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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT

Regional Group for Latin America  
Mexico City, 1-2 June 1973

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PROGRAMME OF WORK IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR 1980 TO 1983

1. In recognition of its mandate in the United Nations, and in response to the restructuring exercise being undertaken in the new Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (IESA), the Department has established as one of its objectives for the 1980's the planning, management, and **coordination** of the United Nations system in **the** economic and social sectors in order to ensure the "optimum and integrated application of system-wide capabilities to meet the priority requirements of Member States". (para. 4, Report of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Priorities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the 1980's).
2. In order for IESA to undertake this central management role, the Secretary General has established that the Department has the responsibility:
  - a) To undertake interdisciplinary research and analysis, drawing as necessary upon all relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the preparation of global economic and social surveys and projections to assist the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;
  - /b) To undertake

b) To undertake intersectoral analyses and syntheses of development issues in close collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system, and to prepare appropriate recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

c) To assist, as required, jointly with all parts of the United Nations system involved in operational activities, the Economic and Social Council in carrying out comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities throughout the United Nations system;

d) To undertake cross-sectoral analysis of programmes and plans in the economic and social sectors with a view to mobilizing and integrating, at the planning and programming stages, the inputs and expertise of the United Nations system;

e) To function as the focal point for the development at the inter-secretariat level of cooperative and joint planning of programme activities with a view to system-wide medium-term planning;

f) To maintain liaison with regional commissions and non-governmental organizations.

3. To carry out these functions, and as requested by General Assembly resolution A/32/197, on Restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs must rely heavily on inputs from the regional commissions and on their "more effective interregional cooperation ..." (para. 25). It is clear from the Secretary-General's Report on Strengthening of the regional commissions for regional and interregional cooperation. (E/5998) that considerable efforts toward interregional cooperation and coordination have already been made; for example: several joint programmes have been designed by the regional commissions, and a number of joint meetings among the commissions have been authorized. In addition, the Economic Commission for Africa has established a special unit responsible for economic cooperation, and Resolution 363 (XVIII) of the Economic Commission for Latin America requested the Executive Secretary to establish within the Secretariat a special unit to promote economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. And, although the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commissions for Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific on the subject do not call for the establishment of such special units, they did request that existing staff resources be strengthened.

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4. However much progress has been made toward coordinating the programmes of the regional commissions, however, no inter-secretariat body has been specifically created to coordinate the science and technology programmes of the commissions. For this purpose, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology for Development was established by ECOSOC res. 980 (XXXVI) in 1963:

a) To keep under review progress in the application of science and technology and propose to the Council practical measures for such application for the benefit of the less developed areas;

b) To review, in close cooperation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the scientific and technological programmes and activities of the United Nations and related agencies and propose to the Council measures for their improvement, including the establishment of priorities and the elimination of duplication;

c) To consider specific questions referred to it by the Council, or by the Secretary-General, or by the executive heads of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

d) To study and to advise the Council as to the need for making changes of organization or other arrangements which would advance the application of science and technology for the benefit of developing countries; ... (para. 4).

5. Consequently, it is suggested that, in discussing agenda item five, regarding the programme of work in science and technology for 1980 to 1983, the regional commission take advantage of the coordination role provided by the Advisory Committee. This should facilitate the alignment of the programmes of work among all five regional commissions and between the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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The history of the world is a long and varied one, filled with many interesting events and people. It is a story that has been told for thousands of years, and it continues to be told today. The history of the world is a story of progress, of discovery, and of the human spirit. It is a story that has shaped the world we live in today, and it will continue to shape the world of the future.

The history of the world is a story of many different cultures and peoples. Each culture has its own unique way of life, its own beliefs, and its own traditions. These different cultures have interacted with each other over the centuries, and this interaction has led to the development of many new ideas and ways of life. The history of the world is a story of the human race as a whole, and it is a story that is still being written today.

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