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Latin American Meeting of Governmental Experts
on Science and Technology for Development
Mexico, D.F., 31 October to 2 November 1977

REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. Place and date

1. The Latin American Meeting of Governmental Experts on Science and Technology for Development, convened by the Secretariat of the Conference of the United Nations on Science and Technology for Development and by the Economic Commission for Latin America, was held from 31 October to 2 November 1977 in the Conference Area of the Hotel Maria Isabel in Mexico City.

2. Attendance

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of twenty-three member States of the Commission: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

4. Also present was the Latin American Economic System (SELA), an intergovernmental organization that is supporting the preparatory activities to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

5. Lastly, observers were present from the following organizations: The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

6. A complete list of the participants at this Meeting may be found in Annex II of this report.

/3. Opening

3. Opening meeting

7. The opening ceremony of the Meeting took place on the morning of 31 October in the Hotel Maria Isabel, and was attended by Mr. Joao Frank Da Costa, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Mr. Jean Labbens, Resident Representative of the United Nations Programme in Mexico, Mr. Victor L. Urquidi, member of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development (ACAST), and Messrs. Oscar Bardeci and Gert Rosenthal, representing CEPAL.

8. In his opening address, Mr. Joao Da Costa, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, made reference to the principal aims of the Meeting. He particularly emphasized the organic ties existing between the World Conference and the structuring of a New International Economic Order to facilitate the development of backward countries. He also noted that the essentially governmental nature of the Conference made it possible for each member State to express its desires and needs, and in this manner lay the foundations for a programme of action to promote the application of science and technology to development. Removing the obstacles to fulfillment of this aspiration was one of the Conference's basic objectives.^{1/}

9. Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Director of the CEPAL Office in Mexico, then took the floor on behalf of the Executive Secretariat of the organization. He first stressed the profound significance of the Meeting, which essentially aimed at suggesting subject areas as an indispensable step toward the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology. He suggested that the regional document that CEPAL was to prepare in due course should reflect, on the one hand, the needs and aspirations of the countries in the area and, on the other, the universal nature of modern science.

^{1/} The complete text of this address is contained in Annex I of this report.

10. He emphasized that the Conference represented an interagency exercise, since most of the organizations of the United Nations System and other intergovernmental organizations were participating in it.

11. Lastly, he noted that the efforts presently being made on behalf of science and technology could also constitute an additional incentive for international cooperation, including economic integration.

4. Election of Officers

12. At the suggestion of the Experts, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Alfredo Ramírez Araiza (Mexico)

Vice-Chairman: Luis Javier Jaramillo (Colombia)

Rapporteur: Diómedes Concepción (Panama)

5. Approval of the agenda, documents and organization of work

13. The participants approved the following provisional agenda (CEPAL/MEX/ELCT/1/Rev.1), submitted for their consideration by the Secretariat:

1. Inauguration
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
3. Approval of Agenda and organization of work
4. Report of the General Secretariat of the Conference on preparatory activities at world level
5. Report of the ACAST Latin American Group
6. Report of CEPAL's Executive Secretariat on preparatory activities at regional level
7. Selection of subject areas
8. Report on national activities
9. Identification of technical assistance requirements
10. Other matters
11. Approval of final report

/14. During

14. During the discussions the participants had before them the documents listed in Annex III of the present report.

15. A request was made by the Secretary-General of the Conference and by several of the representatives to change the name of the Meeting in such a way so that its governmental nature would be explicitly indicated. The proposal was accepted. It was also suggested that under item 8 of the Agenda, observations should be made regarding the results and objectives of possible subregional actions.

16. It was decided to hold meetings in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and in the afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. However, working groups would be organized to deal with specific items on the Agenda if necessary.

6. Closing session of the Meeting

17. At the final plenary meeting, held on the afternoon of 2 november 1977 the report on the participants' work was submitted for their consideration by the Rapporteur.

II. REPORTS ON THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on
Science and Technology

18. On the basis of document A/32/330 of the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Secretary-General pointed out that the majority of the member States had identified "focal points" that would be responsible for coordinating preparatory work on the national level. That had facilitated the work of the Secretariat, particularly with regard to assistance in preparing national papers. He further stated that such assistance could be short term --that is, within thirty days-- or long term, for a period of three or four months. In the first instance the request would be made to the Secretariat of CEPAL, and in the second, it would be submitted directly to the Secretary-General of the Conference.

19. In this respect he suggested a flexible system in which the work would be divided between the General Secretariat and CEPAL. He stressed that countries could request assistance from other agencies outside the United Nations System or within the framework of their bilateral and multilateral agreements.

20. He further pointed out that national papers were the exclusive responsibility of the States and that it would be advisable for governmental institutions to participate actively in formulating them.

21. He reported that the Secretariat had prepared a series of seminars of a subregional nature for the Caribbean countries, the member States of the Cartagena Agreement and Southern Cone countries, including Paraguay. He further noted that the Seminar held recently in Central America and Panama under the auspices of the General Secretariat could serve as a model, which, with appropriate modifications, might be followed by other areas. Within this context he mentioned that the Central American and Panamanian Seminar had formulated highly useful guidelines for the preparation of national papers.^{1/}

^{1/} See Preliminary Guidelines for the Preparation of National Papers.
(Information Document No. 1).

22. He further pointed out that UNESCO and UNCTAD were preparing specialized seminars on scientific policy and the transfer of technology that would take place sometime in 1978.

23. Lastly, he reminded the participants that national papers should be ready by May 1978 so they could be taken into account in the regional paper.

2. Advisory Committee on the application of Science and Technology (ACAST)

24. Mr. Victor L. Urquidi took the floor in representation of ACAST. He mentioned the origins and composition of the Committee, which was established in 1964 and was composed of 24 members, four of whom are at the present time of Latin American origin (Brazil, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico). He pointed out that ACAST had not concerned itself with scientific aspects as such, but rather with questions regarding the application of science and technology to development. Consequently, ACAST had anticipated various proposals made by ECOSOC and had maintained close contact with different specialized agencies, such as UNESCO and FAO, and with the executive secretariats of various Regional Commissions of the United Nations.

25. In 1969 the Committee began to formulate a World Plan of Action, which enumerated the scientific and technological needs identified by various United Nations organizations. It had also contributed to the formulation of Regional Plans such as that presented to Latin America at the previously mentioned Meeting on Science and Technology held in Mexico City in 1974.

26. ACAST introduced the topic of appropriate technology, inter alia, as technology that takes into account the specific needs of a region in accordance with its available resources, stressing the need for adapting technologies that utilized more manpower and economized on capital and energy resources.

27. ACAST had also drawn attention to the study of non-conventional sources of energy, such as solar, geothermal and wind energy, in addition to those derived from bio-gas systems. It had also promoted research on world protein consumption.

28. The Plan encompassed areas of interest on the world level in various fields, such as agriculture and industry. These areas should not only be studied; knowledge should also be applied for their development. In addition, the Plan discussed new technologies and problems regarding the transfer of technology (dealt with extensively by UNCTAD) and included the already-mentioned topic of appropriate technology.

29. The representative of ACAST pointed out that subsequent to the contributions mentioned a waiting period ensued during which the countries initiated work on their assigned areas. Although the Plan had not been completely assimilated by the countries, it had helped to awaken CEPAL's interest in the subject, as indicated by the recent establishment of a science and technology unit within the framework of that Commission.

30. He mentioned the importance of arriving at a Latin American consensus for the intergovernmental conference in 1978, for which the results of the last session of CEPAL in Guatemala City in May 1977 were very encouraging.

31. He reported that ACAST would soon meet in Geneva to indicate guidelines for identifying subject areas on the world level in anticipation of the Conference that would take place in mid-1979.

32. He noted that the Conference should specifically deal with the application of science and technology to production problems, productivity and even to the distribution of the fruits of development, and that scientific and technical knowledge should be adapted to the over-all problems of the region and be founded on clear-cut guidelines as, for example, with regard to agricultural production, energy and the machinery for providing impetus to technological discoveries.

33. He emphasized that most scientific and technological knowledge was produced and applied by transnational corporations, which acted in accordance with their own particular interests without considering the needs of countries. The Conference would have to contribute toward the establishment of an appropriate scientific and technological basis that would make it possible to increase the decision-making and negotiation capacities of countries in the area and their capacity for selecting more appropriate technology.

/34. The representative

34. The representative of ACAST concluded by indicating that progress should also be achieved in regulating the transfer of technology.

3. Executive Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) on Regional Preparatory Work

35. The Chief of the Science and Technology Unit of CEPAL noted that three factors had oriented the analysis and activities of his agency in this area. The first of those consisted of the work carried out during the past three decades on the effects of the accumulation of technical progress on trade and economic development. In this respect, CEPAL's criticism of the classical theory of international trade and industrialization patterns which have not undergone any technical change for a long time, have led countries to adopt policies directed toward correcting this fact.

36. The second consisted of actions of a regional nature (CASTALA, CACTAL), accompanied by others carried out on the national level, which have brought about an awareness of the lag that exists in that field in the region. CEPAL had endeavoured to coordinate both levels of activities while fully respecting the heterogeneous nature of the countries attending the Intergovernmental Meeting on Science and Technology for Development held in Mexico in 1974.

37. The Conference was undoubtedly the third factor, which had produced a catalytic effect on CEPAL's programmes.

38. By mandate of the aforementioned meeting, the Unit of Science and Technology for Latin America was established with broad support from all countries and from the Mexican Government in particular. It should be recalled that the Unit had offered assistance in carrying out the Central American and Panamanian Seminar (Guatemala, October 1977). It had also undertaken the formulation of a regional document by following the guidelines established in resolution 374 (XVII), which was approved at the last session of the Commission (Guatemala, May 1977).

/39. Lastly,

39. Lastly, the CEPAL representative pointed out that the subject matter of the Conference was very complex since, first of all, it involved numerous issues and ramifications, secondly, because the application of technical knowledge on a wide scale was frequently impeded by time-honored traditions; and thirdly, because the process of technological accumulation required a long period of time that is in contrast with the impatience that habitually overtook some politicians and that was present in certain policies. In any event he stressed that the Conference would have to lead the way toward understanding and negotiations that would facilitate the substance and scope of a third decade for development.

III. PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM IN THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

40. The observer from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presented the report of the Latin American Technical Seminar on Technological Information contained in Patent Documents (Information Document No. 4, Add.1), which was held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 October 1977 under the auspices of CEPAL, UNCSTD and WIPO. He reaffirmed WIPO's willingness to collaborate with the Latin American countries, CEPAL and the Conference Secretariat in preparing the preliminary documents for the World Conference.

41. The delegate from UNESCO said that with regard to his organization's programmes and from its Regional Office of Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Montevideo, collaboration with member States in the preparatory work for the World Conference was framed within a global concept of the possibilities offered by science and technology considered as a whole for an integral development that would signify an improvement in the living conditions of all with respect for cultural, social and geographic realities. Some of the concrete aspects of such collaboration might be:

- The national scientific and technological policy (institutions, instruments, planning, preparation of budgets, and so forth).

- Improvement of the scientific and technological infrastructure and of its participation in the economic and social development process.

- The interrelations between science and society and, specifically, consideration of the role of scientific and technological variables in the construction of models of the desired society in the medium and long term.

42. He also expressed UNESCO's persistent interest in obtaining greater participation and, consequently, a greater commitment on the part of scientific communities in the objectives defined for the World Conference on Science and Technology.

43. Lastly, he pointed out that UNESCO had been in close collaboration with CEPAL on various matters of mutual interest and in particular on the preparatory work for the World Conference. For example, with the help of CEPAL,

/the guidelines

the guidelines for the national papers to be presented at the Fifth Meeting of the Permanent Conference of Leaders of Scientific Policy and Research of Latin America and the Caribbean - to be held in Quito in May 1978 - were being concluded so that those would serve as a step in the preparation of papers requested for UNCSTD.

44. The SELA representative affirmed that organization's willingness to cooperate in the work that was being carried out for the Conference at a regional level and requested the Meeting to consider that offer. He called attention to the fact that at the last session of ECOSOC (2123 LXIII, August 1977) it was resolved that SELA would participate actively in the actions taken in Latin America in that connexion.

45. The UNCTAD representative stated that organization had been involved in the preparatory work of the Conference since its third international meeting (1973) and more recently at the Nairobi Meeting, where it had adopted resolutions directed toward the formulation of a program of action in that field.

46. Insofar as the guidelines of the Conference were concerned, it was considered that there were differences between science and technology, particularly since the latter had always been associated with transnational corporations with commercial interests. It was consequently advisable to distinguish the scientific aspect from the technological aspect in considering them at the World Conference on Science and Technology.

47. He reported that UNCTAD was working on aspects that tended to change the legal framework governing the transfer of technology and, in particular, the code of conduct.

48. Among its activities at the regional level, it had given support to a centre for the transfer of technology for Asia and to SELA for the establishment of a Latin American technological information network.

49. He also indicated the importance of selecting subject areas and of considering, first of all, those upon which a general consensus existed among the countries of the Third World, regardless of their degree of development; and secondly, those that led to specific lines of action and not to theoretical positions. UNCTAD had consequently identified sectors such as health (which included the pharmaceuticals industry), energy and food, and other important ones such as capital goods and chemical products.

/50. He concluded

50. He concluded that it would be necessary to deal with areas related to the transfer of technology and that strengthen the abilities of countries to manage their own technology.

51. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) noted that the scientific and technological variable was essential for the economic integration of the Central American area. Despite the crisis it was experiencing, that process had already established an infrastructure that enabled countries to achieve significant joint progress in that area through diverse regional institutions, such as the Central American Institute for Research and Industrial Technology (ICAITI), the Central American Public Administration Institute (ICAP) and the Council of Central American Universities (CSUCA). Likewise, progress had been achieved in the field of laws regarding industrial property (trademarks, and invention and design patents) in order to reduce the dependence fostered by previous legislation. Furthermore, an attempt had been made to improve industrial property systems with the collaboration of CEPAL, UNCTAD and WIPO. At the present time SIECA was giving particular attention to restructuring the Common Market with a view to expanding it and extending its scope.

52. Lastly, he concluded that the establishment of a science and technology unit within the framework of SIECA was being envisaged with the collaboration of UNCTAD.

53. The UNIDO observer stated that that institution supported the preparatory work for the Conference and had already worked in that connexion in the interest of the countries of the Third World. In the meeting that was to be held in Vienna in mid-1978, reference would be made to the most appropriate technologies for solving the technological problems of those countries and guidance would be provided for the action of international organizations.

IV. SELECTION OF SUBJECT AREAS

54. In his introductory remarks based on document CEPAL/MEX/ELCT/4, the Secretary-General of the Conference called attention to the fact that the selection of areas was a complex undertaking. The difficulties went back to the very beginning of the intergovernmental discussions that formulated the guidelines for the subject matter, when certain difference arose among the developing and the industrialized countries. The Secretary-General added that the developing countries insisted that the Conference should emphasize the obstacles that encumbered scientific and technical progress in the poorer nations, without losing sight of the aspirations implicit in the New International Economic Order.

55. In contrast, some developed countries favoured a splintered agenda, insofar as subject matter and geographical areas were concerned. The decision to choose no more than five subject areas was a sort of compromise between the emphasis given both to "vertical" aspects (agriculture, food, energy, and so forth) and to "horizontal" aspects (transfer of technology, training, institutional agreements).

56. The Secretary-General said that those areas should not be selected arbitrarily. They should "have clear relevance to problems of development in all countries, especially developing countries".^{1/} However, it was not easy to find five areas that satisfied the needs and desires of all the countries in a given region.

57. At the recent meeting of the Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development,^{2/} important changes were made in that subject matter. First, it was decided that the areas did not necessarily have to reflect a national priority; secondly, that they should be of an illustrative nature; thirdly, that it was therefore not obligatory to enumerate them in national papers, and lastly, that the selection could serve a wide range of purposes.

^{1/} Resolution 2028 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 3d).
^{2/} New York, January-February 1977 (Document A/32/43).

That agreement, the Secretary-General of the Conference emphasized, was in accordance with the positions on the developing countries.

58. He pointed out, however, that a disordered selection of areas would not be advisable. Rather, it would be necessary to bear in mind the global needs of the developing countries and also satisfy the interests of the economically backward regions, thereby improving prospects for the international negotiations that would certainly take place within the Conference.

59. In addition, and for purely informational purposes, he enumerated the areas chosen by the African countries at the meeting held recently in Arusha, Tanzania.^{3/}

60. Lastly, he suggested that the Meeting should undertake two tasks: that of choosing areas with the general tone of resolution 2028 (LXI) as a guide,^{4/} and that of identifying areas of regional interest, which could be included in national papers and in the regional document to be prepared by CEPAL.

61. As a complement to the topic, the representative of the Secretariat of CEPAL described the contents of the document entitled Further Reflections on the Question of Subject Areas (CEPAL/MEX/ELCT/4, September 1977). He pointed out that the selection of areas should take into account the Latin American context in which the technical change was taking place, and further noted that technological transformation had come about principally through foreign trade in the form of imports rather than because of internal phenomena. He added that such transformations had accentuated the heterogeneity of the structure of Latin American society, which had not been attenuated by new policies in the field.

62. He furthermore noted that technical progress was the principal reason for the internationalization characterizing the economies of the region, a process that implied equivocal and contradictory consequences.

^{3/} See the document entitled Subject areas recommended by the African Experts Group on Science and Technology for Development (Information Document No. 2)

^{4/} See Annex I of the document entitled The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development: Background, objectives and regional implications (CEPAL/MEX/ELCT/2), September 1977.

63. The representative of CEPAL stated that it is not easy to determine what specific areas came within the purview of science and technology, since they affected practically all activities. That difficulty existed to a lesser degree in the case of other international agreements with empirically identifiable objectives.

64. The Secretariat then reviewed six of the requirements for the selection of areas, as follows: a) that the areas should reflect and incorporate the interests of the developing countries; b) that the area selected should include a significant amount of scientific and technological material; c) that the area may be affected by deliberate governmental policies and guidelines; d) that the selection should constitute a criticism of the international order and of the internal circumstances that impede technical progress; e) that the areas should reflect a broad range of the interests of the public sector, the private sector and the scientific community, and f) that the areas should be capable of accelerating the structural changes required by the region as a whole.

65. The two considerations mentioned above were followed by extensive debate by the governmental experts. Some brought up questions related to the obstacles impeding scientific and technical progress in the developing countries, pointing out that it would be necessary to bear in mind the need for overcoming such obstacles in selecting areas.

66. One of the delegations said that it favoured a combination of horizontal and vertical dimensions in order to be able to visualize the multiple impacts of technology clearly.

67. Another delegation pointed out that the selection of areas was a political act, since it was conditioned by the extent and utilization of the resources allocated to scientific and technological development.

68. Several representatives noted that the areas selected should represent a regional consensus, which would be presented to the World Conference in due course. Any statements on the topic would be influential on the nature and scope of that meeting.

69. It was also mentioned that the areas should reflect Latin America's social problems, and as an example the problem of health and nutrition was recalled.

/70. Another

70. Another delegation proposed dividing the region into four subgroups that would serve as a means for arriving at a joint position appropriate for Latin America. They would consist of the group of Caribbean countries, the countries of the Andean Pact, the group formed by Argentina, Brazil and Mexico and lastly, the group of Central American countries.

71. One of the delegates indicated that the differences on that question were not a matter of substance but rather of nuance, and suggested that the experts in attendance exchange ideas on the areas that might be chosen.

72. In order to facilitate the debate, the Chairman of the Meeting proposed forming a working group that would apply criteria for the selection of areas and indicate the topics to be included in the document that CEPAL would submit to the countries at the Intergovernmental Conference preparatory to the World Conference.

72a. After a period of intense work the working group submitted a proposal for consideration by the Plenary.

72b. The delegations deliberated at length on the different topics included in the proposal, and each of the items was recorded by consensus, with the exception of the final selection of areas, which was decided by vote.

72c. The following recommendation was finally approved:

/GUIDELINES FOR

/V. REPORTS

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

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 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 to the Regional Conference:

That in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Latin American countries should endeavor:

1. 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 3201 (XXIX).

2. 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:

a) 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

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.

b) The creation of 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.

c) 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.

d) 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.

/To the General

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 distribution;
- 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.

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 a means of establishing a minimum scientific and technological infrastructure based on education and the scientific development of universities and research institutes;

/- Efforts for

- Efforts for the development of a permanent and stable scientific and technical activity that will enable countries to deal with the problems 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 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,
- Guidelines for the evaluation of technical cooperation in the area of science and technology for developments.

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 Group of 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 affect 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

These substantive questions should be the principal topic of discussion at the World Conference in order for it to fulfill its objectives, which are defined in paragraph 2 of 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 Group of Governmental 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
- In the linking of activities for scientific and technological development with other elements related to national development.

72d. In approving this recommendation, the delegation of Guatemala requested that the following reservation be included in the report of this Meeting:

"With regard to item 3, which contains recommendations addressed to the General Secretariat of the Conference, the Delegation of Guatemala wishes to state that irrespective of its full support of the General Secretariat's independent criterion and capacity for action, as has been manifested in previous meetings and resolutions in the various forums of the United Nations, it considers that the General Secretariat should work in coordination with the United Nations Office of Science and Technology, inasmuch as that Office played a very important role in the first preparatory work for the World Conference and it is foreseeable that it will be responsible for adherence to, and implementation of, the resolutions of that Conference".

72e. In reply to the Guatemalan delegation's reservation, the Secretary-General of the Conference observed that it was contrary to the unanimous position of the Group of 77 in the United Nations with regard to the interpretation of paragraph 5 of Resolution 2020 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council (E/5777, paragraph 44). This position was unanimously reaffirmed by the Group in New York on 21 October 1977.

72f. Furthermore, Guatemala's reservation was in opposition to the "general agreement that the Secretary-General of the Conference should retain full freedom in the organization of his Secretariat, in line with the important and extensive mandate entrusted to him by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council". (Report of the Preparatory Committee A/32/43, paragraph 34.)

72g. At this time it is not possible to judge the institutions and machinery in charge of implementing the recommendations of the Conference since this matter pertains exclusively to the will of the member States in accordance with the spirit prevailing in this international forum on science and technology for development.

10/10/2020

Dear Sir,
I am writing to you regarding the matter of the late Mr. John Smith. I have been informed that you are the executor of his will. I am the beneficiary of the sum of £10,000 which is to be paid to me upon the completion of the probate process.

I have been advised that the probate process is currently underway and that the funds should be available to me within the next few weeks. I am grateful for your assistance in this matter and would appreciate it if you could provide me with an update on the progress.

I have also been advised that the funds will be paid to me in a lump sum. I am happy to accept this arrangement and would appreciate it if you could provide me with the necessary documentation to facilitate the payment. I am also happy to provide any further information that you may require.

I am sure that you will be able to assist me in this matter and I am grateful for your help. I am sure that you will be able to provide me with the necessary documentation and that the funds will be available to me within the next few weeks. I am sure that you will be able to assist me in this matter and I am grateful for your help.

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V. REPORTS ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

73. During the meeting, the delegations presented a brief report on the progress of the preparatory work that was being carried out in their countries for the World Conference on Science and Technology. They referred to the national focal points responsible for that work, to the tasks that had already been completed, to the stage of progress of their scientific and technological development and to their needs for technical assistance.

74. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Education (Secretariat of Science and Technology), the Ministry of Planning (Secretariat of Technical Cooperation) and the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina were presently collaborating in support of the Conference.

75. To date only consultations had taken place to define national interests and to coordinate them with those of the rest of the Latin American countries. To this end, the experience gained by technological and scientific research organizations such as universities, the CONICET, academics and institutions was very valuable.

76. He indicated that national priorities could only be given concrete form upon formulation of the national paper, and that certain areas of interest that had encountered obstacles impeding their full development had already been defined. These areas were: health and welfare; non-renewable natural resources and in particular the use of geothermal, petrochemical (fertilizers, oil and coal) and mining resources; and the utilization of renewable, agricultural, forest and marine resources. He also mentioned making use of arid and semi-arid zones, reforestation and forestation, agricultural fertilization and mechanization, the fishing industry and utilization of the extensive continental shelf; the transformation of natural resources in order to guarantee industrial development that did not depend on imported raw materials and that would offer possibilities for employment, market diversification, relative reduction of the cost of living; and lastly, the exchange of raw materials and manufactured products, in addition to technical and scientific knowledge (transfer of technology) on both the foreign and domestic levels that might serve as a basis for a national scientific and technological policy.

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77. The delegate stated that it would be advisable to hold subregional seminars such as that programmed for the Southern Cone, which would be useful in improving national papers in preparation.

78. He concluded by stating that his country would be in a position to provide technical assistance in some areas in which it had distinguished itself, and that such assistance could be channeled through the General Secretariat of the Conference.

79. The delegate from Barbados noted that until 1976 science and technology in his country had been the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. Since that time the principal responsible organization was the Ministry of Planning and Finance, which was subordinate to the Prime Minister and had also been designated as a focal point.

80. The National Science Council had been established recently. Its members belonged to different areas and fields of science and technology, and it was foreseen that they would play an important role in preparing the national paper.

81. Although priorities had not yet been announced, certain areas of interest had already been defined, such as agriculture (including livestock-raising, animal health, resources exploitable by means of irrigation, and agro-industries), health and low-income housing. For that matter, housing was comparatively adequate, although it could be improved, particularly through the use of construction of materials derived from sugar cane. The study of alternative sources of energy, such as solar energy and that derived from the use of bio-gas were also considered to be of interest.

82. Requirements for assistance in preparing the national paper had not yet been ascertained; however, as soon as they were defined they would be transmitted to the appropriate organization.

83. Although Bolivia had not yet begun the preparatory work for the World Conference, certain areas of interest, such as agriculture, mining and metallurgy would surely be taken into account when national priorities were formulated.

84. Bolivia would require technical assistance both for the instrumentation of policies and for the disaggregation of technological packages and the application of criteria.

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85. A National Commission had been established to evaluate all documentation on such matters. At the present time the establishment of an organization was being studied to coordinate all aspects related to science and technology, which in turn would coordinate with the authorities responsible for national planning at high decision-making levels.

86. Brazil was assigning special importance to the objectives of the World Conference. The focal point was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Planning Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Presidency.

87. At the present time a national development team on science and technology was working jointly with the abovementioned organizations. That group had set itself the goal of concluding a document by the end of the present year that it was hoped would provide reliable information on the levels of application of science and technology. The document would be of a descriptive and analytical nature and would include recommendations and suggestions to diminish the obstacles that had impeded the development of science and technology.

88. Although it was not easy to determine areas of action before concluding the national paper, generally speaking some of them could be mentioned, such as the industrial sector (energy, electricity and transportation), agriculture (including forest resources) and scientific development, which would include technology, education, human resources and information.

89. Earnest efforts were being made to define the terms science, technology and development and their interrelationships. Criteria were also being defined to select techniques, promote the production of capital goods, regulate of foreign investment and overcome the obstacles impeding autonomous technical progress.

90. Brazil was in a position to assist other countries requesting technical assistance.

91. The national focal point of Colombia was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Colombian Fund for Scientific Research and Special Projects (COLCIENCIAS), the governmental scientific and technological organization, which at the same time constituted the Executive Secretariat of the National

Council on Science and Technology, was responsible for formulating the preparatory work for Colombia's participation in the World Conference on Science and Technology.

92. It was felt that preparation of the national paper should be supported by concrete experiences derived from studies and actions already carried out, such as the formulation of policies that had been carried out in the country to promote scientific and technological development. Among those was the preparation of monographs that had been presented in various forms, such as the OAS, the United Nations, the Andean Pact and the Andrés Bello Agreement; special studies carried out by COLCIENCIAS, by universities and by the National Planning Department on obstacles, inventories and scientific and technological policy participation with other countries identifying scientific and technological policy machinery and instruments, including experimentation in the field of the transfer of technology; the application of policies for the transfer of technology through institutions such as the Royalties Committee, which had been in operation since 1967; the experiences obtained in applying the technological policy of the Andean Group; and the study of the situation of science and technology in Colombia, carried out in 1975 with the collaboration of a group of high-level national and international experts.

93. It should be noted that a great number of scientists and planners in the economic, social, scientific and technological fields had participated in the abovementioned work. It was hoped that those elements would contribute to preparation of the national paper. Several seminars were being planned to fulfill that commitment and thereby concentrate the positions of all sectors on the national level.

94. In Costa Rica the National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICYT), an autonomous institution established by law in 1972, was the focal point responsible for formulating the national paper.

95. A working group made up of CONICYT, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Planning and Economic Policy Office was presently concerned with defining the methodology to be used and ideas were being exchanged with a United Nations expert on the approach to be taken for the national paper. Insofar as the selection of priority areas was concerned, CONICYT would have

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the collaboration of ad hoc groups, which had already formulated reports on the situation of research that had been carried out in priority areas. Those areas were: agriculture; energy; natural resources, in particular marine resources and tropical forests; health, particularly the field of nutrition; housing; information and documentation in specific areas such as industry, agriculture, health and so forth.

96. Lastly, with regard to technical assistance, Costa Rica required an expert to revise its national paper.

97. The Government of the Republic of Cuba was assigning special importance to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and its preparatory work.

98. A national group had been recently established headed by the State Committee for Economic Collaboration and was composed of the State Committee on Science and Technology, the Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the objective of formulating the national paper.

99. In the Republic of Chile the national focal point was the National Commission for Scientific Research and Technology (CONICYT).

100. The national paper was being prepared and progress had been made on the following topics:

- a) Fundamental principles of Chilean scientific and technological policy;
- b) Analysis of the scientific and technological system;
- c) Financial resources allocated to the scientific and technological system;
- d) Global aspects with regard to the selection and transfer of technology;
- e) Integration of scientific and technological components within the dynamic elements of economic and social development;
- f) Machinery for the exchange of scientific and technological information;
- g) Cooperation in science and technology among developing countries.

101. An exhaustive analysis of one of the areas selected during the present Meeting was also being planned, for which technical assistance would be requested of the Secretariat of the Conference.

102. Ecuador had not yet initiated preparatory work for the World Conference; however, the Planning Council was preparing its viewpoints in that regard.

103. The Government of that country was assigning great importance to the Conference, as demonstrated by the various meetings that had been held internally.

104. The Council had begun to establish contacts with various organizations in order to formulate the national paper. Interest existed in ways and means of reducing technological dependence on the developed countries and in establishing a code of conduct.

105. Among the areas that could be selected were agriculture, industry, food technology, low-income housing and health.

106. Ecuador required a United Nations expert to collaborate coordinating the work that was being carried out internally, and it was willing to establish bilateral contacts with other countries in order to obtain the cooperation it needed.

107. Guatemala considered that the World Conference should serve general objectives, such as emphasizing the concern of developing countries with regard to the international sphere where science and technology were generated and acquired, and creating greater national awareness of scientific and technological problems. That would require the combined efforts of institutions in order to insure the possibility of formulating and applying policies that would strengthen the capacity for generating and applying science and technology at the lowest possible cost.

108. The science and technology unit of the National Economic Planning Council was the focal point for Conference activities and was responsible for planning, coordinating and applying the national policy included in the 1975-1979 National Development Plan to the areas of science and technology. Among its coordinating functions, the Unit had established a formal relationship with the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs and with the National Bank and the Science and Agricultural Technology Institute, among others. It hoped soon to benefit from the collaboration of subregional organizations such as SIECA, INCAP and ICAITI.

109. Based on a series of general and individual criteria and in consideration of the institutions that were participating in formulating the national paper, four areas or spheres of study were identified: agriculture, natural resources, agro-industries and construction.
110. Lastly, Guatemala hoped that with assistance from regional and international consultants it would be able to participate in formulating the report on the Central American area as agreed at the recent subregional seminar held in Guatemala (October 1977).
111. Guyana was assigning high priority to the preparatory work for the World Conference. Its focal point was its National Scientifics Research Council, an institution that governed scientific and technological policy and functioned directly within the Ministry of Economic Development. All areas of scientific activity, including administration and industry, were represented in the Council.
112. With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Council had formulated a document on scientific policy that had already been approved, and it had requested assistance from that organization for application of the policy. The establishment of an Institute for the Application of Science and Technology was also being promoted with UNDP support.
113. The criteria and machinery for selecting each subject area had been established, and specialized committees sponsored by the National Council had been set up in different spheres of activity selected for in-depth study. Assistance would be provided for that purpose by a consultant from Canada.
114. Among the areas chosen were agriculture, fishing, forestry and its by-products, mineral resources, energy (cheap energy sources), environment and health, industry (particularly small industry), education and manpower training, scientific and technological information, and lastly, international relations in the scientific field.
115. The delegate from Guyana reported that a subregional conference entitled "Consultations on Science and Technology Policies in the Caribbean Region", sponsored by UNESCO, would be held in December. The conference would serve, inter alia, as a forum for the preparation of the World Conference.

116. Haiti acknowledged the importance of science and technology in the economic progress of nations inasmuch as they constituted a tool that aided in accelerating economic and social development.

117. Development planning was being carried out through the National Development and Planning Council (CONADEP), established in 1963. The establishment of the Office of Science and Technology was integrating scientific and technological planning with general economic and social development planning.

118. In 1975/1976 the Office of Science and Technology made an inventory of the country's scientific and technological potential that included research performed by university research centres and public institutions studying building materials, mineral resources, public health, nutrition, agricultural and industrial development, statistics and professional training.

119. No private centres devoted to research were in existence, with the possible exception of a few that were involved in studying human sciences. Private companies were not structured so as to make internal development of science and technology possible.

120. The National Development and Planning Council was presently analyzing the economic and social aspects of science and technology that should be included in the 1976-1981 development plan.

121. Although no formal and explicit policy existed for science and technology, that did not imply the absence of specific programmes and projects, such as experimentation with rice and corn fertilization in different types of soils; the selection of varieties of grains with the purpose of gradually eliminating undesirable ones; the utilization of sugar cane by-products; research aimed at obtaining greater yield from sugar cane and bananas; and research aimed at replacing charcoal with a substitute fuel of local origin.

122. Priority areas for the application of science and technology were: production and conservation of foodstuffs; development of the pharmaceuticals industry and eradication of diseases; inventory and evaluation of marine resources; and development of new sources of energy.

123. The government of Haiti had already begun to make the contacts required with the different sectors that would be collaborating in preparing the national paper, an undertaking that would require technical assistance from different United Nations organizations.
124. The government of Honduras had been granting singular importance to the World Conference on Science and Technology for Development that the United Nations was preparing for 1979.
125. Honduras's focal point for that Conference was the Technical Secretariat of the Superior Economic Planning Council. Certain activities were underway in formulating the national paper through its Science and Technology Department. For example, a National Commission was being formed with the participation of governmental agencies and elements from the scientific community and the production sectors so that the national paper would include the concerns of the main participants in scientific and technological activity.
126. In taking into account the vast socioeconomic problems, the availability of natural resources, the economic and social policies that had been formulated and the economic and social structure of the country itself, the following priority areas had been identified: agricultural sector, agro-industry, natural resources (forest, mining and marine) and health (nutrition and pharmaceutical products).
127. Technical assistance requirements, which bore a relationship to the contents of the national paper, would cover assistance by an expert in topics such as analysis of policies implicit in science and technology, the impact of the transfer of technology, the influence of the Honduran model for economic development on scientific and technological development, and the utilization of national skills in carrying out studies on technological demand in the public and private sectors and on supply and demand of human resources in science and technology.
128. Jamaica was giving its support to the preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Science and Technology for Development since it considered them of great importance in assuring the success of the Conference and of the New International Economic Order.

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129. The focal point for the preparation of the national paper was the Council for Scientific Research (CIC), an organization that included members from the public and private sectors, industry, industrial and educational organizations, and representatives from workers' and other groups. CIC coordinated, promoted and directed all scientific and technological activities required for exploiting the country's natural resources.

130. With regard to preparation of the national paper, the Council had established contacts with important scientific and technological organizations, with the public and with private and educational sectors in order to ensure that the paper would include all the interests of the country.

131. Stress had been laid on technologies related to agro-industry, mineral resources, the development of small-scale industries, non-conventional sources of energy, nutrition, low-cost construction materials, the manufacture of consumer goods, the utilization of waste products and the development of water resources. An attempt was also being made to eliminate restrictive practices that impeded the transfer of technology on equitable bases and to promote activities leading to the development of local technologies adapted to social needs.

132. In order to achieve those objectives, assistance had been requested in the field of scientific and technological planning, and cooperation had been requested of the Secretariat of the Conference in preparing the national paper.

133. The focal point in Mexico was the National Council for Science and Technology, the organization responsible for coordinating activities in the field. In late 1976 the Council had prepared the National Science and Technology Indicator Plan, in which scientists, users of science and technology, and public sector officials participated.

134. The plan formulated guidelines and action policies for key aspects of scientific and technological development and provided a frame of reference for instrumenting programmes.

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135. The National Scientific and Technological Research Programme that was presently drawing to a close in CONACYT and which had formed part of the following phase of the aforementioned Plan, was the result of a collective effort involving participation by approximately 400 representatives from the scientific and technological community and from the public and private production sectors.

136. As a result of the work that had been carried out, first in the National Science and Technology Plan and later in the National Research Programme, Mexico proposed the following possible subject areas:

- Development of planning and organization of the scientific and technological system;
- Improvement in relations with the production sector;
- Proper training of human resources;
- Broadening of the capacity for construction and maintenance of equipment and tools for research;
- Increase and improvement of information services;
- Effective application of international cooperation policies and of regulations in the field of transfer of technology.

137. Each subject area would refer to different sectors, such as food, health, energy, capital goods and so forth.

138. The National Planning Office was in charge of directing the preparatory work for the World Conference. In collaboration with the Central Bank's Technological Research Department, that Office organized meetings with different national sectors, including the private and university sectors, and formed working groups that would contribute suggestions and proposals in the field.

139. Progress was being made in detailing and expanding the preliminary analysis on science and technology; in the formation of committees and advisory groups for defining the areas that Nicaragua would take into account in its national paper; and in the preparations for the regional meeting that would be held in early December 1977, which had been decided at the Central American Seminar held in Guatemala. A national report was being prepared for that Seminar.

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140. Although not yet clearly defined, the following subject areas could be mentioned: energy, including geothermal energy and that derived from agricultural waste products; agro-industries, public health; nutrition; and education.

141. Nicaragua would request technical cooperation in accordance with the progress it made in preparing its national paper.

142. The Government of Panama attached special interest to the World Conference on Science and Technology and fully supported the preparatory work for the Conference in order to ensure that the objectives proposed would be achieved.

143. The foregoing considerations had been dealt with in the Document Preparatory to the National Paper, which constituted the results of the efforts of the interinstitutional group organized to prepare the national paper. That group was coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, the focal point with which the Centre for the Development of National Research Capacity (CEDECANI) collaborated.

144. The utilization of science and technology in interoceanic communications and transportations was prominent among the subject areas selected by Panama.

145. The delegation of Panama considered that the preparatory work for the Conference (national efforts, subregional meeting and regional meeting) had enriched its experience with respect to approaches, criteria and guidelines for a common position for the Latin American region and for the countries of the Third World.

146. It felt that the preparatory work should be oriented toward a common position for Latin America with regard to the World Conference in order not to weaken the region's position with subregional papers. Subregional seminars could provide orientation in that connexion and form working groups to develop a methodology that could be applied in preparing national papers.

147. The Dominican Republic's focal point was the Science and Technology Unit (established in January 1975), an agency of the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency. That Unit was working on an analysis of the field of science and technology and on studies on the transfer of technology, with special emphasis on the search for machinery to regulate such transfers.

148. It was hoped that the following areas would be promoted in the technological aspect: agricultural development, which would be a solution to problems of unemployment and nutrition; the development of different crops, which would mean a significant increase in exports; utilization of sugar cane waste in processing by-products, such as paper; and the application of technology to the mining sector, which would require international technical assistance with respect to soil usage and in preparing a national geological map.

149. The focal point for Trinidad and Tobago was the Working Group in Science and Technology sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That Group had been carrying out various activities for the World Conference.

150. Several institutions had been assigned specific tasks in order to identify the work that would be required at the national level. Those institutions were: The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), in charge of preparing the national paper; the National Technology for Development Council (NCTD), which would revise the document before submitting it for approval at the governmental level, and lastly, the Working Group on Science and Technology, which was responsible for the final evaluation.

151. Specific activities had been undertaken to ensure that all sectors of the country would be sufficiently prepared to take part in preparing the national paper.

152. The Government had formulated a preliminary document that would serve as an indicator of reactions of the country's political parties. In the same connexion, a seminar was being organized for November 1977 to hear opinions from different national sectors.

153. Subject areas would be determined gradually in accordance with the progress of the national paper. In any case, however, priorities should be oriented toward obtaining the maximum benefits to be derived from the utilization of natural and human resources.

154. In the matter of natural resources, the country had relatively abundant reserves of oil. The fundamental strategy, therefore, should consist of promoting its exploitation, however in such a way as to prolong its availability and diversify the industrial base in order to ensure a more stable economic basis for future generations. In that connexion, agreements had been drawn up for the development of iron and steel, fertilizers, cement and petrochemicals.

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155. In order to increment its industrial development, Trinidad would have to attend to sectors such as the construction industry and physical infrastructure (roads, water, electricity and communications). Development of its capacity to produce capital goods and promotion of agricultural production would also have to be given priority.

156. With regard to human resources, emphasis was concentrated in four basic areas aimed at improving the quality of life of the country's inhabitants: health, education, housing and infrastructure.

157. In a broader context, the areas of interest to Trinidad and Tobago were: oil, as a basis for industrialization; small and medium-scale technology; ocean resources; education and training; and building techniques and materials.

158. With regard to technical assistance, Trinidad and Tobago requested the United Nations and UNESCO to provide the services of an expert.

159. Planning activities in the field of science and technology began in Uruguay around 1960. Several institutions associated with the field were in existence, including CONICYT. However, its approaches were only partial and uncoordinated.

160. CONICYT had been working for some time in research on specific areas, on analysis of the potential of human resources and on problems related to the transfer of technology, particularly with regard to information and marketing. In the months to come greater efforts would have to be devoted to preparing the national paper.

161. Even though subject areas had not yet been defined, energy and agro-industry would surely receive special attention.

162. Technical assistance requirements would be identified soon and requests for such assistance would be made in due course.

163. Venezuela's focal point was the National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICYT), an agency that acted as liaison with the Conference Secretariat. A science and technology strategy was contained in a plan that would orient the country's economic and social development for the 1976-1980 period.

164. Even though the subject areas for the national paper had not yet been defined, it was considered that they would be centered mainly on the capital goods sector, the pharmaceutical industry and transportation.

165. Venezuela did not require technical assistance for those purposes. On the contrary, Venezuela offered to help any countries requesting such assistance.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

166. Panama submitted a draft recommendation to the effect that this country should be selected as the site of the Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

167. The delegations agreed to accept Panama's offer and consequently approved the following recommendation:

SITE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE UNITED
CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (II-ELCT)

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

Bearing in mind that the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development includes a programme of preparatory activities,

Recalling that the Regional Commissions of the United Nations will convene an Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in 1978 to be attended by the Secretary-General of the Conference,

Recalling further that the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made a formal request to be designated as the site of the Latin American Conference to be held in 1978,

1. Registers with satisfaction the agreement of the Latin American group in the United Nations that Mexico should be designated as the site of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development;

2. Recommends that the Republic of Panama be designated as the site of the Regional Preparatory Meeting to be held in 1978;

3. Further recommends that Mexico be designated as the site of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development to take place in August-September 1979;

4. Instructs the General Secretariat of CEPAL to inform the Governments of the Latin American countries and the international organizations and agencies participating in the preparatory work for the Conference of this recommendation.

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168. At that time the majority of the delegates expressed agreement and support for Mexico's candidacy as site of the World Conference.

169. The Chilean delegation proposed taking advantage of the Meeting of Scientific Policy Directors organized by UNESCO (Quito, March 1973) by holding a regional technical seminar either one week prior to or one week after that Meeting to exchange points of view on national papers. That seminar would replace the subregional seminars programmed by the General Secretariat of the Conference.

170. In that connexion, the Secretary General explained that the proposal neither excluded nor invalidated the subregional seminars, in which problems of specific interest to certain groups of countries could be aired. He added that those subregional seminars had been approved by ECOSOC resolution 2123.

171. There was consensus that holding diverse forums and seminars was in keeping with the spirit of the Conference, and that the Chilean delegation's recommendation could be taken up if the General Secretariat or UNESCO deemed it appropriate.