologies alternative to nuclear technologies in the area of agriculture and food preservations.

ITEM 6(d)

5. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

(i) In order to fully realise the potentials of science and technology application, it is imperative to strengthen national science and technology management through the creation of science and technology policy institutions responsible for preparation of policies and plans for the development of essential scientific and technological capabilities and the promotion of science and technology development and institution.

(ii) Governments should be urged to develop effective mechanisms for providing adequate financial resources for R&D activities and science and technology development systems in general. Priority should be given to funding of developmenmt and application component of S&T.

(iii) Cooperation among national S&T institutions as well as regional and international organizations are necessary. Cooperation should be not only encouraged but also facilitated by both the national systems, regional and international development agencies.

(iv) A working group should be constituted to address and spearhead matters related to science and technology parks, business incubators and international business centres.

ITEM 6 (e)

6. INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

(i) There is need to undertake studies focused on the translation of S&T policy into action. The impediments to implementation including legal complexities, trade, fiscal and immigration policies should be reviewed with intent to remove them.

(ii) Popularisation of S&T right from the primary level of education and with the use of mass media should be strengthened as a key mechanism in economic development.

(iii) Without undermining the importance of basic research Africa needs to focus on financing the development and application aspect of science and technology as a means of integrating S&T with economic and development policies.

ITEM 6(f)

7. TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT FOR BETTER TECHNOLOGICAL PRIORITIES AND CHOICES

(i) There is need to strengthen national capacities for technology assessment and technology negotiations. National, regional and international training forums, should be organised for this.

(ii) Individual countries should be in position to determine their technological requirements based on national development needs. Member countries should be encouraged to set up institutions to take up these tasks.

(iii) In collaboration with ARCT there is need to establish a mechanism for collecting, processing and diffusing key information on technologies to member States for the promotion of cooperation among member countries and training in the area of technology assessment.

8. There should be stronger individual commitment at the implementation level. All individuals who attend S&T promotion activities and meetings should not only write reports, but also circulate them and monitor the implementation process.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Title: Science and Technology for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling Commission resolution 738(XXVII) regarding the possibility of establishing a ministerial conference on science and technology.

Recalling also Commission resolution 509(XIX) on strengthening of African capabilities in science and technology

Recognising the need for member States to develop their science and technology resources including means for evaluating their efforts in this regard,

1. Welcomes Commission resolution 757(XXVIII) on the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission which established an African Regional Conference on Science and Technology by upgrading the existing Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development.

2. Calls upon the OAU General Secretariat to bring the issue of the establishment of the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology to the attention of the OAU Summit, with a view to supporting the objectives of the Conference as indicated in Res.No. 757(XXVIII) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in April 1993.

3. Urges that Ministers responsible for science and technology should show their commitment by actively participating in the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology

4. Requests the ECA/UNESCO/OAU/UNIDO in collaboration with other relevant agencies to develop and recommend mechanisms, including science and technology indicators, for evaluating the development and management of science and technology in the member States.

List of Participants / Liste des participants

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