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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for
Science and Technology Development

Second Meeting

Addis Ababa, 14-18 November 1983



MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING

1. The report, recommendations and resolutions of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD) were presented to and considered by the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) at its third meeting held in Tripoli, Libya from 19-24 April 1982. These were noted by the TEPCOW which also approved a draft resolution on Science and Technology Development in Africa. The draft resolution was later adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its Eighth session. The full text of that resolution is annexed to this paper.
2. With regard to the study referred to in paragraph 20 of the report on obstacles inhibiting the utilization of local expertise by the African governments, the ECA Programme of Work and Priorities for 1984-1985 (doc.E/ECA/CM-9/3) envisages a number of activities e.g. those under the subprogrammes on: manpower and employment planning and policies (pages 17-18); development of manpower for Science and Technology (page 70), policy development, planning and institution building (page 36) which would cover various aspects of the problem.
3. Following the decision by the last meeting of the IGCESTD to set up Working Groups, the ECA secretariat in collaboration with the OAU secretariat initiated measures on the follow-up to the Committee's recommendations. A detailed account appears in doc. S&T/IGCESTD/2/6 and would be considered under agenda item 6.
4. Paragraph 58 (ii) of the IGCESTD report refers to a regional project entitled Development of Marine Science and Technology in Africa for which the UNDP had made a provisional earmarking of US\$2.245 million during its 1982-86 programming cycle. For a good part of 1982, the ECA as executing agency and UNESCO as a collaborating agency embarked on a detailed elaboration of a project document for UNDP funding based on the Plan of Action for the Development of Marine Science and Technology in Africa which was adopted in June 1981 by a workshop of experts in marine science and technology.

during the course of these activities it was learnt the Marine Science and Technology project and several others could not be funded owing to a shortfall in the finances likely to be available to the UNDP. Thus the plans and preparations which had been set in motion to execute this regional project were put in abeyance. However, in view of the importance attached to the developments in the area of marine science and technology, ECA and UNESCO held further consultations in March 1983 at which it was agreed to pursue other funding sources in regard to the execution of some of the activities contained in the Plan of Action approved by the experts. The search for funding is continuing and the latest status report on the progress in this area would be provided by the representatives of the two organizations.

5. With respect to the African Regional Centre for Technology, UNDP have made available to ECA as executing agency US\$2.5 million for the entire programming cycle as opposed to the US\$3.9 million requested for 2½ years to assist the Centre in its efforts to strengthen the technological capabilities of African countries. The project is underway.

6. On the other hand, no resources have been made available for the conduct of the Feasibility Study on the establishment of pilot training and production workshops in engineering disciplines in Least-developed African countries mentioned in paragraph 58(iii). The secretariat had actively pursued possibilities of funding from other sources. However, no success have as yet crowned its untiring efforts.

7. Pursuant to the need for closer relationship with the African regional and national institutions in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development convened a meeting on the strengthening of science and technology capacities of African countries in Brazzaville from 24 - 26 November 1982 at which the role of national focal points was given particular consideration.

8. Paragraphs 68-70 of the IGOESTD report refer to the Egyptian Fund for African Development information on which was provided by the Egyptian delegation at the last meeting. Following contacts which the secretariat initiated through the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa a reply (attached) was received which gives further particulars about the Egyptian Technical Cooperation Fund for Africa. This information is provided for the benefit of member States which might wish to take advantage of this Fund.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECA CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

445 (XVII). Science and technology development in Africa 53/
The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 385 (XV) of 12 April 1980 by which membership in the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development was opened to all African States,

Also recalling that in the aforementioned resolution it was decided to establish working groups of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development to examine specific problems and issues in science and technology,

Taking note of the report of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development, 54/

1. Commends the Inter-governmental Committee on Science and Technology Development for its work and for its prompt establishment of three working groups on science and technology development, basic needs and industry, including energy, and transport and communications respectively;
2. Endorses the resolutions and recommendations of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development;
3. Urges, in particular, each member State to:
 - (a) Create new and/or strengthen existing central co-ordinating machinery for science and technology policy-making and implementation as outlined in programme element 1.1 of the science and technology chapter of the Lagos Plan of Action; 55/
 - (b) Ensure not only that national programmes are directly related to agricultural and industrial production but also that effective links are forged between research and development institutions and programmes; producers of equipment, materials and other supplies; and final users, both private and public, of the products of research and development;

53/ See chapter III, section C, paragraphs 138 to 155 above.

54/ E/ECA/TPCW. 3/3.

55/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

(c) Support measures for financing science and technology activities within the United Nations system especially the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

(d) Ensure that at least 40 per cent of the anticipated permanent United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development is allocated to African national, multinational and regional programmes, especially those designed to establish and strengthen capabilities for the assessment, selection, acquisition and exploitation of indigenous and foreign technology and expertise and for the development of indigenous technology, and to the indigenous development of manpower resources, equipment, materials and infrastructures for science and technology;

3. Invites all member States to participate actively in the work of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development and to make an effective contribution to its work.

October 3, 1982

Dear Sir,

I refer to your note on "Working Groups: Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development", attached to your note dated June 18th 1982 which you have sent to the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Addis Ababa.

I have the honour to inform you that:

- the "Egyptian Technical Cooperation Fund for Africa" is having its own headquarters for the time being at 8th floor of the premises of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, El Nil Street, Giza. Correspondence with the Fund could be effected directly or through the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa.
- the Fund's main objective and activity is to provide African countries with technical assistance, either in the form of experts in various specializations or scholarships or training courses for nationals of these countries.
- the Fund is interested in having contacts with organizations for exploring possibilities of cooperation in fulfilling its own objectives.

Therefore, we appreciate very much indeed your kind initiative expressed in your above mentioned note. I would be very pleased if you would be good enough to let us be informed on the progress of your programmes and activities particularly those dealing with technical cooperation and which could help in exploring possibilities of mutual cooperation. We, also, would be grateful if you let us know how we could be of any assistance bearing in mind our Fund's main objectives which include only sending experts and receiving trainees.

While thanking you, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

Ahmed Taha
Acting Secretary General