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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for
Science and Technology Development

Sixth Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-10 November 1989

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT
OF THE FIFTH MEETING

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1. The report of the Fifth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) was presented to and considered by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOOW) at its Ninth Meeting held in Niamey, Niger, from 6-13 April 1988. The Committee took note of the report and adopted two draft resolutions 1/ on: The Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology Development and Cooperation between ECA, OAU and UNESCO on the follow-up of CASTAFRICA II. The two draft resolutions were later adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its Fourteenth Session. The full texts of the resolutions are annexed to this paper.

2. Detailed consideration of the activities of the Working Groups is to be taken up under item 5 of the agenda.

3. With regard to the development of indicators of science and technology in Africa (paragraphs 31 & 32, and recommendation 3) the secretariat submitted the study to the member States for their comments in line with the decision of the IGCESTD. Comments were also sought from various United Nations organizations and agencies. So far the secretariat has received comments from one country. In the light of the above, the IGCESTD may wish to review the matter and provide additional or fresh guidance to the secretariat.

4. The secretariat had taken steps to secure resources for the Advance Technology Alert System, ATAS Africa project which was reported at the fifth meeting (paragraphs 33 and 34). In this regard the ATAS project was presented to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) in order to secure funding for it within the framework of the current UNDP project in support of the ARCT.

5. Concerning the African Science and Technology Information System (ASTIS) also reported at the Fifth Meeting of the IGCESTD, the secretariat has continued to support the development of viable science and technology information services at the level of individual countries and to the harmonization of the existing systems. A project proposal for the setting up of ASTIS has recently been submitted to Canada.

1/ The two resolutions emanated from the discussion reported in paragraphs 21-30 and 37-39 of the report.

6. With reference to the follow-up mechanism to monitor the implementation of CASTAFRICA II (paragraphs 37-39), the secretariat participated in the first meeting of the Standing Conference of Heads of National Science and Technology Policy-Making Bodies of African Member States which was held in Nairobi from 18-21 July 1989. A representative of the secretariat presented a paper on the "Harmonization of Science and Technology Activities in Africa".

7. The question of "Policy Guidelines for Harmonization of Activities of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations System in Science and Technology Development" which was introduced at the last meeting (paragraphs 41-43) by the representative of the U.N. Centre for Science and Technology Development was considered by the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development in April 1989, and agencies and organizations of the UN agreed to follow these policy guidelines.

8. The handbook on popularization and application of available and suitable technologies to increase food production in Africa (paragraphs 45 and 46) had been finalized.

9. On the ECA programme of work and priorities in science and technology (paragraphs 47 and 48) the committee may wish to note that the following substantive proposals for up-dating the 1988-1989 programme was approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1988: The additional new output in Programme Element 1.3 of subprogramme 1 reads:

"Report to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology for Development on a review of the laws which govern patents in Africa".

10. In line with paragraph 52 the secretariat circulated the draft provisional agenda for the Sixth Meeting of the IGCESTD to all the governments of the ECA member States seeking views and comments thereon. A few responses were received on this matter.

629 (XXIII). Working Groups of the Intergovernmental Committee
for Science and Technology Development

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, 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, 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, General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, and ECA resolutions 248 (XI) and 385 (XV) on the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development,

Aware of the catalytic role played by the Working Groups 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 the implementation of these recommendation and 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;
4. Requests the MULPOCs to keep their member States and economic groupings in the subregion fully informed of the tasks and the requirements of the Working Groups;
5. Requests also 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.

630 (XXIII). Co-operation between ECA, OAU and 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, 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, 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, General Assembly resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986 on the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, and ECA resolutions 248 (XI) and 385 (XV) 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.

Taking note 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 ECA secretariat, in collaboration with the OAU and 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.