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Economic Commission for Latin America

LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING PREPARATORY FOR  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

(Panama, Panama, 16 to 21 August 1978)

DRAFT REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL MEETING  
PREPARATORY FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNICAMENTE PARA REFERENCIA

## I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, AGENDA AND SUMMARY OF DEBATES

### A. Attendance and Organization of Work

#### 1. Place and date

1. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, convened jointly by the secretariat of the Conference and by the Economic Commission for Latin America, was held in Panama from 16 to 21 August 1978. The meeting took place in the Palacio Justo Arosemena.

#### 2. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of twenty-five member States of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, The United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. A representative of Austria, a United Nations Member State which is not a member of CEPAL, attended the meeting in a consultative capacity.

4. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations system were also represented at the meeting: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), ~~Intergovernmental~~ Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

/5.Also

5. Also represented at the meeting were the Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), Central American Institute for Industrial Research and Technology (ICAITI), Latin American Economic System (SELA), and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migrations (CIME).

6. Lastly the Inter-American Council on Commerce and Production (CICYP) and the Arab League Education, Culture and Science Organization (ALECSO) were also represented.

7. The full list of participants at the meeting appears in Annex of this report.

### 3. Election of Officers

8. During the opening session, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Diomedes Concepción (Panama)

First Vice-Chairman: Arnolfo K. Ventura (Jamaica)

Second Vice-Chairman: Alfredo Ramírez Araiza (Mexico)

Third Vice-Chairman: Miguel Osorio de Almeida (Brazil)

Fourth Vice-Chairman: Mariano Ramírez Arias (Costa Rica)

Rapporteur: Luis Javier Jaramillo (Colombia)

### B. AGENDA

9. At its first session the meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening speeches

2. Election of officers

3. Approval of the agenda (ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.1/Rev.1)

4. Presentation of country reports

5. Presentation of conclusions of the subregional meetings

6. Presentation and discussion of the regional document

(ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.2/Rev.1)

7. Bases and components for an Action Programme

(ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.2/Rev.1)

/8. Other

8. Other matters
9. Approval of the Rapporteur's report
10. Closing session

10. The documents listed in Annex of this report were available to the participants during the meeting.

11. The debates took the form of plenary meetings and two working groups were created to deal with points 6 and 7 of the agenda.

### C. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

#### 1. Opening and closing speeches

12. The meeting opened with a ceremony in the Palacio Justo Arosemena in the morning of 16 August. Statements were made by Enrique V. Iglesias, Executive Secretary of CEPAL, Guy B. Gresford, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and Nicolás Ardito Barletta, Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of the host country.

13. The Executive Secretary of the Commission spoke of the extremely thorough preparation for the meeting carried out by CEPAL and the subregional groups. He regretted that scientific and technological wealth was concentrated in a small group of countries and that the advantages of the application of science and technology barely touched a great proportion of mankind. In the face of these facts, it was necessary to revitalize the machinery of international cooperation, and the awareness of the need to integrate scientific and technical development programmes in the framework of the economic and social development plans of the countries of the region.

14. Despite the growth of the Latin American economy over the last twenty-five years, the progress in its industrialization and its increasing share in international trade and in the activities of the transnational corporations, the bulk of the population had not benefited from the fruits of scientific and technological progress, although a new middle class with a great capacity for action and consumption had emerged.

15. The countries differed with regard to the criteria and methods which they should apply in order to achieve integral development; however, there was a generalized awareness that the role of science and technology would be a valuable instrument for the solution of the social problems of the region.

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16. Although there were great differences of size and degree of development between the Latin American countries, there were also common elements which the meeting should consider. The individual countries of the region were limited in their capacity for action, but mutual cooperation would make it possible to obviate such limitations. At the global level, there was an awareness on the part of the industrialized countries of the necessity for international cooperation, which to date had been inadequate. Political measures should be taken to rectify this situation, through the agencies of the United Nations system and the international agencies while taking into account the recent decisions relating to the creation of a New International Economic Order. For all of this the unity of the developing countries was fundamental and should be strengthened at all levels.

17. In his speech, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development discussed some points of consensus reached among member states. He spoke of the forms of dependence of purchased and transferred technology and the contradictory remedies required for this, and expressed the hope that a new international scientific and technological order would emerge from the Conference. He observed that science and technology must be applied in a voluntary, conscious manner with public participation, and described the numerous advantages accruing to the developed world from the Third World development in this area. He mentioned the need for a new type of negotiation to produce internal and external changes in developed and developing countries alike and the impact of science and technology on culture. Lastly, he stressed the importance of maintaining the valuable network of national focal points.

18. The Minister of Planning and Economic Policy of Panama expressed the appreciation of his Government and nation for the

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fact that this important regional meeting was being held in Panama. He cordially welcomed the delegates, and remarked on the special affection with which linked his nation to the Latin American countries with which it joined in efforts to reach positions in knowledge and information which enabled the regional position to be strengthened vis-a-vis integral development.

19. He said that all those present were aware of the great power of science and technology whose main instruments were the human knowledge and stock of experience they possessed to supply our peoples with what they required for their development. This was the reason for the justifiable concern of the countries and the world as to the means of utilizing, transferring and channelling scientific and technological know-how.

20. He stressed the importance of science and technology from the economic point of view and said that this must be endowed with eminently human content and deep-rooted implications in terms of integration, justice and equilibrium.

21. He said that sufficient awareness must be created in our countries and in those which effectively and efficiently generated science and technology as to how to establish the links between the parties for the transfer of these, while maintaining the autonomy of our development process and generating additional economic benefits, but at the same time producing very short-term social benefits.

22. He mentioned the repercussions of this process and the enormous importance of the integration of the different branches of knowledge; our physical and social scientists should take the same road to reach that degree of development.

23. In referring to the adoption of technologies, he stressed that they must respond to the capacity of production. The creativity which we should seek in many of our small countries was not in the generation of new sciences and technologies but in the

/design

design of the mechanism which would enable us to adapt those existing to our own reality, to the type of resources available and the type of market in existence.

24. Lastly, he stressed the need to create awareness, especially among those who produce most of the technology and science and transfer it to us in different forms, so that they will be prepared to take part in the creation of the machinery required to make the transfer through the international agencies, and agencies for state cooperation, international private activity and for the training of human resources, so as to strengthen the autonomy of the Latin American nations.

## 2. Presentation of country reports

25. The following delegations made a brief presentation highlighting the country report which was presented at the request of the secretariat: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. The delegations of Canada, the United States, France and the United Kingdom indicated that country reports dealing with their national situations were being presented in other forums. The Secretariat was requested to publish a document containing the country papers submitted by the Governments which would be circulated to all member Governments after the meeting.

## 3. Presentation of the conclusions of the subregional meetings

26. During the meeting, statements were made of the conclusions of the subregional meetings held by the countries members of the

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Andean Group, the countries members of the Central American Common Market, the countries of the Southern Cone, and the countries members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

27. At the request of the Central American countries, the representative of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) summed up the position of the governments of the member states of the Central American Common Market to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, established at a meeting held from 31 July-2 August 1978 in Guatemala City.

28. At the international level, it was observed that the Conference should seek machinery so that science and technology would contribute to the New International Economic Order, international scientific and technological cooperation and research. A code of conduct was proposed for the transfer of technology, as well as a code of conduct for transnational corporations and an international fund for technological development.

29. At the national and subregional levels, it was considered necessary to strengthen the institutional structure, revise existing legislation on industrial property, use the purchases and commerce of the public sector, create machinery to stimulate advisory services, strengthen research capacity, promote the establishment of information systems and define international technical cooperation requirements. Sectoral action should also be taken with regard to the transfer and generation of appropriate technologies.

30. The desirability of cooperation between developing countries was stressed. At the same time the functions of the United Nations should be reordered in order to delimit the areas of responsibility of the various specialized agencies and set up a mechanism to coordinate their science and technology activities.

31. The

31. The delegate of Uruguay, representing the countries of the Southern Cone presented the conclusions of the First and Second Sub-regional Meeting of Government Experts of the Countries of the Southern Cone (Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 27-29 March 1978 and Santiago, Chile, from 20-30 June 1978.

32. The meeting of government experts of the countries of the Southern Cone, aware that the work of the Conference could provide important possibilities for scientific and technological development, considered that the contacts and agreements of the subregions and countries should be reviewed at the regional meeting, while a common position on the part of Latin America and the Caribbean could facilitate the adoption of efficient scientific and technological policy measures.

33. The countries should have their own scientific and technological capacity and the conference should identify new or better means of international technical cooperation, the present procedures of which required revision. In reviewing the machinery for financial cooperation, it should be borne in mind that part of the resources allocated to scientific and technological development must be channeled through national institutions.

34. The Conference should give special attention to the problems of the transfer of technology, where both the Governments and the international agencies could contribute to adopting measures for strengthening the bargaining capacity of the countries.

35. Mention was made of the importance of international technical and financial cooperation to support the countries in solving their problem of the lack of resources for scientific and technological development.

36. Technical cooperation among developing countries constituted an important possibility for international cooperation which must

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be completed by other forms of such cooperation. The Conference must adopt decisions in order to create follow-up machinery for its agreements, endeavouring to make use of existing institutional capacity.

37. The representative of Jamaica, in the name of the CDCC member states, presented the conclusions of the two subregional meetings, the first of which was held in Jamaica in February 1978 and the second in Panama on 15 August 1978.

38. Because of the small size of the countries of the subregion there was a need to devise methods to promote small scale enterprise development, to refashion the educational system to provide the members and types of trained personnel to suit the needs of the sub-region, and to obtain better cooperation and integration of effort there. Technology more appropriate for the subregion should be developed and should include an inventory of traditional technologies and efforts directed towards modernizing and improving these forms, while care should be taken to exclude obsolete technology and intermediate technology not suited to the subregion. There was need to pay special attention to the problem of the brain drain and to devise methods to overcome it. The operations of the transnational corporations in the subregion should be closely monitored, and a regional information exchange system on their operations set up.

39. The delegate of Bolivia, representing the countries members of the Andean Group, presented the conclusions of the First and Second Andean Sub-regional Preparatory Meetings of the UNCSTD, held from 27 February to 3, March 1978 and from 3-7 July 1978 in Lima, Perú.

40. The representative said that the Cartagena Agreement possessed the necessary instruments for the member countries to become progressively integrated until they achieved firm and effective economic unity next decade and be able to take joint action, not only internally but also in their relations with the international community.

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41. The Andean Group was engaged in the task of implementing a concerted policy of economic relations with other countries and groups of countries in the different international forums.

42. The member countries and the organs of the Cartagena Agreement were therefore interested in strengthening through joint action the bargaining capacity of each individual country, and on the basis of a clear concept of cooperation and solidarity, in sharing with other Third World countries, in Latin America or in other geographical areas, the experiences and results of their integration process. In pooling efforts, a positive contribution would be made to the construction of a more balanced international economic order which would respond to the just expectations of the peoples of the region.

43. The Andean Group was concerned that the New International Economic Order would signify a real change in the present international distribution of labour in which some countries produced agricultural and mineral products and others processed goods. It also considered that in order to arrive at a new order, the norms of international trade must be established with the participation of the Third World countries.

44. In technological matters, the Third World countries should have improved access to know-how for application to the needs which they themselves would identify. The creation of a New International Economic Order, as far as the role of technology was concerned, involved far greater efforts on the part of the international community to place the resources of technical knowledge at the service of development.

45. This meant that the decisions of the Third World countries of technology should be made autonomously at the national and sub-regional levels, bearing in mind that in so doing the creation of new centres of leadership which would replace earlier centres must be avoided.

46. The Andean Group considered that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development should review the different alternative in the light of specific lines of action which had been developed or which it was planned to develop, in order to overcome the obstacles which had prevented an adequate application of technological know-how to development problems. The identification and reporting of these obstacles was the beginning of the road which must be run if they were to be overcome. The policies and strategies designed to tackle them must be adopted by the Third World countries and should receive a compulsory contribution from those who had been profiting from the present economic order up to that moment.

47. It was in this context that the Andean Group considered that a world project of collective technological interdependence for development should materialize, and enable problems to be dealt with by means of activities which would strengthen each country's individual capacity. In brief, it was a question of implementing a project which would make it possible to maximize global benefits in making an appropriate use of the factors of production at the world level.

/48. The

4. Participation of different agencies of the United Nations system  
in the preparatory activities of the World Conference on  
Science and Technology for Development

48. The representative of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) referred to scientific and technological dependence in the region. He added that there was a clear need to apply the New International Economic Order so as to effect a real change in international relations and promote the development of the scientific and technological sector on which many developing countries depended. SELA considered that regional capacity must be strengthened and that this required a mechanism such as the Latin American Information Network (RITLA).

49. With regard to a Regional Plan of Action for Latin America - vis-a-vis the World Conference, the SELA representative considered that the present meeting should concentrate on formulating guidelines and that these should be given a definite form at a coordination meeting of officials at the highest possible level within SELA in order to give the Plan the necessary political force.

50. The representative of UNCTAD said that the action of his organization UNCTAD in science and technology had mainly been concentrated on two specific areas: the restructuring of the legal framework, and the formulation, creation and support of policies and institutions connected with the development and transfer of technology. He stressed the fact that the UNCTAD secretariat, and particularly its advisory service, was cooperating with the developing countries in the study and formulation of policies, the establishment of institutional machinery or national, subregional, regional or sectoral centres and personnel training.

51. The representative of the Arab League Education, Culture and Science Organization (ALECSO) referred to the importance which his organization gave to the forthcoming World Conference and said that a working document had been prepared which included some recommendations based on principles of national self reliance, collective self reliance and positive international and regional cooperation.

52. The representative of the World Industrial Property Organization (WIPO) stressed the importance which his Organization attributed to UNCSTD and the fact that its objectives included practically all the points on the agenda of the Conference. He referred to the regional meeting organized by WIPO in collaboration with the different regional commissions. He went on to refer to the meeting on the system of patents on which it was working actively both nationally and internationally, especially in the task of revising the Paris agreement on industrial property.

53. The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) said that the progress achieved in Latin America in knowledge of technological matters could not be underestimated. It was now necessary to identify the key areas which should be the object of attention during the next few years. It would be necessary to avoid certain false dichotomies in order to be able to progress towards a more integrated and dynamic approach to technological policy.

54. The accumulated experience of several generations of processes and product would make it possible to apply with increasing efficiency a technological policy in keeping with the economic and social objectives of the countries of the region.

55. The representative of UNICEF mentioned the felicitous coincidence that a World Conference on Science and Technology

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would be held in 1979, which had been proclaimed International Children's Year by the General Assembly of the United Nations. He expressed the hope that as a result of this coincidence, the progress of science and technology would be of benefit to children.

56. The representative of UNESCO expressed his organization's approval of the growing stress in the country reports and in the subregional action proposals on an aspect which constituted one of the basic principles of UNESCO's activity the necessary endogeneity of development and the explicit consideration of man as an actor in and as an end of development, taking "man" as all mankind with all their spiritual and material needs.

57. UNESCO was attentive to the conclusions and agreements which the meeting would adopt, and most particularly the new orientations proposed for scientific and technological cooperation through the international agencies and their catalytic action on cooperation among developing countries.

58. The representative of UNEP said that in accordance with its mission, UNEP was promoting a development style which mobilized resources to satisfy population needs in present and future generations through the maximum long-term use of the production potential of the ecosystems.

59. Development and the environment were reconciled in this style, and stimulated the use of adequate environment technologies to achieve their objectives.

60. UNEP had collaborated with the different agencies in the search for new technologies. In particular, it had implemented projects with CEPAL on the technology of human settlements, on development styles and environment, and on water, development and the environment.

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61. The representative of the World Health Organization said that the orientation which the countries had been adopting with regard to technical cooperation among developing countries in recent years had been followed with interest and great expectancy.

62. The new approach to cooperation which the countries had been considering might well take the form of a group of recommendations and decisions which would certainly benefit the efforts of the international agencies in the search for new policies and strategies which would inject dynamism into cooperation among the countries and define a new and more important role for the agencies.

63. The World Health Organization saw the debates and conclusions of this meeting as the new tonic which the countries wished to give to the consideration of these important topics; they also contributed to anticipating a more active and committed participation by the countries in the efforts of the international agencies to define the cooperation policies and strategies with them.

5. Presentation and discussion of the regional document

The meeting examined the document Science, Technology, Development and Cooperation in Latin America,<sup>1/</sup> prepared by the secretariat. The delegates present formulated a series of comments and suggestions with regard to the different problems studied, and resolved to give the secretariat of the Commission the task of drawing up a new document which would reflect these points of view and suggestions and include new aspects. It was decided to convene an extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America, which would be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York in November 1978. The object of this session of the Committee of the Whole would be to consider the new document prepared by the secretariat on the understanding that it would be distributed to the member countries in good time. The comments and suggestions appear in Annex of this report.

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<sup>1/</sup> ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.2/Rev.1

## II. ADOPTION OF DOCUMENTS

### 1. Presentation and discussion of the regional document

The meeting reviewed the document Science, Technology, Development and Cooperation in Latin America<sup>1/</sup> prepared by the secretariat. The delegates present formulated a series of comments and suggestions on the different problems studied, and it was decided to assign the drafting of a new document which would reflect these points of view and suggestions and include new aspects to the secretariat of the Commission. As a result of the discussions, the Conference formulated a series of comments and recommendations of a preliminary nature which should constitute elements to be taken into account by the secretariat of the Commission in its revision and restructuring of the Regional Document which will be considered and adopted by the Conference at its second session in November. These comments were included in the document Comments by the Countries on the Document Science, Technology, Development and Cooperation in Latin America (ST/CEPAL/Conf.66/L.2/Rev.1) and in Addendum 1 to this document.

#### IV. COMMENTS BY THE MEMBER STATES

##### Comments by the delegation of the United States

The delegation of the United States of America requests that the ECLA secretariat, in its report on the meeting, make reference to the following U.S. interventions:

The U.S. delegation urged that a directory of existing regional scientific and technological institutions be compiled before consideration of the creation of new institutions.

The U.S. delegation considers the revised comment on page 7, paragraph 4, that the brain drain was "fomented by the industrialized countries," to be simplistic and inaccurate since it does not take into consideration all the complex forces and factors that contribute to this phenomenon.

On two occasions, the U.S. delegation intervened to voice its disappointment that all positive language referring to transnational corporations was excluded from the document. It urged that such positive language be included so as to encourage a dialogue with the private sector on improved transfer of technology. The delegation noted that the U.S. had taken the first steps toward such a dialogue between the U.S. Government and the private sector by commissioning a study on the transfer of technology with the participation of major private sector organizations.

The U.S. delegation stated its position that it is not appropriate to consider the creation of new financial mechanisms for science and technology cooperation without first examining existing financial resources and mechanisms and how they might be better applied. This intervention applies to items B-2 and B-3 on page II-10 and item C-1, page II-12, of the recommendations for a Programme of Action.

The U.S. delegation stated it does not consider UNCSTD and its preparatory meetings to be proper forums for discussing either the Code of Conduct for the Transfer of Technology or the revision of the Paris Convention. These reservations apply to items C-2 (page II-12) and D-4 (page II-14) respectively.

/The U.S.

The U.S. maintained its previously-stated positions with respect to the documents and conferences cited in paragraph 13 of the preliminary working document for the preparation of the World Plan of Action Recommendations, (to Section II) and noted that it could not join in endorsement of the Fifth Summit Meeting of the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, in which it did not participate.

In joining the final consensus, the U.S. delegate stated he did so in the belief that a variety of ideas and proposals should be considered by UNCSTD, but could not endorse all ideas or proposals included in the report.

