



NACIONES UNIDAS
CONSEJO
ECONOMICO
Y SOCIAL



LIMITED
CEPAL/MEX/UCT/78/1
2 January 1978

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICAN

RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN MEETING
OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT*

* Excerpt from the Report of the Meeting held from 31 October to 2 November 1977, to be presented at the Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations World Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 January to 3 February 1978.

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

THE
MOUNTAIN
VIEW
SCHOOL

**GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL PREPARATIONS AND SELECTION OF SUBJECT AREAS
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**The Latin American Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts on Science and
Technology for Development:**

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) regarding the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and resolution 3281 (XXIX) on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 2028 (LXI) and 2123 (LXIII), particularly paragraph 2 relating to the principal objectives of the World Conference, and paragraph 11 relating to the coordination of all regional activities preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development with the Latin American Economic System,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 31/184 relating to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution 87 (IV) relating to the need for strengthening the technological capacities of developing nations,

Recalling Economic Commission for Latin America resolution 374 (XVII), particularly paragraph 3, in which it is requested that a document be prepared for the Regional Conference to be held in mid-1978 that will contain an interpretative analysis of Latin America's scientific and technological development and define the principal political, economic and social factors that have influenced such development,

Recalling further the Declarations of Actions that in the field of industrialization, population and food have been adopted in the United Nations System as basic instrument of the international community for achieving the economic and social development of the developing countries,

/Reaffirming

Reaffirming that need to strengthen the General Secretariat of the Conference on a basis of equitable geographic distribution that will make it possible to carry out the schedule of preparatory activities effectively, including holding of the World Conference in 1979, and to provide assistance to countries so requesting in preparing their national papers, and

Bearing in mind that the primary objective of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development is to prepare a World Plan of Action to guide the actions of the international community toward effective development of science and technology, particularly in the developing countries,

Recommends:

1. To the Regional Conference, that in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Latin American countries should endeavor:

a) To adopt concrete decisions on the ways and means of applying science and technology in establishing the New International Economic Order referred to in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), and in complying with the provisions regarding the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States adopted by General Assembly resolutions 3281 (XXIX).

b) To establish the necessary bases for formulating a World Plan of Action that will favour the creation of scientific and technological capabilities and the conditions necessary for it to be utilized for the integral development of developing countries by eliminating obstacles.

To this end, the plan should establish:

1) The actions necessary to reinforce existing international cooperation machinery to complement national efforts toward scientific and technological development, such as assistance in training human resources, in utilizing physical and financial resources, in promoting information and documentation networks and engineering services, and in establishing or strengthening national capabilities for technological management;

(11) The creation

ii) The creation of a new international cooperation machinery aimed at complementing national efforts in areas of scientific and technological development either not presently covered by such cooperation or covered insufficiently.

The new machinery should consider both cooperation among developing countries and making use of the scientific and technical potential of developed countries to satisfy needs the developing countries cannot meet themselves within the framework of the New International Economic Order.

Such machinery should also provide permanent financing of sufficient scope to have significant impact.

iii) Concrete support measures for national and international efforts aimed at making the transfer of technology possible in terms that favor the full economic and social development of developing countries;

iv) The supplying of timely information appropriate for developing countries on international cooperation available for scientific and technological development.

That the World Plan of Action should constitute a basic tool in the work carried out by the United Nations in its third decade.

2. To the General Secretariat of the Conference:

a) To expand its infrastructure by contracting, in so far as possible, qualified human resources as required on a basis of equitable geographic distributions;

b) To expedite the preparatory work in order to carry out the approved programme of activities effectively, including the presentation of national papers in May 1978, and

c) To provide necessary support to preparatory regional activities carried out within the framework of the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions and by the Latin American Economic System.

3. To the Executive Secretariat of CEPAL, that, in fulfillment of the mandate established by paragraph 3 of resolution 374 (XVII) it should deal with in cooperation with agencies and organizations of the United Nations System, inter alia, the following considerations:

- The extent of external dependence with regard to technology and its incidence on economic and social development;
- The effects of the activities of transnational corporations on the scientific and technological development of the region;
- The role of the State in formulating national scientific and technological development policies;
- The causes for the incongruency between imported technology and the particular conditions of the region;
- The causes for the low average technological level and its structural heterogeneity in most of the countries of the region;
- The effect of imported technology and of the transfer of technology on employment and overall productivity taking into account, (if possible), intersectoral linkages;
- Selective efforts in technical education, continuing education and training as means of establishing a minimum scientific and technological infrastructure based on education and the scientific development of universities and research institutes;
- Efforts for the development of a permanent and stable scientific and technical activity that will enable countries to deal with the problem posed to science by the technological requirements of national development;
- Analysis of cooperation among countries in the region in the scientific and technological field;
- Analysis of policies and actions regarding transfer of technology;
- Institutional problems of communication and direction of governmental policies; the need for including science and technology in overall and sectoral planning; the importance for national scientific and technological organizations to relate their activities with the productive sector and with national economic and social development plans;

/- The causes

- The causes and incidence of the brain drain on the scientific and technological development of the countries of Latin America;
- The problems existing in the exchange of scientific and technical information and the difficulties of communication between the developed and the developing nations, and
- Guidelines for the evaluation of technical cooperation in the area of science and technology for development.

4. To the Permanent Secretariat of SELA: that, it submits to the Latin American Council the convening, in coordination with the Secretariat of CEPAL, a Governmental Meeting during the days immediately preceding the Regional Meeting on Science and Technology for Development in order to arrive at a common position to be adopted by the Latin American countries for this Conference. It should furthermore make every attempt to hold this Meeting in the same city as the regional event.

Subject areas

The Latin American Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts devoted a considerable part of its work to this agenda item.

In this respect, the Group noted that the exclusive objective of identifying these areas was to make possible a practical illustration of the problems that affects and concern the scientific and technological development of Latin America. For this reason, the areas identified below represent examples whose study should provide illustrative elements for the analysis and discussion of substantive questions of the developments of science and technology in such countries and of its application to integral developments.

These substantive questions should be the principal topic of discussion at the World Conference in order for it to fulfil its objectives, which are defined in paragraph 2 of the resolution 2028, and their solution should be sought within the framework of a World Plan of Action.

On the understanding that the areas mentioned below do not necessarily constitute national or regional priorities, these are listed as follows:

- Food (includes agricultural technology, human nutrition, fishing and food processing);
- Production of capital goods;
- Communications and transportation;
- Health and pharmaceutical industry;
- Rational management of natural resources renewable and non-renewable.

The Latin American Meeting of Intergovernmental Experts calls upon the countries of the region to make every effort to point out, within the framework of the national papers, any concrete quantitative and qualitative obstacles they may encounter:

- In the transfer of technology;
- In the development of national scientific and technological capabilities;
- In making use of national scientific and technological capabilities for the development of production processes, and
- In the linking of activities for scientific and technological development with other elements related to national development.

