

## 1993/71. Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development

### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development,<sup>185</sup> the assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries,<sup>186</sup> and the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat<sup>187</sup> in science and technology for development, the report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development<sup>188</sup> and the note by the Secretariat on the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting,<sup>189</sup>

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, in particular paragraph 20 thereof,

*Having examined* the note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system<sup>190</sup> as a means of examining the contribution of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the national capacities of developing countries in the field of science and technology,

1. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1994, include science and technology for development as a priority subject to be considered at the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1994;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for that purpose, a report containing an analysis of and action-oriented proposals to improve the coordination mechanisms of organs, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Bank, which are involved in the science and technology activities of the United Nations system; the report should take into account the implications of the recent reforms of the Secretariat, as well as ways and means of improving the coordination of the United Nations system with other relevant intergovernmental institutions and private organizations involved in science and technology activities;

3. *Considers* the note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system a valuable input to the consideration of science and technology activities at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1994;

4. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider, at its second session, the outcome of the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Council of 1994;

5. *Stresses* that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology is an indispensable component of any country's effort to mobilize science and technology for development and that it should hence remain a priority issue on the United Nations agenda;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its biennial sessions of the progress being achieved and any major problems encountered in the application of science and technology for sustainable development at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to identifying new options for international action;

7. *Expresses its approval* of the activities undertaken so far by the United Nations system to assist the developing countries in enhancing their national capacities in the field of science and technology;

8. *Expresses its approval* of the innovative features of the series of ten pilot projects being undertaken by the United Nations system to develop endogenous capacity, such as the participatory approach, demand-driven and developmental orientation and country-level coordination, and requests that those projects be completed and evaluated, with a view to disseminating information on their successful features;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the regional development banks and other multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies to give priority to endogenous capacity-building in their respective projects on science and technology for development and to integrate appropriate participatory approaches into the planning and evaluation cycles of their projects;

10. *Stresses* the need for national policies in support of science and technology communities in order to enhance information-management capacity and to facilitate affordable and widespread access to international on-line science and technology information networks and their connectivity to global and regional networks in all countries, and the need to make them available to all countries through on-line access, floppy disks, and other electronic and traditional means;

11. *Urges* organizations of the United Nations system and their collaborating institutions to coordinate their activities aimed at information management, including the upgrading and updating of their databases in the field of science and technology;

12. *Calls upon* all Governments to promote further harmonized and coherent approaches to and policies on science and technology for development at the national level and to reflect such harmonized approaches in their multilateral activities throughout the United Nations system;

13. *Invites* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to develop an appropriate, dynamic mechanism for its interaction with intergovernmental organizations that are not part of the United Nations system, as well as with non-governmental organizations, institutions, foundations and the private sector concerned with science and technology for development and wishing to make common cause with the Commission;

14. *Also invites* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in their activities related to science and technology, to take full advantage of the potential contribution of relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and of non-governmental organizations;

15. *Welcomes*, in this connection, such initiatives as that of the Third World Academy of Sciences in establishing regional centres for the application of science and technology for sustainable development in the developing

countries, and urges donor agencies and Member States to support such initiatives.

*46th plenary meeting*  
*30 July 1993*