

## 1993/74. Future work plan of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of ad hoc panels/workshops on specific issues of science and technology for development,<sup>195</sup>

*Taking into account* the need to focus the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its two-year inter-sessional periods through the preparation of analytical reports on a limited number of substantive themes,

*Recognizing* that the opportunity of organizing ad hoc panels or workshops during the inter-sessional period can at least in part be used for deepening the analytical work on the substantive themes chosen for each period, while in the same period ad hoc panels or workshops can still be organized on specific issues of science and technology for development,

*Noting* the offer of some member States to host such panels or workshops and the offer of one member State to finance a panel on a substantive theme, preferably to be held in a developing country, in order to encourage the new style of work on the substantive themes, thus enabling one extrabudgetary panel to be convened in addition to the four panels or workshops provided for in the regular programme budget,

*Considering* the desirability of connecting the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development with the concrete experiences of member States in the area of science and technology for development and with policies in that area,

*Emphasizing, inter alia,* the following criteria for choosing substantive themes for the inter-sessional work:

(a) The themes and the work thereon should, whenever possible, be timely and directed at the broad interests of organizations of the United Nations system;

(b) They should serve the mandate of the Commission by making it possible to:

- (i) Synthesize relevant issues and insights without conducting extensive new research;
- (ii) Provide advice on science and technology policies in the developing countries and facilitate discussion thereon at the national and regional levels;
- (iii) Formulate recommendations within the United Nations system;

(c) They should fall within the mandate of the Commission and reflect the comparative advantage of the Commission *vis-a-vis* other United Nations bodies;

(d) They should be of wide interest to end-users, in particular in developing countries, and be relevant to the least developed countries;

1. *Decides* that the following three substantive themes shall be the focus of the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during the inter-sessional period 1993-1995:

(a) Technology for small-scale economic activities to address the basic needs of low-income populations; the theme should be examined by one of the panels of experts, which would build upon relevant studies from inside and outside the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and regional development banks. A diagnosis and action-oriented proposals would be made with regard to the following issues:

- (i) Access to and adaptation of technology, and North-South and South-South transfer of technology;
- (ii) Effects of productivity;
- (iii) Generation of jobs and income to combat poverty by addressing the basic needs (education, health, housing and food) of low-income populations, including issues related to gender and age;
- (iv) Dissemination mechanisms, including training, regional and international cooperation and networking, data banks and project banks;
- (v) Interrelation with other endogenous capacity-building and research and development activities;
- (vi) Finance and monitoring;

(b) The gender implications of science and technology for developing countries; the following topics would be analysed, taking into account cultural and social aspects and the knowledge of indigenous people:

- (i) The implications of technological change for employment and skills;
- (ii) The health implications of advances in medical knowledge;
- (iii) Energy technologies;
- (iv) Agricultural technologies;
- (v) Science and technology education and entry into the professions.

The work would include an analysis of activities, both within and outside the United Nations system, on these topics and would lead to science and technology recommendations for national Governments and the relevant United Nations bodies;

(c) The science and technology aspects of the sectoral issue to be discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995; the purpose is to relate the expertise of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development directly to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

2. *Also decides* to assign responsibility for the inter-sessional work on each of the substantive themes to a member of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development who would call together a panel of experts with the help of the Secretariat; other members of the Commission would be invited to join the assigned member in that task;

3. *Further decides* to have, in addition to the three panels of members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and outside experts, panels of experts or workshops on the following specific issues:

(a) The contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, to industrialization in developing countries;

(b) Information technologies and their role in the field of science and technology, in particular in relation to the needs of developing countries; once the relevant issues have been made clear by the panel, this issue might be selected as a substantive theme of the Commission for the inter-sessional period 1995-1997;

4. *Requests* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that provide technical cooperation assistance in the field of science and technology to take full advantage of the expertise of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and its willingness to participate actively in the provision of such technical cooperation.

*46th plenary meeting  
30 July 1993*