

**REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978



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Part One

DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chapter I

BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION FOR PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Having convened in Buenos Aires, from 30 August to 12 September 1978 pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 31/179 of 21 December 1976 and 32/183 of 19 December 1977 on technical co-operation among developing countries,

1. Adopts the following Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries;
2. Decides that it be known as the "Buenos Aires Plan of Action";
3. Urges all Governments, the entire United Nations development system and the international community as a whole to take effective action for its implementation.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries comes at a critical point in the evolution of relations among developing countries themselves and between them and developed countries.
2. Profound changes are taking place in international political and economic relationships. When the principal institutions of the present international system were first established, a group of industrialized countries were dominant in world affairs. However, the historic process of decolonization now makes it possible for a large number of States, representing an overwhelming proportion of the world's population, to participate in international affairs. Moreover, substantial changes are taking place at the world level in the control and distribution of resources and in the capabilities and needs of nations. As a result of these changes and other international developments, the expansion of international relations and co-operation and the interdependence of nations are progressively increasing. Interdependence, however, demands sovereign and equal participation in the conduct of international relations and the equitable distribution of benefits.
3. The international system is in a state of ferment. Concepts, political and economic positions, institutions and relationships must be adjusted to the new realities and changing perceptions. It is in this perspective that the countries of the developing world have made their call for the new international economic

order as an expression of their political will and their determination, based on the principles of national and collective self-reliance, to work towards a new pattern of international relations more appropriate to the real circumstances and reflecting fully the interests of the world community as a whole.

4. There is a growing recognition of the urgency and magnitude of the problems that are being faced and will increasingly be faced by the world community in the future. The problems of development - social and economic, national and international - demand greatly increased, concerted efforts by the developing and developed countries if the new international economic order is to be a reality. While the progress of the developing countries depends primarily on their own efforts, that progress is also affected by the policies and performance of the developed countries. At the same time, it is evident that, as a consequence of widening international relations, co-operation and interdependence in many fields, the progress of the developed countries is now, and will increasingly be, affected by the policies and performance of the developing countries.

5. In this historic new stage of progress towards the attainment of the new international economic order, technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) is becoming a critically important dimension. It is a means of building communication and of promoting wider and more effective co-operation among developing countries. It is a vital force for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting co-operation among developing countries so that they can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance, which are essential for their social and economic development.

6. This form of co-operation is not new. A large number of co-operative activities have been carried out among developing countries over the years and many are now in progress. What is new, however, is that co-operation among developing countries is now perceived by those countries to be increasingly important in promoting sound development in the present world context. Furthermore, the difficulties currently encountered by the world economy make it even more necessary for the developing countries to evolve strategies based on greater national and collective self-reliance, for which TCDC is an important instrument. This in no way reduces the responsibility of developed countries to undertake the necessary policy measures, in particular, the increase of development assistance for accelerated development of developing countries.

7. TCDC is a multidimensional process. It can be bilateral or multilateral in scope, and subregional, regional or interregional in character. It should be organized by and between Governments which can promote, for this purpose, the participation of public organizations and, within the framework of the policies laid down by Governments, that of private organizations and individuals. It may rely on innovative approaches, methods and techniques particularly adapted to local needs and, at the same time, use existing modalities of technical co-operation to the extent that these are useful. While the main flows of technical co-operation visualized would be between two or more developing countries, the support of developed countries and of regional and interregional institutions may be necessary.

8. TCDC is neither an end in itself nor a substitute for technical co-operation with developed countries. Increased technical co-operation of the developed countries is required for the transfer of appropriate technologies and also for the transfer of advanced technologies and other expertise in which they have manifest advantages. Further contributions from the developed countries are required for the enhancement of technological capabilities of developing countries

through support to relevant institutions in those countries. TCDC can serve the purpose of increasing the capacity of developing countries to adapt and absorb appropriate inputs from developed countries.

9. The importance of co-operation among developing countries in general, and of technical co-operation in particular, has been recognized in a series of declarations, resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and other bodies. In its most recent resolution on the Conference (resolution 32/183 of 19 December 1977), the General Assembly, recalling its earlier resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, recognized that the basic objectives of technical co-operation among developing countries were the furthering of the national and collective self-reliance of developing countries and the enhancement of their creative capacity to solve their development problems. The same objectives, within a broader context, had been strongly supported at the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976; 1/ at the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries, held at Mexico City from 13 to 22 September 1976; 2/ by the Cairo Declaration of March 1977 on Afro-Arab Co-operation; 3/ at the First Conference of Ministers of Labour of the non-aligned and other developing countries, held at Tunis from 24 to 26 April 1978, which adopted a programme of action and co-operation in the spheres of employment and the development of human resources; 4/ and most recently by the Declaration and Action Programme for Economic Co-operation adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade in July 1978. 5/

10. The General Assembly, by its resolution 32/182 of 19 December 1977 endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 6/ as modified by the relevant decisions on technical co-operation among developing countries adopted at the eighteenth, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, thus recognizing that those recommendations represented a substantive contribution to the development of TCDC, especially within and by the United Nations development system.

11. The Kuwait Declaration on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of 5 June 1977, following four regional intergovernmental meetings on the subject, states that "TCDC is a historical imperative brought about by the need for a new international order. It is a conscious, systematic and politically motivated process developed to create a framework of multiple links between developing

1/ See A/31/197.

2/ See A/C.2/31/7 and Add.1.

3/ See A/32/61.

4/ See A/CONF.79/12.

5/ See A/33/206, annexes I and II.

6/ DP/69.

countries." 7/ The Kuwait Declaration was recognized in resolution CM/Res.560 (XXIX), adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-ninth ordinary session held at Libreville from 23 June to 5 July 1977. It was further endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fourteenth ordinary session, held at Libreville from 23 June to 5 July 1977, 8/ and by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-first ordinary session, held at Khartoum from 7 to 18 July 1978.

12. Technical co-operation among developing countries has emerged as a new dimension of international co-operation for development, which gives expression to the developing world's determination to achieve national and collective self-reliance and to the need to bring about the new international economic order. Its emergence and rationale should therefore be viewed in this global perspective, in the light of experience gained from international technical assistance and in the light of the conclusions reached by previous United Nations world conferences that had a bearing on development and co-operation.

13. TCDC as well as other forms of co-operation among all countries must be based on strict observance of national sovereignty, economic independence, equal rights and non-interference in domestic affairs of nations, irrespective of their size, level of development and social and economic systems.

14. The strengthening of TCDC must constitute an important component of any future strategy which seeks to accelerate development, to enhance human dignity and progress, and to improve the performance of the world economy as a whole.

II. OBJECTIVES

15. The basic objectives of TCDC, which are interdependent and mutually supportive, contribute to the wider objectives of the development of the developing countries and international development co-operation. They reinforce those of closely related forms of co-operation, including economic co-operation among developing countries, for which TCDC is a key instrument. The objectives are:

(a) To foster the self-reliance of developing countries through the enhancement of their creative capacity to find solutions to their development problems in keeping with their own aspirations, values and special needs;

(b) To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries through exchanges of experience, the pooling, sharing and utilization of their technical resources, and the development of their complementary capacities;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify and analyse together the main issues of their development and to formulate the requisite strategies in the conduct of their international economic relations, through pooling of knowledge available in those countries through joint studies by their existing institutions, with a view to establishing the new international economic order;

(d) To increase the quantum and enhance the quality of international co-operation as well as to improve the effectiveness of the resources devoted to over-all technical co-operation through the pooling of capacities;

7/ See A/CONF.79/PC/18.

8/ See A/32/310, annex I.

(e) To strengthen existing technological capacities in the developing countries, including the traditional sector, to improve the effectiveness with which such capacities are used and to create new capacities and capabilities and in this context to promote the transfer of technology and skills appropriate to their resource endowments and the development potential of the developing countries so as to strengthen their individual and collective self-reliance;

(f) To increase and improve communications among developing countries, leading to a greater awareness of common problems and wider access to available knowledge and experience as well as the creation of new knowledge in tackling problems of development;

(g) To improve the capacity of developing countries for the absorption and adaptation of technology and skill to meet their specific developmental needs;

(h) To recognize and respond to the problems and requirements of the least developed, land-locked, island developing and most seriously affected countries;

(i) To enable developing countries to attain a greater degree of participation in international economic activities and to expand international co-operation.

16. TCDC clearly serves many other purposes, such as overcoming attitudinal barriers, increasing developing countries' confidence in each other's technical capabilities and enhancing the process of harmonization of their interests so as to take fully into account, within the context of the fundamental concept of solidarity, their specific subregional, regional and interregional characteristics, particularly by identifying priorities in such fields as transport and communications, employment, development and exchange of human resources, as well as agriculture and industry.

III. ACTION TO BE TAKEN

17. The recommendations formulated below should strengthen and support co-operation among developing countries, for example, and without implying an indication of priority, through the implementation of current activities and programmes of action decided upon by the developing countries, in such fields as employment and development of human resources, fisheries, food and agriculture, health, industrialization, information, integration of women in development, monetary and financial co-operation, raw materials, science and technology, technical co-operation and consultancy service, telecommunications, tourism, trade, and transport and communications. These recommendations should also facilitate the formulation of programmes of co-operation in other sectors.

A. Action at the national level

18. The primary objectives of the following recommendations for action at the national level are: to increase the awareness in each developing country of its own capabilities, skills and experience, and of those available in other developing countries; to establish and strengthen the necessary supportive arrangements - institutions, information, human and other resources - on which TCDC must be firmly based; to identify specific opportunities for TCDC, and to enhance the capacities of developing countries to organize and implement expeditiously and effectively

projects with a TCDC dimension. While such actions would clearly be the responsibility of each developing country, the support of other developing countries, developed countries and international organizations where requested, could make important contributions. In the implementation of the recommendations set out below, the United Nations development system would be expected to extend its fullest support when requested to do so by Governments.

19. Bilateral co-operation among developing countries represents an important form of TCDC and an instrument for forging links between national and collective self-reliance. Therefore, the main aim of recommendations concerning bilateral co-operation is to stimulate, intensify and improve it in substance, forms and mechanisms.

Recommendation 1. National programming for technical
co-operation among developing countries

20. In formulating its national development plan or programme, each developing country should endeavour to identify its potential for TCDC. Such a process should include evaluation of its experience in relevant sectors of economic and social development that may have a bearing on the needs of other developing countries. On this basis, the Government may consider national requirements in research, technology, skills, consultancy services and training facilities and employment strategies that can be met most effectively through co-operation with other developing countries, as well as the contributions in respect of these which it can make for the benefit of other developing countries.

Recommendation 2. Adoption of policies and regulations favourable
to technical co-operation among developing countries

21. Each developing country should consider adopting policies favourable to TCDC, and working out the legal and administrative framework for effective and equitable co-operation, taking into account practices already established on the basis of formal conventions, thus ensuring their widest possible applicability and acceptance. The framework should cover the administrative and legal arrangements concerning the entry, employment, obligations, privileges and immunities of experts and consultants, arrangements concerning fellowships, the use of contractors and other specialist services, entry of equipment and supplies, fiscal and currency régimes favourable to TCDC and also financial arrangements aimed at an equitable sharing of costs. It should also cover appropriate administrative and legal arrangements embracing, inter alia, arrangements to facilitate the sending of technical and professional personnel abroad without jeopardizing the terms and prospects of their regular employment on their return, as well as the provision of consultancy services, the supply of equipment and the granting of fellowships and apprenticeships.

Recommendation 3. National mechanisms for promoting technical
co-operation among developing countries

22. Each developing country should, as appropriate, organize flexible mechanisms or strengthen them where they already exist in order to promote TCDC, to facilitate the co-ordination of TCDC activities at the national level and their incorporation

into the national development programmes. Such mechanisms may involve the participation of public and private sector representatives to enable close interaction with government bodies and other sectoral organizations.

Recommendation 4. The strengthening of national information systems for technical co-operation among developing countries

23. Each developing country should take adequate steps to strengthen the gathering, processing and dissemination of information covering the availability of national capacities, knowledge and experience for application and use in TCDC, if necessary with the support of the information systems of the United Nations development system, and particularly of the Information Referral System (INRES) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as official, professional and other sources. Governments of developing countries should further intensify their co-operation with the appropriate bodies at the regional, interregional and global levels for the pooling of such information so as to facilitate the communication to other developing countries of the availability of such resources and opportunities for TCDC. These bodies should secure the information for TCDC from Governments and entities officially designated by them and disseminate it through the channels established for this purpose by Governments.

Recommendation 5. The improvement of existing institutions

24. Since a strong institutional base is essential for viable TCDC, developing countries should individually identify and assess the effectiveness and potential of national institutions for the purpose, and adopt measures, wherever necessary, to improve their effectiveness and enhance their potential. National organizations of developing countries working on common problems can make valuable contributions to the expansion of TCDC. Such organizations could organize operational collaboration so as to achieve a mutuality of relationships. Such collaboration would strengthen their own capabilities by sharing work and experience with others working on the same problems at various levels of complexity and in diverse environments, and also, where feasible, by sharing responsibilities for common training activities.

Recommendation 6. Promotion of national research and training centres with multinational scope

25. Developing countries should encourage existing national research and training centres to broaden their scope of activities to include programmes and projects which are of interest to several countries at a subregional, regional and interregional level. While existing national centres should be utilized for this purpose to the maximum extent possible, where necessary, new centres may be created for the same purpose.

Recommendation 7. The promotion of greater technological self-reliance

26. Developing countries should make every effort to strengthen their scientific and technological capabilities to suit their special needs, values and resource

endowments by formulating, where necessary, technology plans as an integral part of their national development plans; establishing scientific and technological data banks; encouraging indigenous research and development activities for the attainment of their development objectives; combining research efforts and sharing their results with one another by means of agreements on scientific and technical co-operation, strengthening national design, national laboratories, research centres and scientific and other institutions; and linking their national research and development institutions, where appropriate, to those in other developing countries, including linkage through the regional centres on transfer and development of technology, developing countries should undertake special efforts to strengthen their national potentials in engineering and consultancy services by improving the professional standards, organizing training and research. Broad exchange of experiences in this field among developing countries is an indispensable component of national and collective self-reliance.

Recommendation 8. The formulation, orientation and sharing of policy experiences with respect to science and technology

27. In view of the important role of science and technology in the development of developing countries, and bearing in mind the successful experience of several developing countries in applying science and technology in their development process, developing countries should, wherever possible, exchange among themselves their experiences in the formulation and implementation of their plans and policies for the orientation of science and the transfer and development of technology to their own development objectives, need and capabilities.

Recommendation 9. The promotion of greater self-reliance in the economic and social spheres

28. The Governments of developing countries should intensify their efforts to promote national and collective self-reliance by strengthening their mutual contacts and communications by exchanging experience, and by undertaking programmes and projects, including joint ones, in areas of mutual interest in the economic and social sectors.

Recommendation 10. Technical co-operation among developing countries in the cultural spheres

29. The Governments of developing countries should, in order to affirm the cultural identity of their peoples and to enrich and strengthen their collective capacity with a greater awareness of the culture and heritage of other developing countries, increasingly employ TCDC mechanisms to foster cultural and educational links and to strengthen mutual knowledge by promoting exchanges and co-operation in the social sciences, education and culture.

Recommendation 11. The encouragement of technical co-operation among developing countries through professional and technical organizations

30. The Governments of developing countries should encourage and facilitate co-operation among professional, and technical organizations in their TCDC activities in their own countries and in other developing countries.

Recommendation 12. The expansion of TCDC through national public and private enterprises and institutions

31. Having regard to the important and growing contribution that enterprises and institutions in the public sector are making to national development in the developing countries and the rich fund of experience acquired by them over the years, the Governments of developing countries should endeavour to establish or strengthen suitable arrangements to encourage and maintain co-operation and communication between public enterprises and institutions in their own countries and those in other developing countries, especially with a view to promoting closer technical collaboration. Similarly, Governments of developing countries should aim at encouraging comparable arrangements with regard to national private enterprises and institutions, where applicable.

Recommendation 13. Information and education programmes in support of technical co-operation among developing countries

32. Governments and non-governmental organizations of developing countries should undertake long-term information and education programmes to strengthen their own cultural identities, to encourage greater awareness of their common development problems and opportunities, to mobilize public support for self-reliance, and to break down attitudinal barriers to the expansion of TCDC. The United Nations system should lend intensive support to such programmes, seeking special additional resources for that purpose.

Recommendation 14. The expansion of bilateral technical links

33. In order to facilitate sustained and widening technical co-operation among developing countries, and since bilateral arrangements constitute one of the fundamental aspects of this co-operation, the Governments of developing countries should endeavour to expand bilateral arrangements for promoting TCDC through such mechanisms as co-operative agreements and programmes, joint commissions, the regular exchange of information and experience, and the support of initiatives in the public and private sectors. In this respect developing countries should undertake special efforts to intensify TCDC through long-term programmes and projects by enhancing the programming and undertaking special measures for the successful implementation of those programmes and also by establishing direct linkages among similar institutions.

B. Action at the subregional and regional levels

34. TCDC should be conducted by each State, and at the subregional and regional levels jointly by all concerned. The following recommendations for action at the subregional and regional levels should take into account inter alia the need to:

(a) Strengthen existing subregional and regional institutions and organizations and thus their capacity to serve better the needs of each Government concerned in its efforts to co-operate with others;

(b) Develop and strengthen interinstitutional links in important, high-priority substantive areas, such as those identified at the regional preparatory intergovernmental meetings for the Conference, designed to draw on the capabilities and experiences available in the region;

(c) Reinforce the capacities available for data collection and analysis in order to provide systematic and updated information for decision makers at the national, subregional and regional levels; and

(d) Improve regional information systems for TCDC, particularly those related to technical co-operation needs which cannot always be expressed simply in the traditional terms of skills, equipment and training requirements.

Recommendation 15. The strengthening of subregional and regional institutions and organizations

35. All Governments should endeavour to strengthen the capacities of subregional and regional organizations to implement TCDC activities and projects. In this connexion the United Nations development system should support those endeavours, particularly through the regional commissions, in close collaboration with the regional bureaux of UNDP and with other bodies of the United Nations development system which have regional structures or divisions.

Recommendation 16. The identification, development and implementation of initiatives for technical co-operation among developing countries

36. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, at the request of and in close collaboration with the countries concerned and with the support of the United Nations regional commissions and other United Nations organizations, should undertake analyses of technical co-operation needs and capacities within the respective subregion or region to assist Governments of developing countries in the identification, development and implementation of TCDC initiatives in agreed priority areas.

Recommendation 17. The enhancement of contributions by professional and technical organizations

37. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, at the request of and in close collaboration with the countries concerned, and with

the support of the United Nations regional commissions and other United Nations organizations, should conduct appropriate studies at the request of the Governments concerned and recommend to Governments action programmes to enhance the contributions of the professional and technical organizations concerned in support of TCDC.

Recommendation 18. The creation of new links for technical co-operation among developing countries in important substantive areas

38. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, including or with the support of the regional commissions, at the request of and in close consultation with the countries involved, should formulate and support TCDC activities and projects at the subregional and regional levels in such areas of particular concern as may be identified by Governments individually or jointly. These TCDC activities and projects should facilitate and strengthen linkages among the national organizations working to resolve developmental problems, and those concerned with research and development and the adaptation of technology.

Recommendation 19. Promotion of complementary industrial and agricultural projects at the subregional and regional levels

39. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, in view of the potential for complementarities, should promote joint projects in industry and agriculture where the parties concerned specialize in their respective areas of complementarity, the products of which would have preferential access to the market of the parties concerned in the subregion or region.

Recommendation 20. The improvement of regional information for technical co-operation among developing countries

40. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, including, or with the support of, the United Nations regional commissions, at the request of and in close collaboration with the countries concerned and with the support of other United Nations organizations should:

(a) Contribute towards improving both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the Information Referral System (INRES) and similar systems being developed by other components of the United Nations development system in specialized technical fields in widening their coverage and utilization of information on technical co-operation among developing countries;

(b) Ensure the effective, speedy and economical pooling and dissemination of information on the technical co-operation requirements and capacities of the developing countries within each region drawing on, inter alia, various potential mechanisms such as institutional networks and professional journals, which should also aim at overcoming language barriers;

(c) Prepare or harmonize, where necessary, subregional and regional standards in TCDC information flow.

Recommendation 21. Support to national research and training centres with multinational scope

41. The appropriate subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations, with the support of the United Nations development system, should provide, at the request of interested developing countries, the necessary support to enable national research and training centres with multinational scope to operate effectively in order to promote TCDC.

C. Action at the interregional level

42. A prime objective of TCDC is to enable the developing countries to benefit from the widest access to accumulated experience in efforts to deal with comparable development problems. It is now recognized that for a variety of reasons, the experience and knowledge needed by a developed country in a given region may well be found, if not within the region, then in another region. Moreover, as countries in a given region may have adopted similar approaches to problems, new approaches may be found by drawing upon and distilling experience from outside the region. Interregional co-operation offers considerable potential advantages and constitutes a substantial and important opportunity for TCDC.

43. A wide variety of interregional intergovernmental organizations of developing countries exists. Some such organizations are of a political character, others pursue common social and economic goals, and yet others function in specific technical or economic fields. These organizations, institutions or arrangements should be fully mobilized to promote, support or conduct TCDC projects and programmes, within their respective terms of reference.

Recommendation 22. The development and strengthening of interregional co-operation

44. Governments of developing countries that are members of interregional organizations, institutions or arrangements should, as appropriate, through such interregional organizations, institutions or arrangements, and in collaboration with their subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations and, as appropriate, with the assistance of organizations of the United Nations development system, in particular the regional commissions, consider initiating inter alia:

(a) An evaluation of the function of TCDC in their common organizations, institutions or arrangements, and their capacity to promote TCDC further;

(b) The necessary measures to strengthen the interregional linkages between subregional and regional organizations with similar interests and complementary capacities;

(c) The joint identification of development problems that are interregional in scope and have a TCDC dimension; and

(d) Joint programmes to be undertaken by appropriate interregional organizations or at an interregional level by any two or more entities belonging to different regions, and the identification of additional needs or organizational gaps where new arrangements may be called for.

D. Action at the global level

45. The entire United Nations development system must be permeated by the spirit of TCDC and all its organizations should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts of TCDC. The United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations family, including the regional commissions, have already directed a number of their activities towards TCDC. The decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries should lead to the strengthening and expansion of these efforts in order to complement further those made at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels.

Recommendation 23. The enhancement of national and collective self-reliance

46. In view of the fact that the achievement of national and collective self-reliance through the release and development of indigenous capacities necessitates an important change in emphasis, the thrust of international technical co-operation should be increasingly directed towards enhancing the capacities of developing countries to help themselves and each other. The use of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme and other multilateral and bilateral agencies should reflect this change in emphasis.

Recommendation 24. The exchange of development experience

47. Since a great deal of benefit is to be derived by developing countries from sharing each other's experiences, the organizations of the United Nations development system should, at the request of interested developing countries, provide assistance in their respective sectors in preparing programmes and projects through which the rich experience accumulated in these countries in dealing with the problems connected with improving the living conditions of their populations could be shared and extensively applied.

Recommendation 25. The fostering of global technical collaboration

48. Governments and international development assistance organizations, in seeking to expand the potential and outreach of TCDC, should foster collaborative associations among national and international technical organizations that are working in the same development problem area so as to give support to TCDC projects agreed upon by developing countries, at the request of countries concerned. Expansion of such problem-solving networks should be in accordance with the objectives identified by the developing countries concerned in their TCDC projects.

Recommendation 26. The improvement of information flows

49. To encourage and intensify the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination at the global level of information on the capacities and needs of developing countries, the Information Referral System (INRES) and other related information systems should be further improved, developed and expanded. They should comprehensively cover the needs that might be met through TCDC in dealing

with specific, detailed development problems. The Inquiry Service of INRES should be expanded at an early date in order to be able to match speedily the specific needs of developing countries with available capacities in order to improve channels for the wider use of experts, consultants, training facilities, equipment and other capacities of developing countries through bilateral or multilateral TCDC arrangements. For improved efficiency and better service to developing countries, appropriate linkages should be established between INRES and the information systems of other organizations of the United Nations development system and of the subregional and regional intergovernmental organizations.

50. In order to improve further the efficiency of INRES and to develop it appropriately, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme should initiate an evaluation and assessment of the functioning of the System.

Recommendation 27. Control of the "brain drain" from developing countries

51. In view of the global nature of the problem of the migration of professional and skilled manpower from developing countries and of such manpower's potential as an asset for TCDC, the organizations of the United Nations development system and the specialized international agencies which deal with migration should assist the developing countries, at their request, to formulate measures for strengthening their capacities to encourage patterns of voluntary migration in the interests of their development, including not only selective migration of skilled people between developing countries, but also the return of scientific, professional and technical personnel living outside their countries of origin, taking into account work already initiated on a bilateral and multilateral basis as well as relevant resolutions adopted in various United Nations forums.

Recommendation 28. Measures in favour of economically or geographically disadvantaged developing countries

52. Effective practical measures should be taken by Governments and multilateral technical co-operation agencies for dealing with the special problems and requirements of the least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected countries in order to increase their capacities to contribute to and benefit from TCDC activities. In accordance with the decisions embodied in the resolutions of the General Assembly and other bodies concerned, a special effort should be made by developing countries as a whole, with the support of developed countries and of the United Nations development system, to channel through TCDC the technical and financial resources to assist them.

Recommendation 29. Measures in favour of newly independent countries

53. Special efforts should be made by all countries as well as the United Nations development system to support TCDC activities and projects in the newly independent countries.

Recommendation 30. The strengthening of transport and communications among developing countries

54. Bearing in mind the fact that the strengthening of transport and communications among developing countries is a necessary condition if TCDC is to become a major element in the development process, the Governments of developing countries should, on the basis of studies carried out by themselves, and by the organizations of the United Nations system when so requested, make specific and sustained efforts to strengthen, improve and maintain all means of transport and communications between their countries. In this context, all countries, the United Nations system and other international organizations should effectively support the implementation of programmes of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

Recommendation 31. Maximization of the use of developing countries' capacities

55. In designing, formulating and executing technical co-operation projects, Governments, and, at the request of developing countries, intergovernmental and other organizations concerned with supporting international development efforts should make the greatest possible use of local capabilities, including local expertise and consultancy firms. Where institutions and expertise of the requisite level, quality and relevance are not available locally, developing countries should have the option of obtaining such technical resources from other developing countries, taking due account of factors of quality, cost, delivery schedules and other related conditions. Similarly, the placement of fellowships and the procurement of equipment should also be directed towards other developing countries, wherever their facilities and experience are suitable.

Recommendation 32. Activities for technical co-operation among developing countries by the organizations of the United Nations development system in their respective fields

56. The governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system should make every effort to mobilize their organizations in order to contribute to implementing this Plan of Action on a continuing and intensive basis, both in their respective fields of competence and in multidisciplinary joint action. Such efforts should focus on promotional, co-ordinating, operational and financial issues and should, inter alia, be aimed at:

- (a) Identifying TCDC solutions, or TCDC contributions to solutions, for specific development problems, inter alia, by incorporating TCDC aspects into international meetings and/or organizing when necessary international meetings on specific fields of interest to developing countries with relevance to TCDC;
- (b) Applying TCDC approaches and techniques in their programmes;
- (c) Supporting on request the preparation and execution of TCDC projects;
- (d) Developing new ideas and approaches for realizing the full potential of TCDC and, for this purpose, undertake the necessary studies and analyses;

(e) Developing, strengthening or reorienting specific sectoral or subregional and regional information systems, and establishing functional linkages between such systems and INRES with a view to their effective utilization;

(f) Organizing and assisting public information support for TCDC in their respective areas of competence;

(g) Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of their TCDC activities;

(h) Utilizing to the maximum extent possible the inputs available locally and those from other developing countries in keeping with paragraph 55.

Recommendation 33. Internal arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries in the organizations of the United Nations development system

57. In order to pursue vigorously TCDC policies and measures at all levels in different sectors of development, all organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system should, if they have not already done so, reorient their internal policies and procedures in order to respond adequately to the principles and objectives of TCDC. These organizations should also make the necessary internal adjustments and arrangements in their secretariats in order to integrate TCDC in their programmes of work. These arrangements should be result-oriented and should promote TCDC in the operational activities of these organizations.

Recommendation 34. Strengthening the capacity of the UNDP for the promotion and support of TCDC

58. In view of the wide implications and the importance of TCDC and the number of tasks which need to be carried out at the global level, and bearing in mind the importance that TCDC must assume in UNDP as an integral part of its activities, the Administrator of UNDP should take further steps to give the necessary orientation to the activities, programmes and projects of UNDP in order to support the objectives of TCDC. These steps should include the strengthening of the capacity of the UNDP administration to work in close collaboration with the regional commissions and with regional offices of other organs and agencies of the United Nations development system through their respective headquarters, and also to respond more effectively to initiatives from subregional, regional and interregional intergovernmental organizations and groupings.

59. In this context and bearing in mind its existing functions, ^{2/} the Special Unit, which should continue to be financed from the administrative budget of UNDP, should be strengthened in order to assist the Administrator of UNDP to carry out the functions described below:

(a) Assisting Governments at their request and, where appropriate, in full collaboration with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, to undertake TCDC programmes and activities in order to achieve the objectives of TCDC;

^{2/} Annex to DP/69.

(b) Developing, in full collaboration with the participating and executing agencies and regional commissions, new ideas, concepts and approaches for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, and for this purpose, arranging for the necessary studies and analyses to be undertaken and submitted to the Governments for consideration and approval in the intergovernmental body mentioned in paragraph 62;

(c) Co-ordinating the activities of the UNDP in the field of TCDC with those of the participating and executing agencies as well as the regional commissions in the field of TCDC;

(d) Expanding, strengthening and promoting the efficient use of INRES and establishing appropriate linkages with national and regional information systems and/or focal points;

(e) Promoting channels of communication with appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations so as to widen the awareness of TCDC and thereby generating financial and other support for TCDC activities;

(f) Servicing the intergovernmental arrangement referred to in paragraph 62;

(g) Preparing modifications in the policies, rules and procedures of UNDP, in accordance with relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the UNDP Governing Council, with a view to improving the Programme's capacity to implement TCDC and assisting, at their request, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system in this regard;

(h) In full collaboration with the organs, organizations and bodies concerned of the United Nations system, preparing progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action and making suggestions to expedite progress through new actions and initiatives for the consideration of the intergovernmental body referred to in paragraph 62.

Recommendation 35. Support by developed countries for technical co-operation among developing countries

60. Developed countries and their institutions should give their full support to TCDC initiatives by inter alia:

(a) Increasing their voluntary contributions to the operational programmes of the United Nations development system in order to permit a greater quantum of multilateral technical co-operation funds to be devoted to supporting TCDC;

(b) Providing financial support on a voluntary basis to technical co-operation between two or more developing countries and to institutions in developing countries that have a TCDC outreach potential;

(c) Accelerating the process of untying their aid resources, so as to make possible more rapid progress in the promotion and strengthening of TCDC;

(d) Giving, in their economic and technical co-operation activities, due priority to intercountry projects and programmes at the bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels which promote TCDC;

(e) Making qualitative improvements, if they have not yet done so, in their policies and procedures related to technical co-operation, in order to be able to support TCDC activities and projects at the request of participating developing countries so as to contribute to the greater reliance by those countries on resources available locally or in other developing countries.

Recommendation 36. The harmonization of development assistance with technical co-operation among developing countries

61. TCDC activities and traditional technical co-operation and development assistance to which the developed countries contribute should be productively linked. Developed countries should take fully into account, on a continuing basis, the goals established for TCDC activities when formulating their development assistance and technical co-operation policies. Developed countries, if they have not yet done so, should also institute changes in their procedures for furnishing technical and capital assistance to foster TCDC and a greater measure of national and collective self-reliance among developing countries.

Recommendation 37. Intergovernmental arrangements

62. Recognizing that the UNDP, as the principal funding source of technical co-operation within the United Nations development system, has particular responsibility for the promotion and support of TCDC, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies, programmes and organizations of the United Nations development system, the over-all intergovernmental review of TCDC within the United Nations system should be entrusted by the General Assembly to a high level meeting of representatives of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme. This meeting should be convened by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and should, after annual meetings in 1980 and 1981, be held biennially. These meetings should be held in the same place as, and prior to, sessions of the UNDP Governing Council and should carry out the following functions:

(a) Reviewing the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

(b) Ensuring that efforts to strengthen TCDC are sustained within the United Nations development system;

(c) Supporting new policies and innovative approaches to further the development of TCDC;

(d) Considering the availability of financial resources and their effective use by the United Nations development system, without prejudice to existing programmes;

(e) Ensuring co-ordination of the promotional and operational TCDC activities of the United Nations development system.

63. United Nations organs, organizations and bodies, including the regional commissions, and other subregional, regional and interregional intergovernmental organizations should participate actively in the work of these meetings.

64. These meetings shall report to the General Assembly through the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council.

Recommendation 38. Financial arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries

65. In view of the fact that the financing of TCDC activities is primarily the responsibility of developing countries themselves, it will nevertheless be necessary for the developed countries and the United Nations development system to support these activities financially without prejudice to the decision-making control by the developing countries of these TCDC activities. Financial participation in and support for TCDC projects and activities should include, inter alia, the following:

(a) Developing countries should determine norms and mechanisms appropriate to them in the context of their participation in the financing of TCDC activities at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional levels, with due consideration for the constraints faced by the least developed, land-locked, island developing and most seriously affected developing countries and newly independent countries;

(b) Regional and international funds, development banks and other intergovernmental financial institutions and aid agencies should, within their respective terms of reference, make special efforts to finance TCDC projects and activities, and, as appropriate, make adjustments in their policies and procedures, to promote TCDC;

(c) Developing countries which may wish to do so should consider earmarking a percentage of their Indicative Planning Figure of UNDP at the national level, for financing TCDC projects at the bilateral and subregional levels;

(d) Regional Indicative Planning Figures of UNDP should be used to the maximum possible extent on the basis of regional priorities, for financing TCDC projects and activities. The responsibility for identifying and initiating such projects and activities should lie with the developing countries of the region concerned;

(e) A sizable proportion of interregional and global Indicative Planning Figures of UNDP should be devoted to the financing of TCDC projects and activities requested by two or more developing countries of different regions. The management of these resources should be conducted in close consultation with the developing countries concerned;

(f) The United Nations development system should explore additional sources of finance for TCDC projects and activities including those of an interregional and global nature;

(g) Flows of development assistance should be increased on a predictable, assured and continuous basis;

(h) Developed countries should provide on a voluntary basis and without prejudice to existing programmes, additional financial support for TCDC projects and activities, for example through third-country financing arrangements, through

increased contributions to different national, subregional, regional, interregional or international organizations, including UNDP;

(i) All organizations of the United Nations development system should allocate an increasing proportion of their resources for TCDC activities and projects;

(j) In this context, special efforts should be made by the United Nations development system, other aid-giving agencies, developed and developing countries, to strengthen the capacity of the least-developed, land-locked, island developing, most seriously affected and newly independent countries, to participate effectively in TCDC activities and projects.

Chapter II

RESOLUTIONS

1. Assistance to Namibia

The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, the decisions of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held at Mexico City in September 1976, as well as the relevant decisions of the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo in August 1976 and of the Belgrade Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries and those of the Khartoum Summit of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) of 27 October 1966 and 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 by which the Assembly respectively terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia and created the United Nations Council for Namibia as the sole legal Administering Authority until the termination of the illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa,

Noting the establishment of the United Nations Institute for Namibia by the General Assembly to enable the people of Namibia to acquire skills necessary for their economic and social development upon their accession to independence,

Noting further the establishment by the General Assembly of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia^{1/} which requires the specialized agencies of the United Nations to promote development projects within their respective areas of competence in order to prepare the Namibian people for the effective assumption of their full responsibility as an independent nation,

Noting with appreciation the sustained support and the valuable assistance provided by Member States of the United Nations to the people of Namibia, particularly in the field of human resource development,

Noting further with appreciation the contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system and, in particular the

^{1/} General Assembly resolution 31/153 of 20 December 1976.

United Nations Development Programme, which in co-operation with the United Nations Council for Namibia, has created an indicative planning figure of \$US 4 million for Namibia,

Mindful of the fact that technical co-operation among developing countries should benefit newly independent States and that Namibia should be considered in this context, in view of its imminent independence in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions,

1. Reaffirms the special responsibility of the United Nations system to assist the Namibian people to acquire the skills necessary for their social and economic development in an independent Namibia;
2. Reaffirms further the commitment of all States and of organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system to support the Namibian people and urges them to maintain and increase all forms of appropriate assistance to the Namibian people, including effective support to the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the United Nations Nationhood Programme for Namibia, in order to ensure that independent Namibia is enabled to acquire the capacity to participate fully in activities and projects of technical co-operation among developing countries;
3. Calls upon the Governments of developing countries to identify, promote and implement such activities and projects with independent Namibia in areas of common interest;
4. Further calls upon Governments of developed countries to support such activities and projects;
5. Requests the United Nations development system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to support the efforts of independent Namibia in its implementation of the objectives and recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

18th plenary meeting
11 September 1978

2. National research and training centres
of multinational scope

The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Emphasizing the need for developing countries to promote national and collective self-reliance by, inter alia, improving their mutual contacts and communications, by undertaking joint programmes and projects, and by exchanging experiences for the promotion of technical co-operation among them,

Emphasizing also the need to strengthen the indigenous research and training capacity of developing countries as a fundamental undertaking for the promotion of technical co-operation among them,

Bearing in mind the importance of the fact that national research and training centres should conform to the economic and social conditions of the developing countries and should correspond to their domestic developmental requirements,

Bearing in mind also that those centres, if provided with a multinational scope in the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries in order to operate at a subregional, regional or interregional level, could become a readily effective instrument to promote such co-operation on a broad basis,

Noting that the strengthening of national research and training centres in developing countries will, inter alia, assist in reversing the phenomenon of the brain-drain,

Bearing in mind further the importance of eliminating duplication of efforts and promoting collective efforts leading to mutual benefit,

1. Urges all developing countries to co-operate in the strengthening of their existing research and training centres with a view to providing them with a multinational scope in the framework of technical co-operation among developing countries, and to establish, as necessary, new ones with the same scope. Such centres can act as catalysts enabling each country of the respective geographic area to make fuller use of its potential and of what others in the area have to offer;

2. Calls upon all developed countries to support the strengthening and establishment of such centres in the developing countries;

3. Requests all organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to provide financial and, as appropriate, technical support for the strengthening and establishment of such centres.

18th plenary meeting
11 September 1978

3. Technical co-operation among developing countries in the spheres of employment and human resources

The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974 containing the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974 containing

the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation, and the decisions of the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held at Mexico City in September 1976,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 31/176 of 21 December 1976 concerning the implementation at the national and international levels of the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour held at Geneva in June 1976,

Taking note of the economic declaration and programme of action adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo in August 1976 and of the declaration and programme of action adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade in July 1978,

Noting the developing countries' desire to promote co-operation among them in the spheres of employment and human resources,

1. Takes note of the programme of action relating to co-operation in the fields of employment and the development of human resources adopted by the First Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, held at Tunis in April 1978;

2. Takes note of the recommendation of the Tunis Conference that periodic meetings of the Ministers of Labour of non-aligned and other developing countries should be organized;

3. Requests the developing countries, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and regional institutions to consider the implementation of the objectives and activities of the programme of action adopted by the First Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries;

4. Urges the international organizations and regional institutions concerned to take appropriate measures to develop activities of technical co-operation among developing countries in the spheres of employment and the development of human resources;

5. Decides that the programme of action and co-operation adopted by the First Conference of Ministers of Labour of Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries shall be a document of the Conference.

18th plenary meeting
11 September 1978

4. Expression of gratitude to the host country

The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries,

Having met in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, at the invitation of the Government of Argentina,

Having adopted a Plan of Action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government and people of Argentina for the facilities placed at the disposal of the Conference and for the courtesy and efficiency with which services were provided for participants;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the authorities and people of the City of Buenos Aires for the hospitable welcome accorded to participants in the Conference;

3. Declares that the Plan of Action will be known as the "Buenos Aires Plan of Action", as a token of recognition of the contribution made by the Government and people of the host country to the work of the Conference.

19th plenary meeting
12 September 1978

Part Two

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Chapter III

ORIGINS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The concept of individual and collective self-reliance and mutual help in the context of national development efforts in developing countries found expression in the General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, through the adoption of resolution 2974 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972. The resolution invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to convene, in consultation with interested Member States, a Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to examine and make recommendations on the best way for developing countries to share their capacities and experience with a view to increasing and improving development assistance. The Working Group was also to examine the possibilities and advantages of regional and interregional technical co-operation among developing countries.
2. In pursuance of that resolution, a Working Group of intergovernmental experts from 19 Member States was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Hama Arba Diallo (Upper Volta). In its final report (DP/69), the Working Group delineated a set of principles and objectives for technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and made recommendations accordingly. In making these recommendations, the Working Group linked the establishment of the New International Economic Order with technical co-operation among developing countries, which it considered as a vital element in the continuing search for a more equitable basis for global development.
3. By resolution 3251 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, the General Assembly endorsed the Working Group's final report and made a number of recommendations regarding further action to be taken by the Governing Council of UNDP, participating and executing agencies, regional commissions and the Secretary-General with a view to giving effect to the Working Group's proposals. One of the specific requests contained in that resolution was that the Governing Council of UNDP should convene an intergovernmental symposium on technical co-operation among developing countries, to be preceded by regional intergovernmental meetings.
4. By the time of the Assembly's thirtieth session in 1975, the Governing Council of UNDP at its twentieth session had taken an important decision concerning "new dimensions in multilateral technical co-operation" and the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1963 (LIX) of 30 July 1975 entitled "Technical co-operation among developing countries", the essential provisions of which expressed support for continuing efforts by UNDP to promote the practical application of such technical co-operation and recommended inter alia that the Assembly should appropriate funds under the regular budget of the United Nations for providing conference services for regional meetings and intergovernmental symposia on the subject of such co-operation.
5. By resolution 3461 (XXX) of 11 December 1975 the General Assembly recognized that TCDC was an integral part of over-all co-operation for development and that it constituted one of the most effective channels for promoting economic

co-operation among developing countries. Through this resolution, the Assembly addressed certain requests to the Administrator of UNDP and to the Secretary-General for the purpose of promoting the efficiency of technical co-operation among developing countries. It requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary funds under the regular budget of the United Nations to cover the cost of conference servicing facilities for the four regional meetings on TCDC and for the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries to be organized under the auspices of the United Nations and conducted by UNDP. It invited the Governments of the developing countries of each region, in view of the preparatory value of the intergovernmental regional meetings for the Conference, to participate in those meetings and invited those regional meetings to include in their reports conclusions and recommendations for consideration at the Conference. The Assembly also noted with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Argentina to act as host to the Conference and requested the Governing Council of UNDP to submit recommendations on the organization of the Conference, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session, and approved certain other provisions regarding the co-ordination, planning and organization of the Conference.

6. Arrangements were made for the convening of four regional meetings on the subject of TCDC which, organized by UNDP and the regional commissions concerned, took place at Bangkok from 25 February to 2 March 1976 for the Asia and Pacific region, at Lima from 10 to 15 May 1976 for the Latin American region, at Addis Ababa from 4 to 8 October 1976 for the African region and at Kuwait from 24 to 29 May 1977 for the region of Western Asia.

7. In 1976, the Governing Council of UNDP took further relevant decisions at its twenty-first and twenty-second sessions, and the Economic and Social Council adopted on 4 August 1976 its resolution 2023 (LXI) by which it addressed to the General Assembly certain recommendations for action with a view to the convening of the Conference and regarding the preparatory process, the financing and servicing of the Conference, participation in the Conference and other pertinent arrangements in contemplation thereof.

8. Acting on these recommendations and taking into account certain other recommendations made by intergovernmental meetings held outside the framework of the United Nations, as well as in the light of the aforementioned decisions of the UNDP Governing Council, the General Assembly on 21 December 1976 adopted resolution 31/179 entitled "United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries", by which it decided inter alia to convene the Conference in Buenos Aires from 27 March to 7 April 1978 1/ and requested the Administrator of UNDP to act as Secretary-General of the Conference. By this resolution the Assembly also decided that the sessional Committee on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries of the Governing Council of UNDP should function as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and that, for that purpose, it should be open to the participation of all Member States as full members. It made provision for certain practical arrangements concerning the organization and servicing of the Conference.

9. In the course of 1977 and 1978 the Preparatory Committee for the Conference met on three occasions to prepare a draft plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries and to consider

1/ By resolution 32/183 of 19 December 1977 the General Assembly changed the dates of the Conference to 30 August to 12 September 1978.

measures conducive to the efficient conduct of business at the Conference and to the achievement of results; in particular, the Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for the Conference (A/CONF.79/1).

10. As part of the preparatory work for the Conference, a representative panel of high-level consultants was convened to "develop and synthesize the elements of the main issues to be considered at the Conference". The Panel, comprising consultants mainly from developing countries, met in Kuwait from 31 May to 5 June 1977 and issued the Kuwait Declaration on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (A/CONF.79/PC/18).

11. On 19 December 1977 the General Assembly adopted two resolutions relevant to the subject of the Conference. By resolution 32/182 it endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, as modified by the relevant decisions adopted at the eighteenth, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Governing Council of UNDP, and made inter alia certain requests addressed to the Administrator of UNDP and, as appropriate, to the executive heads of participating and executing agencies and regional commissions for promoting technical co-operation among developing countries. By resolution 32/183, relating more specifically to the Conference, the Assembly took a number of decisions (in particular scheduling the Conference at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978) and approved certain recommendations designed to ensure the success of the Conference.

12. The Preparatory Committee held a third and final session in May 1978. Its report on that session (A/CONF.79/3) was considered at the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UNDP in June 1978 and at the second regular session, 1978, of the Economic and Social Council. By decision 1978/45, the latter took note of the Preparatory Committee's report and of the views expressed thereon during the Council's session, and requested the Conference to submit its conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the Council at its resumed second regular session, 1978.

Part Three

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

Chapter IV

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the Conference

13. The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was held at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978.

14. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/179, the Administrator of UNDP was responsible for the substantive aspects of the Conference, and the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters was responsible for organizational matters related to the Conference.

B. Pre-Conference consultations

15. Pre-Conference consultations open to the participation of all States invited to the Conference were held at Buenos Aires on 29 August 1978 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. The consultations were conducted under the chairmanship of Mr. Slobodan Ristic (Yugoslavia), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.79/L.1) was submitted to the Conference and was accepted as a basis for the organization of the Conference's business.

C. Attendance

16. The following 138 States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan	Brazil	Costa Rica
Algeria	Bulgaria	Cuba
Angola	Burundi	Cyprus
Argentina	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Czechoslovakia
Australia	Canada	Democratic Yemen
Austria	Cape Verde	Denmark
Bahrain	Central African Empire	Djibouti
Bangladesh	Chad	Dominican Republic
Barbados	Chile	Ecuador
Belgium	China	Egypt
Benin	Colombia	El Salvador
Bhutan	Comoros	Equatorial Guinea
Bolivia	Congo	Ethiopia
Botswana		Finland

France	Mali	Suriname
Gabon	Malta	Swaziland
Gambia	Mauritania	Sweden
German Democratic Republic	Mauritius	Switzerland
Germany, Federal Republic of	Mexico	Syrian Arab Republic
Ghana	Morocco	Thailand
Greece	Mozambique	Togo
Grenada	Nepal	Trinidad and Tobago
Guatemala	Netherlands	Tunisia
Guinea	New Zealand	Turkey
Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Uganda
Guyana	Niger	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Haiti	Nigeria	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Holy See	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Honduras	Oman	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Hungary	Pakistan	United Republic of Cameroon
India	Panama	United Republic of Tanzania
Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	United States of America
Iran	Paraguay	Upper Volta
Iraq	Peru	Uruguay
Ireland	Philippines	Venezuela
Israel	Poland	Viet Nam
Italy	Portugal	Yemen
Ivory Coast	Qatar	Yugoslavia
Jamaica	Republic of Korea	Zaire
Japan	Romania	Zambia
Jordan	Sao Tome and Principe	
Kenya	Saudi Arabia	
Kuwait	Senegal	
Lesotho	Seychelles	
Liberia	Sierra Leone	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Singapore	
Madagascar	Somalia	
Malawi	Spain	
Malaysia	Sri Lanka	
	Sudan	

17. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 31/179 and 32/9 E the United Nations Council for Namibia participated in the Conference.

18. Representatives of the member Governments of the West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers attended by special invitation.

19. The following national liberation organizations and movements attended as observers pursuant to resolution 31/179 (subparagraphs 3 (b) and (c)); South West Africa People's Organization, Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (S.A.), Patriotic Front (Zimbabwe).

20. Members of the secretariat of the following United Nations Offices were present throughout or during part of the Conference: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation; Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

21. The secretariats of the following regional commissions were represented at the Conference: Economic Commission for Europe; Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Economic Commission for Latin America; Economic Commission for Africa; Economic Commission for Western Asia.

22. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were also represented: United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Fund for Population Activities; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator; United Nations Sahelian Office; United Nations University.

23. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations participated in the work of the Conference: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Civil Aviation Organization, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Atomic Energy Agency, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT.

24. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: African Development Bank; African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development; Asian Development Bank; Agence de Co-operation culturelle et technique; Arab Labour Organization; Arab Monetary Fund; Commonwealth Secretariat; Common Organization of African and Malagasy States; Council of Arab Economic Unity; European Economic Community; Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils; Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting; Instituto Italo-Latino Americano; Inter-American Development Bank; Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics; Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration; Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena; Latin American Economic System; Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences; Latin American Free Trade Association; League of Arab States; Mano River Union; Organization of African Unity; Organization of American States; Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences; Inter-American Commission of Jurists;

Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development; South-East Asian Fisheries Development Centre; West African Rice Development Association; World Tourism Organization.

25. Under paragraph 3 (g) of General Assembly resolution 31/179, 49 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented by observers. 1/

D. Opening of the Conference and election of its President
(agenda items 1 and 2)

26. The Conference was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

27. On the proposal of the Secretary-General, the Conference observed one minute's silence in tribute to the memory of Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, late President of Kenya.

28. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General stated that the Conference might well mark the beginning of a new era in the development process and that its significance went far beyond the implications of its seemingly technical title. He stressed the interrelationships between this Conference and previous United Nations world conferences, aimed at developing new global strategies to cope with global problems, and noted that, in its entirety TCDC was a critical, even indispensable, instrument in international economic relationships, designed to improve and strengthen development strategies and programmes affecting hundreds of millions of people.

29. The basic objectives of technical co-operation among developing countries, as defined by the General Assembly, were the furthering of their national and collective self-reliance and the enhancement of their creative capabilities to solve their development problems. At the heart of the concept of national self-reliance was a new determination to ensure that development efforts were undertaken to the maximum extent possible with, by, and through the human and material resources available within the countries. In that sense, it was particularly appropriate that the Conference was taking place in Latin America where the movement to achieve collective self-reliance had deep roots.

30. The growth of national self-reliance did not mean that developing countries no longer required technical co-operation and aid. Technical co-operation among developing countries was, however, no less essential, as it was the developing countries themselves that finally must decide how best to use their own resources. Through TCDC, countries, on the basis of sovereign equality, could exchange and accumulate knowledge in the most self-reliant use of all technical co-operation, from whatever source, including the developed countries. TCDC could also provide much stronger links among development planners in their urgent search for new models and more innovative and nationally effective approaches to the enormous challenges of overcoming mass poverty and other forms of deprivation. This could provide invaluable new strength and vitality for development. And from all these processes the world as a whole could acquire a better understanding of the meaning of growth, and new approaches to enhancing the quality of human life.

1/ For the list of participants see A/CONF.79/INF.1 and Corr.1.

31. The objective of furthering collective self-reliance - of which increased economic co-operation among developing countries was a priority goal - widened the dimensions of TCDC and was an important ingredient in the search for a new international economic order. As the action programme for economic co-operation adopted by the Council of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries at Belgrade had emphasized, TCDC was the process that created the technical foundations for almost all regional and interregional co-operation among developing countries in all substantive fields. It should be employed to enhance the capacity of the developing countries in all their international economic relations, within the framework of a world development partnership, based on sovereign equality.

32. On the basis of processes of mutual co-operation analogous to TCDC, the developed countries had built an unprecedented network of arrangements for economic co-operation among themselves, either bilaterally or in various multilateral groups and communities, which had provided a vital source of their economic and technological strength. Within the framework of their own geographic and other mutual interests, developing countries had an opportunity to encourage similar co-operation among themselves, without sacrificing those constructive contacts with industrialized countries that filled their own specialized development requirements. In fact, in all probability the need for contacts with industrialized countries would grow as the developing countries reached a higher stage of technical development that took into account their own traditions and aspirations for the future.

33. Technical co-operation among developing countries was not the exclusive concern of the United Nations development system; it was the sovereign prerogative of every developing country to determine its relationship and mode of co-operation with other developing countries. Naturally, the United Nations stood ready to provide support, and it was for the Conference to specify, in the plan of action, how this support could be best rendered. 2/

34. In an inaugural address 3/ H.E. Mr. Jorge Rafael Videla, President of the Argentine Republic, the host country, welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that they would experience during the Conference the dual sensation of peace and justice which should guide all collaboration among nations for the purpose of building a better world.

35. The Conference should not be discouraged by the fact that the world was passing through a phase of economic and social upheaval; it was precisely at that moment that it was necessary to reaffirm the permanent values and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. As Pope John XXIII had stated, mutual assistance among peoples was an unavoidable necessity, not subject to any conditions, nor intended merely to facilitate the exchange of goods and factors; its true object was to reduce inequality between nations.

36. Traditionally, international co-operation had taken the form of assistance granted by developed countries or international organizations to the developing countries. The purpose of the Conference was to devise new forms of co-operation in which the developing countries themselves would play an active role in providing technical co-operation. That new departure was important not only because it

2/ For the full text of the Secretary-General's statement see annex I to the present report.

3/ For the full text see annex II to the present report.

created an additional potential for exchanges among those countries but also because it showed them a positive way of meeting and understanding each other.

37. That new dimension of technical co-operation should not, however, be conceived as an isolated process. Its multiplier effect, the opportunity it offered of strengthening technological adaptation and its positive effect on the migration of specialized experts were three important factors in any development process. Accordingly, the organizations that had traditionally contributed to the financing of international co-operation should consider the introduction of new methods in their financial assistance programmes. In keeping with its traditional solidarity with other developing countries, Argentina had taken the initiative of establishing a fund for promoting technical co-operation among these countries.

38. The Conference had a special merit as a challenge to man's creative ability. Its subject went beyond economic and social aspects, as it had a political value, that of co-operation, and a moral justification, as it formed part of the search for ways to improve the life of human beings everywhere. He was convinced that the Conference was a step in that direction.

39. The Conference elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. Jorge Pozzo, head of the delegation of Argentina, as President of the Conference.

40. In thanking the Conference, on behalf of the Government and people of Argentina, for his election, the President stressed the great importance of technical co-operation among developing countries as a further extension of traditional forms of inter-State co-operation. It was evidence of the importance attached by Governments to this new kind of co-operation that many of the delegations attending the Conference were of ministerial rank - a promising augury for the success of the Conference. He would personally spare no effort to contribute to its success by all the means at his disposal.

E. Adoption of the rules of procedure (agenda item 3)

41. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 August 1978, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure approved by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.79/2).

F. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 4)

42. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 August 1978, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda as approved by the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.79/1), viz:

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of the President of the Conference
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Establishment of main committee and organization of work

6. Election of officers other than the President
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee
8. Technical co-operation among developing countries as a new dimension of international co-operation for development:
 - (a) Technical co-operation among developing countries and its interrelationship with economic, scientific, social and cultural co-operation among developing countries
 - (b) Technical co-operation among developing countries as a means of enhancing the availability and effectiveness of development resources for international co-operation and its interrelationship with over-all international co-operation
 - (c) The role of technical co-operation among developing countries in exploring new approaches and strategies for solving development problems common to developing countries
 - (d) Expansion of the participation in technical co-operation among developing countries of the least developed and geographically disadvantaged countries
 - (e) Measures for enhancing confidence in the existing and potential capabilities of developing countries for mutual technical co-operation
 - (f) Development and operation of an action-oriented information system on the technical capacities available in developing countries for use by other developing countries
 - (g) Identification of existing and possible sources and methods of financing technical co-operation among developing countries
 - (h) Measures for reducing, through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, the "brain drain" affecting developing countries
 - (i) Measures for stimulating and strengthening consultancy, engineering and other technical services as well as the supply and procurement of such services and of equipment and materials of developing countries through the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries
 - (j) Development of a comprehensive public information and educational programme designed to make the importance and nature of technical

co-operation among developing countries better known, and particularly the role to be played therein by both public and private sectors

- (k) Institutional arrangements at the national level to promote and conduct technical co-operation among developing countries:
 - (i) Administrative, legal and financial arrangements
 - (ii) Participation of public and private sectors
- (l) Institutional arrangements at the international level to promote and conduct technical co-operation among developing countries, and the participation of developed countries, the United Nations system, and other international organizations:
 - (i) Administrative and financial arrangements at the bilateral, multilateral, regional and interregional levels
 - (ii) Role and participation of the United Nations Development Programme and of the other organs and organizations of the United Nations system
 - (iii) Role and participation of other international organizations

9. Adoption of a plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference

G. Establishment of committees and organization of work
(agenda item 5)

43. In accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Conference at its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 August 1978 established a Credentials Committee. The members of the Committee were the following States: Canada, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Seychelles, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

44. The Conference established a main committee to consider agenda item 9, "Adoption of a plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries", and to report to the Conference.

45. The Conference decided that all other items would be considered in plenary meetings, without reference to a committee, with the exception of item 7 "Credentials of representation to the Conference" which would be dealt with by the Credentials Committee and form the subject of a report by that Committee to the Conference.

H. Election of officers other than the President (agenda item 6)

46. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 August 1978, the Conference elected by acclamation the following 19 States as Vice-Presidents: Burundi; Ecuador; El Salvador; Germany, Federal Republic of; Iraq; Kuwait; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Mauritius; Nepal; Nigeria; Pakistan; Philippines; Poland; Spain; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; Yugoslavia; Zambia.

47. Mr. David Hutton (Canada) was elected Rapporteur-General by acclamation.

48. The Conference elected by acclamation Mr. Abdel Razak Abdel Meguid (Egypt) as Chairman of the Main Committee.

49. Under rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the Main Committee elected its Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur:

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Benjamin Bassin (Finland)

Mr. Karl Müller (German Democratic Republic)

Mr. Jorge Chavez Quelopana (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. A. Muhith (Bangladesh)

I. Implications of Conference decisions for the programme budget of the United Nations

50. At its 19th plenary meeting on 12 September 1978 the Conference heard a statement by the Secretariat to the effect that, inasmuch as all Conference decisions having implications for the programme budget of the United Nations had the status of recommendations to the General Assembly, regardless of their specific description or form, the Secretariat would submit a statement concerning these programme-budget implications to the Assembly at the time when it considered the report of the Conference.

Chapter V

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A NEW DIMENSION OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

(agenda item 8)

Summary of the general debate

51. By decision of the Conference, this agenda item formed the subject of the general debate in plenary. The general debate took place in the course of 16 meetings, held from 30 August to 11 September 1978. The passages which follow give a brief account of the points that were stressed by speakers in the debate.

52. The representatives of States - many of them of ministerial rank - who spoke in the course of the general debate and observers for a number of intergovernmental bodies who addressed the Conference, as well as the representatives of specialized agencies, regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, programmes and offices who made statements, commented on the central issues of the broad subject covered by this item.

53. Opening the general debate at the afternoon meeting on 30 August 1978, the Secretary-General of the Conference said he was convinced that the Conference would lay the foundations for enhancing all forms of co-operation among developing countries and for transforming relationships for the benefit of the entire world community. The success of the Conference would depend on the extent of the commitment of Governments to the concept and promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries; evidence of their commitment was the fact that national reports had been received from more than 100 Governments. Further evidence of the importance attached by Governments to the Conference was the fact that their delegations included outstanding personalities and experts in the subject. The Secretary-General of the Conference expressed his appreciation of the special contributions made by the Governments of Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar towards the costs of participation of especially financially disadvantaged countries.

54. By reason of its character, the Buenos Aires Conference should be able to make a material contribution to the restructuring of the world economy on a basis of equity, solidarity and sovereign collaboration, and to the work of some of the sectoral conferences. The Conference coincided with or would shortly be followed by conferences dealing with specific topics, such as primary health care, agrarian reform and rural development, science and technology for development, and other meetings.

55. During the preparations for the Conference, it had become apparent that technical co-operation among developing countries was envisaged as having two broad objectives: to enhance national development based on self-reliance and the expanded use of the resources of developing countries, and to contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order. While the choice of the uses of such co-operation was a matter for sovereign Governments, individually or jointly with others, he thought that there was now a common understanding that the

two objectives were not mutually exclusive and that in fact they were complementary. He cited examples of activities being carried out by UNDP and specialized agencies in support of certain national development projects.

56. It might be asked why the Conference was held under United Nations auspices and not as a gathering of developing countries. The answer would be that the economies of the industrialized and of the developing countries were interdependent and were becoming more so, for the developing countries were no longer mere exporters of raw materials and the developed countries were no longer mere suppliers of manufactures and technology. The building of new bridges for economic co-operation across the South should not impair or destroy existing lines of economic or technological intercourse, but should rather complement them. The developing countries had wished the Conference to be world-wide because there was no intention to create a barrier between new forms of technical co-operation and historical bilateral co-operation. On the contrary, they hoped that traditional technical co-operation with developed countries would be even more effective and more carefully chosen for those resources of which those countries were still the best suppliers.

57. The United Nations sponsorship of the Conference also reflected a growing realization that seeking more decisive solutions to the problems of the developing countries was in the direct interest of the developed countries as well. He hoped, therefore, that any increased financing for technical co-operation among developing countries would not reduce the responsibility of developed countries towards the developing ones, and that new ventures in the field of such co-operation would receive financial support from the developed countries as well as from developing countries in a position to provide such support.

58. He added that the United Nations development system would make its own dynamic and innovative contribution to the success of such ventures in co-operation with Governments and partner agencies.

59. A fundamental premise of all the preparatory work for the Conference had been that every decision to engage in technical co-operation was within the sovereign competence of Governments, and hence every decision to use - or not to use - the United Nations development system for such co-operation was equally their sovereign privilege. There were numerous activities being carried on outside the framework of the United Nations, and such activities would doubtless continue. So far as the role of the United Nations development system was concerned, he trusted that Governments would want to ensure that the system equipped itself - intellectually and operationally - to give full and effective meaning to its existing mandates to promote technical co-operation among developing countries and to such new mandates as the Conference might recommend.

60. The Secretary-General of the Conference drew attention to the documentation submitted to the Conference, in particular the draft Plan of Action (A/CONF.79/5), and the document entitled "Technical co-operation among developing countries as a new dimension in international co-operation for development" (A/CONF.79/6). The former was to be considered in the Main Committee, while the latter was essentially a conceptual study.

61. In conclusion, he expressed the view that the success of the Conference would depend on its ability to answer three questions:

What concrete action would advance the use of technical co-operation among developing countries for the satisfaction of specific development needs?

How might additional resources for such specific action be mobilized?

What machinery might be most effective to ensure the implementation of the resolution or resolutions of the Conference, the review of that implementation and the determining of new policies?

62. In the ensuing discussion, speakers stressed the great potential contribution which technical co-operation among developing countries could make to the economic development and to the betterment of the social conditions of people in those countries. They considered that such co-operation should strengthen the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries. It would as a consequence tend to place the growing interdependence of the world's nations on a more just and hence more secure basis, for this form of co-operation would diminish the developing countries' dependence on traditional patterns of technical co-operation.

63. At the same time it was emphasized by many participants that the developed countries should not only continue but should expand their financial and other support to the developing countries, and that technical co-operation among developing countries and more traditional forms of assistance should be regarded as mutually complementary.

64. It was generally recognized that the developing countries themselves had the primary responsibility for undertaking steps which would firmly establish technical co-operation among them as a new dimension of international co-operation for development. In this connexion, many speakers said that technical co-operation among developing countries would have to be based on the principles of sovereignty, equality and genuine reciprocity and mutuality of benefits.

65. Frequent reference was made to the role of the United Nations development system, and particularly of UNDP as a catalyzing agent in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries. Many of the participants paid a tribute to UNDP for the support it had given to the preceding regional meetings and to the world-wide Conference.

66. The hope was widely expressed that the Conference would mark a turning point in the evolution of international co-operation and that it would stimulate fresh thinking about novel and dynamic ways of fostering technical co-operation among developing countries. The timing of the Conference was described as significant in that it was taking place in a period of international discussion of vital topics in various forums. Reference was made to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and to other forthcoming meetings.

67. Some representatives said that, without being formalized, technical co-operation had in fact been going on among developing countries for a long time at various levels, bilaterally and multilaterally. In this context, they thought that the kind of technical co-operation now being envisaged would restore, broaden or strengthen this exchange of culture and technology. Many representatives felt that, while the forms which technical co-operation had taken since the Second World War had contributed substantially to the development process, there was a

growing realization of the need for readjustment and for the construction of a "bridge across the South".

68. It was generally recognized that the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries could make a significant and positive contribution to the achievement of a new international economic order. It might offset to some extent the disadvantages from which developing countries suffered, bolster their collective position and enable them to make optimum use of their human and other resources. The developing countries possessed a vast and as yet largely untapped reservoir of talent, skill and knowledge that could and should be placed at the disposal of others. The provision of experts and technological know-how tended to benefit not only the suppliers but also the recipients of such services, inasmuch as the exchange of information, experience and knowledge was a two-way traffic. The loss of skilled manpower to other countries - the phenomenon commonly known as the "brain drain" - could be reduced or halted if the developing countries made a conscious effort, in the context of technical co-operation, to pool and share their human resources on a fair, equitable and reciprocal basis.

69. Many representatives considered that the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries was an historical imperative and that it would become a cornerstone of a new international economic order; they cited in this connexion the Kuwait Declaration (A/CONF/PC/18).

70. It was generally recognized that many developing countries themselves had accumulated a pool of experience in the use, adaptation and creation of technology at the national level, but that, for a variety of reasons, this experience was not as yet adequately shared with others. This technology, when combined with local inventiveness and a true understanding of local conditions, could form a valuable ingredient of the kind of co-operation that the Conference envisaged.

71. The importance and objectives of the Conference were the subject of comment by a large number of representatives. One of them described the Conference as being not a celebration of something new in the relations between developing countries, but rather an occasion for the expression of political will by the international community to give TCDC a greater prominence and effectiveness. The Conference was viewed both as an opportunity for creating a greater awareness in all participating countries of the potential value of TCDC and as a means to strengthen their bilateral and multilateral links inter se. These views were supported by several other representatives, who pointed out that it was the largest meeting of planning ministers from developing countries ever to be held.

72. It was testimony to the importance of the Conference that it had been attended by H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Jordan as honorary head of his country's delegation, who had delivered his Government's statement in the general debate. 1/

73. Several representatives saw in the Conference a reflection of the international community's will to better the lives of the great mass of population in developing countries and to create more egalitarian and prosperous societies. A few representatives of developing countries characterized the Conference as a landmark,

1/ For the text of the statement, see annex III to this present report.

the culmination of a planning process sometimes referred to as the "ascending process", which would eventually form a continuous link between national aspirations and global initiatives. The process had been evolving over many years and had found expression in the various action programmes of the non-aligned States, the deliberations of the Group of 77 and past conferences on economic co-operation among developing countries.

74. Many representatives referred to decisions taken at recent special sessions of the General Assembly as a background to the Conference. The representatives of several Eastern European countries stressed particularly the tenth special session of the General Assembly and pointed to an inseparable connexion between détente, peace, security, disarmament and the development of international co-operation.

75. Several representatives saw valuable practical results arising from the Conference, for it provided an opportunity for developing countries to work out practical improvements in arrangements for technical co-operation with each other; for developed countries to learn from the experience of developing countries directly involved in technical co-operation and to identify aspects of such co-operation which could be applied to their own bilateral and regional assistance programmes; for determining the means, administrative as well as financial, by which international organizations could support developing countries in expanding such co-operation, for example through greater use of inputs from the developing countries in their development programmes.

76. In the view of a large number of representatives it was important for the Conference to adopt a Plan of Action embodying realistic and practical guidelines for expanding and enhancing TCDC.

77. The objective of the Conference was described by one representative as not to create something entirely new, but to improve what existed. The novelty was an awareness of the potential and scope for technical co-operation among developing countries. For the first time nations of the world were looking at the possibilities for such co-operation on a global basis, beyond the earlier more limited confines of historic relationships or geographical proximity.

78. Many representatives referred to TCDC as a movement, an "historical imperative", in the language of the Kuwait Declaration, in view of the difficulties in North-South relations and the need to create a new international economic order. Among the difficulties referred to by different delegations were the inequities in terms of trade, the special situation of geographically disadvantaged and most seriously affected countries, excessive reliance on the production of a narrow range of commodities, high demographic growth, and disparities in incomes, rates of economic growth and social indicators of development.

79. A number of representatives of developing countries called for action to correct the imbalance in existing international economic relations on two fronts: devising a more equitable régime to govern the relations between the developed and the developing countries and at the same time forging co-operative mechanisms and arrangements between the developing countries themselves.

80. Many representatives of developing countries considered that dependency was one of the principal manifestations of the existing disequilibrium in international economic relations, with the consequence that developing countries were unable to

make optimum use of their experiences, resources and skills and to fashion solutions to common problems. Dependency, they said, had robbed the countries of their self-confidence and stifled their innovative and creative capacities.

81. A few representatives cautioned against over-emphasizing the differences between North and South and the dependence of one homogeneous group on another. They considered that the developing countries were not a homogeneous group, and one of these representatives characterized his own country as being in a "mid-development stage". Attention should therefore be paid to preventing the unequal relationship between the industrialized and developing countries as regards technology and economic levels from being repeated in the relations between the more and the less developed among the developing countries.

82. Several representatives of developed countries and international organizations referred to the need for a reordering of the world economy for the future well-being of developed as well as of developing countries and to the important contribution which technical co-operation among developing countries could make to the process of shaping a new international economic order, which in turn would allow the inherent potential of such co-operation to be fully exploited. The representatives of several Eastern European countries, rejecting the equating of centrally planned economies with the developed market economies, considered that the developing countries were justified in wanting to strengthen their economic independence by technical co-operation among themselves and to alter their inequitable position in the existing system of capitalist international division of labour.

83. As regards the relationship between technical and economic co-operation among developing countries, several delegations regarded the two as interdependent and mutually reinforcing. On the other hand, other representatives considered that the distinction between the two kinds of co-operation should be maintained, economic co-operation being the ultimate objective and technical co-operation a means for its attainment.

84. A number of representatives stressed the need for new models of development which would take account of local experience, indigenous values and factor endowments. The representative of one developing country felt that TCDC also extended to "endogenous development". Several speakers stressed that the active participation of the population was implied in such technical co-operation which, conversely, had special relevance to the needs of the broad masses and marginal population. They referred in this connexion to the Kuwait Declaration, the authors of which had expressed the conviction that the Conference would provide a unique opportunity for releasing the creativity and latent resources of 2 billion people.

85. Many representatives of developing as well as some of developed countries referred to the inappropriateness of some forms of technology emanating from the research and experience of developed countries. They noted that the transfer of technology which was ill-adapted to the real needs, conditions and capacities of the recipient countries, either through technical co-operation programmes or through transnational corporations, tended to keep nations poor and to increase dependency, and that therefore developing countries should concentrate on increasing their own capacity to control and regulate the terms and conditions for the acquisition, assimilation and utilization of foreign technologies and to generate indigenous technology. It was generally agreed that the choice of technology must be

appropriate to each country's needs and resource endowments, making maximum possible use of local skills and capacities.

86. Many speakers noted in this context that the sharing of skills and experience and the achieving of joint solutions in accordance with indigenous values and norms would result in the more economic use of the resources of the developing world. The increasingly high cost of traditional technology and technical co-operation at a time of world-wide inflation was mentioned as often beyond the means of the least developed and most seriously affected countries.

87. The opinion of many representatives was that, rather than replicating alien experience and techniques which benefited mainly an élite, the developing countries should concentrate on using their resources, productive capacities and research facilities, on the satisfaction of the basic needs of the majority of the population and on the expansion of their economies. The very diversity of developing nations, despite their common bonds, aspirations and problems, offered scope for complementary relationship, economies of skill, wider markets and reduced trade dependence on the industrialized world.

88. The representative of one developing country expressed the opinion that technical co-operation "in cascade", flowing from the technological frontier to other areas of technical progress, might be provided efficiently not only by developed countries but also by those developing countries which might, owing to their intermediate technological position, act as "adaptors". These countries, besides having had previous access to the technological frontier itself, also had, thanks to a unique direct experience, knowledge of the specific requirements and conditions of developing countries.

89. The representative of one developing country said that experience had shown some of the risks inherent in the indiscriminate application of technology to relatively simple societies; it tended to lead to the disintegration of these societies if applied blindly, absorb large sums of scarce capital, cause unemployment, increase dependence and produce other undesirable consequences. Unless the technology was attuned to the needs of the poor people who constituted the vast majority in the developing countries, they would lose faith in the process of peaceful and planned transformation of their societies.

90. In stressing the need for technical co-operation among developing countries, one representative pointed out that, in so far as it was a means of ensuring the greater enjoyment of economic rights - right to work, education, health - such co-operation would also tend to promote the enjoyment of human rights.

91. The view was widely expressed that the primary responsibility of developing countries for the promotion of TCDC should not exclude the industrialized countries from active and constructive participation in efforts to achieve the objectives of TCDC. The importance of their financial and other support, both for TCDC and for continued traditional technical co-operation activities, was emphasized. It was felt by a number of representatives that the efforts of developing countries to strengthen their collective capabilities would be reinforced by the co-operation of developed countries - a point underlined at the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned States, held at Belgrade.

92. This universal responsibility for promoting technical co-operation among

developing countries and strengthening their self-reliance, individually and collectively, was implicit in the nature of such co-operation. Many speakers pointed out that this form of co-operation was not a substitute for but complementary to traditional forms of technical co-operation. In the opinion of some representatives, self-reliance should not be construed as meaning autarky or a rejection of technical exchange with the developed countries.

93. It was repeatedly stressed that the intimate relationship between TCDC and the establishment of a more equitable international order called for the support by developed countries and international organizations of the long-term structural requirements of that order. Several delegations said that the developed countries therefore had a political responsibility to modify their policies and promote effective co-operation among developing countries.

94. Many representatives stressed that TCDC was not an end in itself, nor a simple exchange of experience and experts; it was a common philosophy of action and an institutional network of reciprocal exchanges. The representative of one developing country considered that the least developed countries could also make a contribution to TCDC, though for these countries special action programmes would obviously be necessary, for example, to improve training and develop consultancy services. Another representative considered that countries in an intermediate technological position could act as "adaptors" by virtue of their own experience and their knowledge of the specific requirements and conditions of developing countries.

95. Among the other guidelines noted by various speakers were the following: TCDC should strengthen the capacity of developing countries to use appropriate technology and to undertake joint efforts for sharing and developing techniques; it should form part of each nation's development plans; it should cover all forms of technical exchange, from inter-university collaboration to co-operation among private and public sectors; it should encourage forms of collective research that were practically oriented and appropriate to the needs and levels of development of the participating countries; it should focus particularly on the needs of the least developed, land-locked and otherwise disadvantaged countries; it should be economical, drawing to the maximum extent on indigenous capacities and involving the full mobilization of the resources of the population; and it should prove particularly beneficial for the supply of knowledge and experience unique to developing countries in their quest for social justice and the alleviation of poverty.

96. In the opinion of some representatives the accumulated store of technology existing in the world might be described as the common heritage of all mankind. Consequently, the proprietary claims of those who at present controlled technology through monopolistic or like practices were indefensible on moral grounds. One of these representatives added that it would be regrettable if ideological rifts were to break the essential unity of mankind, to the detriment of the common interest of all nations in their advancement through technical co-operation.

97. Several representatives referred to what were called "attitudinal barriers" to TCDC in the recent United Nations documentation relating to the subject. The term meant a certain mental attitude, often inherited from an earlier epoch of colonial rule. Such attitudes favoured the continued use of experts, consulting firms, equipment, services and training facilities of developed countries. To

illustrate the point, the representative of the World Bank stated that the percentage of consultants from developing countries working outside their own countries in Bank-financed projects was still very low - about 6.6 per cent. She added that it was not always realized that consultants working on these projects were selected by the borrowers, not by the Bank.

98. Among the means suggested for overcoming these barriers were improved information about the capabilities and facilities of developing countries, a concerted effort by developing countries to ensure that their capabilities reached adequate standards for the effective use of technical co-operation with others, the increased undertaking of joint projects, and certain modifications in the rules, regulations, procedures and practices applied by national Governments and the organizations of the United Nations development system.

99. Reference was made repeatedly to the role of experts sent to developing countries, under international or bilateral programmes, for the purpose of training local staff in certain specialties or techniques. Such experts, it was urged by a number of participants, should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the conditions, interests and needs of the population of the countries in which they served, so that their recommendations would be appropriate for the local setting. The representative of one developing country stressed the need for the United Nations development system to reduce its administrative overheads and to re-evaluate the costs of the services of United Nations experts and consultants, which were generally more expensive than those obtained from non-United Nations sources.

100. Several speakers added that in many cases experts from developing countries, because of their intimate knowledge of the situation in the field, were more likely to make recommendations in keeping with that situation.

101. A point that received considerable prominence in the statements of representatives of several developing countries was that the relationship of "donor" and "recipient" would be inconsistent with the true meaning of technical co-operation among developing countries. In a relationship of genuine solidarity both parties would benefit, and hence the traditional terminology would be obsolete.

102. Several representatives advocated the complete untying of aid, as past experience had shown that tied aid had distorted the implementation of the development plans of certain developing countries.

103. A number of representatives of developed market economy countries spoke of the degree to which their countries' aid funds were untied. The degree of liberalization ranged from the complete untying of all bilateral assistance to the untying of aid to the least developed or geographically disadvantaged countries. They stated that in many instances the services of local experts, consultancy firms, suppliers of equipment and other local services were employed in carrying out development assistance and co-operation schemes.

104. Several representatives pointed out that collective self-reliance was unattainable without an efficient and extensive system for the identification of capacities and needs and for the exchange of relevant experience and resources. Accordingly, they welcomed the promising start that UNDP had made and the valuable work it had done in that area through its Information Referral System (INRES).

They hoped that INRES would be continued and would be regularly improved, updated and expanded to meet growing demands.

105. One representative thought it would be desirable to utilize existing or potential networks among developing countries along sectoral, geographic, linguistic or professional lines. He added that in his Government's experience non-governmental organizations were among the most effective of those networks. Another representative suggested that, for the effective dissemination of information, the special unit of UNDP for technical co-operation among developing countries should regularly publish a journal of co-operative activities worldwide. The representative of a developed country outlined the facilities available to the developing countries through his country's National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

106. Several representatives of developing countries observed that a system which would ensure the continuous flow of information and open up new channels of communication should have priority. In that connexion, one of those representatives added that, if INRES was to be used for that purpose, a specific programme should be devised with appropriate funding to ensure its expansion and necessary linkages with national, regional and international institutions.

107. In the opinion of many representatives of developing countries, one of the incidental objects of technical co-operation among those countries - in the context of a new international economic order - was to enable them to obtain a more equitable share of world trade, the bulk of which was at present carried on with and between developed countries; through technical co-operation the developing countries would be in a better position to know about the needs of potential markets and about the offers of supplies available in countries with which they co-operated. Others, whose countries' economies were largely dependent on a few export commodities, thought that TCDC could play a valuable role in the formation of producer associations and in trade stabilization efforts, with a view to making these countries less vulnerable to the vagaries of fluctuations in demand and to countering unfair trading practices. Largely because of the adverse terms of trade, many developing countries had to contend with a mounting burden of debt which compounded their difficulties and limited their capacity to import capital equipment needed for their development.

108. Among the new or relatively new areas for the practical use of technical co-operation among developing countries, specific reference was made by several representatives to shipping, insurance, banking, transport and communications. The representatives of many African countries attached high priority to the improvement of transport and communications in their countries and mentioned specifically the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. The experience gained by developing countries in those fields might with advantage be placed at the disposal of others that were considering the establishment or expansion of such service industries. Several representatives also mentioned the possibilities of technical co-operation in areas like mining, physical infrastructure and industry.

109. A number of representatives of developing countries expressed concern about the migration of skilled and semi-skilled workers to other countries, and described the "brain drain" as a serious phenomenon. One representative said that his country's export of manpower, mainly to rich developing countries, had reached one third of its total labour force. Another representative expressed the opinion that

the social and living conditions in developing countries were to be blamed for the outflow of talent and that the exodus was not entirely attributable to the more attractive conditions in developed countries. While some representatives considered that the role of developed countries in curbing the brain drain should be to co-operate with the developing countries in reaching a solution, another said that his country had requested the developed countries to take measures to discourage the brain drain but had met no response.

110. One representative reported that his country had acted as host to a seminar on the "transfer of know-how through expatriate nationals", as a contribution to efforts to stem the brain drain.

111. Some solutions were suggested. One representative considered that national institutions should be established at the highest levels to counteract the brain drain. Another suggested that labour-exporting countries should be compensated for the losses of skilled personnel. He requested the Conference to recommend that an "International Labour Compensatory Facility" should be established and that an international agreement should be prepared regulating the flow of labour in a manner compatible with the interests and development efforts of contributing and receiving countries. Another representative said that the developed countries should observe a code of conduct under which technical personnel from developing countries would be employed by developed countries only after obtaining clearance of such personnel from the home Government.

112. One representative said that TCDC offered new departures in areas where the limitations of traditional technical co-operation had made themselves most severely felt: at the grassroots level, in the fulfilment of the basic needs of food, education, health and employment and in dealing with the situation of the most vulnerable segments of the population. The representative of one developing country said that some countries in the South Pacific had adopted the principle of locally defined, environmentally appropriate development which gave priority to satisfying the basic needs of the people, self-reliance, and a harmonious relationship between the people and their environment.

113. Several representatives said that the national development plans of their countries provided for continuing and increasing investment directed towards fostering the human being, increasing his technical expertise, and strengthening the capabilities and potential of the people for the maximum mobilization of economic resources and productive capacities.

114. One representative referred to the question of the material remnants of wars, particularly the mines that had been planted in his country during the Second World War, which had hampered economic and social development plans and resulted in the killing of thousands of persons. He suggested the strengthening of technical co-operation at the bilateral and multilateral levels in order to mitigate the consequences of this problem.

115. A number of representatives stressed that special attention should be paid to the role of women, a role whose importance should be more fully appreciated at the regional and global levels within the context of technical co-operation among developing countries. One representative drew attention to a growing sense of urgency concerning the integration of women in the development effort in both the developing and developed countries alike. Women formed a majority in the

vulnerable segments of the population, whether as regards illiteracy, undernourishment, low wages, social justice or political participation. She suggested that there were areas of fruitful co-operation among developing countries when studying the problems of women, particularly when appropriate technology was considered.

116. Several representatives said that the least developed and geographically disadvantaged countries should receive special attention. TCDC should be particularly focused on them but additional assistance to the least developed countries should not be at the expense of aid for the lower middle-income groups of developing countries which had made some technical and economic progress. A number of representatives said that priority should be given to technical co-operation programmes in the areas of transport and communication, as they would enhance the free movement of manpower.

117. The representative of a developed country attached particular importance to common project planning and regional marketing arrangements. He said specific attention should be given to the technical and economic criteria of industrial production and marketing demands.

118. A number of representatives of developing countries referred to measures and policies adopted by their Governments to promote technical co-operation among developing countries. One of them mentioned that a special unit for such co-operation had been set up and attached to his country's central planning authority. Others expressed the view that each developing country should adopt an appropriate policy for the progressive development of its scientific and technological potential, forming a contingent of scientists, engineers and specialized workers in order to introduce new techniques of production.

119. One representative said that his Government selected only development projects which conformed to national goals and expenditure plans. Another said that his Government had established a Fund for Rural Development to aid marginal groups in rural areas, and was using a portion of the resources provided through UNDP for the training of local personnel in such subjects as urbanization, technology for agricultural development, formulation and evaluation of agricultural projects.

120. Special emphasis was given by several representatives to the importance of organizing TCDC basically at the regional level, using existing regional organizations. They felt that such organizations, e.g. the Latin American Economic System (SELA) in Latin America, were in the best position to promote scientific and technological exchanges which would lead to closer economic collaboration. One representative noted that contact with similar organizations in other regions would result in interregional technical co-operation among developing countries.

121. The representatives of the countries members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) referred to these countries' practical application of TCDC. They mentioned that ASEAN as a subregional grouping had embarked on economic and technical co-operation programmes covering, among others, activities relating to basic commodities, particularly food and energy, trade, industry, finance and banking, transport and communications, social development, including problems of productive employment and population, and the cultural and information fields.

122. The representatives of several developing countries said that the private

sector in their countries was in a position to offer advanced business management and consultancy services within their region. Other representatives of developing countries said that, under bilateral or multilateral agreements to which their countries were parties, their Governments awarded grants and arranged for the training and exchange of experts in certain aspects of TCDC. One representative said that his Government employed experts and private organizations from developing countries in the implementation of its development projects. Other areas mentioned in which regional and bilateral technical co-operation was being used or envisaged were joint hydroelectric projects, regional communication projects, regional river basin development, hydrological engineering, joint planning at the subregional level, transport and telecommunication projects, as well as incipient joint financial institutions.

123. The representatives of several African countries pointed to a practical undertaking in which those countries were co-operating: the plan for halting the desertification of the Sahel region. The authorities of the States affected by the recent drought in the region participated in an intergovernmental committee responsible for co-ordinating the plan, and various members of the United Nations family of organizations gave support to the operational activities under the plan, in addition to providing emergency relief.

124. The representative of one developing country suggested that it might be advisable, for the purpose of ensuring a balance of rights and obligations as between partners to technical co-operation schemes, to envisage the drafting of a model code of conduct which would govern their reciprocal relations in the context of such schemes.

125. The representative of one developed country described some of the co-operative projects which his country supported or sponsored. He referred in particular to small and medium-scale "modular" projects, which transcended traditional forms of bilateral relations in that they relied to a considerable extent on national institutions in developing countries.

126. The representatives of some developed countries said that, subject to the fulfilment of the required standards, contracts were awarded by undertakings of their countries to firms and organizations in developing countries. One of them said that special importance was given to promoting the capacities of the least developed countries in the area of research and training.

127. One practical application of the concept of technical co-operation which was mentioned by a number of participants was that known as "third country training"; under arrangements of this kind, a country financed the training of students from one developing country in another developing country, usually in the same region. It was stressed by these speakers that such training was in many cases more appropriate to equip the students for subsequent service in their home countries than would be training at universities or like institutions in developed countries. In this connexion, they referred also to training and research facilities available at institutes supported by countries members of regional groupings, regional commissions or broader assistance programmes (e.g. The Colombo Plan).

128. Several other representatives referred to commercial, economic, scientific and technical agreements concluded by their countries with numerous developing countries. In conformity with the principle that the primary responsibility for

ensuring its development rested with each developing country and in keeping with the principle of national sovereignty, it was the task of the developing countries - in the opinion of these speakers - to build up their own reservoir of skilled manpower and to create their own economic infrastructure, in order that they should be able to participate effectively in technical co-operation activities, on equal terms and without the risk of economic exploitation.

129. The representatives of several Eastern European countries pointed out that recent moves to deepen détente in inter-State relations and to consolidate peace in the world could make a substantial contribution to the creation of more favourable conditions for technical co-operation among developing countries and international economic, scientific and technical co-operation in general. In this respect the cessation of the senseless and dangerous arms race and genuine steps towards disarmament would add new dimensions to such co-operation and create additional sources for technical assistance to developing countries. Also the solution of global problems of mankind, such as the provision of food, the development of principally new sources of energy, wide exploitation of oceans and outer space, eradication of diseases and protection of environment would be influenced positively by such action.

130. Several representatives said that the Conference provided an opportunity for the developing countries to give added momentum to their struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism and for translating into reality their aspirations to establish a new international economic order, to consolidate their political and economic independence, to eradicate poverty and backwardness. One representative underlined the importance of a peaceful international environment and cited hegemonism and various forms of foreign domination as serious obstacles to technical co-operation among developing countries and to international technical exchange in general. He cautioned against the practice of using empty talk about "détente" and "disarmament" as a cover for expansionist and hegemonist activities.

131. The representative of one developing country expressed the view that, in order to overcome the obstacles to co-operation inter se, the developing countries should learn to ignore their differences in political ideology, which in any case were attributable to colonial imperialism.

132. On the question of the financing of technical co-operation among developing countries it was widely agreed that the promotion of such co-operation was the responsibility of the international community as a whole, and therefore all sources of finance should be tapped. Such sources would include the developed countries and, equally importantly, the developing countries themselves. In this context the representative of a developing country said that the calling for the active support of developed countries for technical co-operation among developing countries over and above their present levels of development co-operation did not diminish the responsibility of the developing nations themselves to undertake such technical co-operation with their own resources, limited as they might be at this time.

133. All possible or potential methods of financing co-operative projects should be explored and, where appropriate, utilized. Several representatives stated that, for the purpose of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries, there was ample scope for the imaginative use of local currencies in a way which could supplement the foreign exchange resources applied to the process. Several representatives called on developed countries to increase immediately the total

flow of official development assistance in order to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as recommended in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

134. The representatives of several developing countries reported on action taken or contemplated by their Governments to set up special funds or to allocate financial resources in the national budgets for the special purpose of promoting technical co-operation among the countries in their region or subregion or, as the case may be, in a broader setting. The representative of one developed country informed the Conference of plans to establish a Foundation for International Technical Co-operation in his country. 2/

135. A number of representatives spoke of the importance which third party financial arrangements under bilateral co-operation programmes could play. Another representative stated that occasionally problems arose in his country's current technical co-operation activities because of the need to supply counterpart funds for projects which diverted scarce resources from other programmes.

136. Several representatives suggested that increased funds allocated to additional and expanded programmes at the regional level would ipso facto promote technical co-operation among developing countries. In particular, a few representatives mentioned increased support to bodies such as ASEAN and SELA as well as the regional commissions. One representative said that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had recently taken steps that would lead to the expansion of technical co-operation among African countries, namely the launching in 1977 of the ECA trust fund.

137. A number of representatives expressed the view that it would be necessary to allocate increased resources to the United Nations system to enable it to carry out its expanded role of promoting and conducting technical co-operation among developing countries. In this respect several representatives stated that the UNDP should continue to play its significant role, as it created favourable opportunities for the mobilization of financial resources through voluntary contributions. Several representatives mentioned that their Governments' contributions to UNDP would be increased in the future in support of technical co-operation among developing countries.

138. Some representatives suggested that part of the indicative planning figure (IPF) of UNDP resources should be used for technical co-operation among developing countries. One country announced that it was assigning part of its indicative planning figure to this purpose. The representative of one of the least developed countries said that it would not be possible for these countries to divert any portion of the IPF towards the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, since the IPF was already committed to meeting their minimum requirements. Several representatives advocated the increased use of UNDP regional, interregional and global funds for projects contributing to such co-operation.

139. Several representatives stressed that while the programming procedures of UNDP were sufficiently flexible to promote technical co-operation among developing

2/ See annex V A to the present report.

countries, the utilization or assignment of IPFs to projects must remain the responsibility of the recipient countries and reflect their national priorities.

140. The representatives of a number of developing countries considered that a special fund should be established for the purpose of financing technical co-operation projects. One representative added that a separate fund should be set up for the purpose of meeting the financial requirements of the least developed countries for the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries.

141. However, many representatives of both developing and developed countries said that in their opinion such a course would be inadvisable as a separate fund might tend to isolate technical co-operation among developing countries from the mainstream of technical co-operation and would therefore be counter-productive. In this regard, one representative stated that a separate fund could limit the scope for technical co-operation among developing countries in two ways: on the one hand, it would pre-empt the choice of sources available to sovereign States seeking technical co-operation for that part of the limited resources available which was tied up in the fund and, on the other hand, it might paradoxically have the psychological effect of making it less likely that UNDP and other United Nations funds would be used for such co-operation. It was also pointed out that the General Assembly had expressed a warning against a proliferation of special purpose funds and that the consolidation of funds within the United Nations system had been recommended by its resolution 32/197.

142. With regard to the role and relative importance of the public and private sectors in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, the opinion expressed by many representatives was that both sectors could perform valuable services and that either might be the appropriate channel depending on circumstances for the transfer of technical know-how, for undertaking joint ventures, for training personnel and for other purposes.

143. Some representatives considered that it was above all the public sector which should be strengthened in the developing countries and equipped to undertake industrial, agricultural, infrastructure and other projects in co-operation with establishments in the public sector of other developing countries. One representative cited examples of such co-operation between his country and other developing countries in carrying out joint surveys of land resources, joint research into pollution and other joint activities.

144. Several representatives stressed the importance of making suitable institutional arrangements at the national level for the purpose of promoting technical co-operation among developing countries and initiating technical co-operation activities at the bilateral and other levels. There was strong support for the establishment of national focal points for this purpose, in so far as they did not yet exist.

145. Several representatives expressed the hope that private enterprise in the developing countries would become more closely associated with co-operation programmes. Some representatives gave examples of measures taken by their countries to promote TCDC through the private sector, such as the establishment, together with developing countries, of joint banks and companies. Some representatives referred to bilateral conventions or agreements entered into by their countries for specific technical co-operation programmes. One representative stated that his

country had established joint commissions with about 10 other developing countries with the object of promoting TCDC in different sectors. Several representatives of developing countries referred to bilateral agreements covering economic, scientific and technical co-operation which they had signed with other developing countries and gave examples of the benefits of such co-operation. A number of representatives referred to regional intergovernmental organizations, associations, machinery or arrangements through which TCDC was being promoted in their region or subregion, such as SELA, the Colombo Plan, ASEAN, the Caribbean Co-operation and Development Committee (CCDC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and gave examples of technical co-operation programmes and activities in which they were engaged.

146. A number of representatives emphasized that the regional commissions, in view of their multidisciplinary and intersectoral nature and their special role as executing agencies for intercountry projects, should co-ordinate technical co-operation activities at the regional level.

147. The representatives of regional commissions described the contact which the commissions had with both Governments and institutions in developing countries for the purpose of facilitating research, training, joint ventures and other forms of co-operation.

148. While some representatives felt that for those reasons the focal points for promoting and co-ordinating TCDC at the regional level should be the regional commissions, others took the view that this should be the function of both the regional commissions and the appropriate intergovernmental bodies established by the participating countries for promoting and developing TCDC in the region concerned. It was widely agreed, however, that these intergovernmental bodies had a useful role to play as regional centres for the development and promotion of TCDC.

149. Representatives of bodies in the United Nations family of organizations pledged the continued support of their organizations to the concept of TCDC and outlined their activities and experiences in that field. They considered that there was great potential for intensified sectoral and also intersectoral activities by the developing countries, with the co-operation of their organizations. They referred to the regional activities of their organizations and to the importance of gathering information about the capabilities and needs of the developing countries. Some of them added that their organizations were planning meetings after the Conference to draw up programmes for implementing the recommendations of the Conference so far as they might concern their organizations.

150. Some representatives expressed the hope that each of the specialized agencies would establish internal focal points for promoting the concept of TCDC and supporting co-operative activities.

151. Many representatives expressed the hope that, whatever institutional arrangements were recommended in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, they would not result in the formation of a swollen bureaucracy. Referring to the importance of close and active collaboration of all organizations of the United Nations development system in the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries, some representatives drew attention to the statement in the Kuwait Declaration that "no single mechanism or institution can deal with a historical process of such magnitude or complexity".

152. Several representatives expressed the view that, since the principle of TCDC should permeate the activities of all organizations of the United Nations development system, it could prove unnecessarily restrictive, confusing and even counter-productive to visualize the establishment of a special organization or institution for TCDC. They felt, therefore, that existing institutions of the United Nations system should be used, including the regional commissions at the regional level, although with increased programming emphasis on basic human needs, upon the appropriate technologies for meeting those needs and upon building the capacities of developing countries for TCDC. One representative stated that the economic limitations of developing countries and the inflationary process were further reasons why it was necessary to avoid the formation of a new bureaucracy.

153. Many representatives pointed out that the promotion of TCDC and the co-ordination of related activities within the United Nations system, including the establishment of operational rules and guidelines for such activities, had so far been placed under the auspices of UNDP, and believed that the promotion of TCDC would also be best served in the future by using UNDP as the intergovernmental forum for the discussion of questions concerning TCDC, if necessary through special expanded sessions of its Governing Council open to all Member States. They were of the opinion that UNDP should continue to perform its central, catalytic role for TCDC, as it was the central organ in the United Nations system for development. Other representatives thought that a special committee, open to all Member States and attached to the Governing Council, could act as the intergovernmental body for the consideration of the subject.

154. Many representatives emphasized that the technical co-operation activities of UNDP and of the participating and executing agencies required new direction and impetus. For that purpose the existing special unit within UNDP should be employed and appropriately strengthened. The role of the special unit would include monitoring, promoting and co-ordinating TCDC in the United Nations system and management of INRES.

155. Many representatives, both of developed and of developing countries, took the view that no convincing case had been made for the idea that new intergovernmental machinery should be established within the United Nations for dealing exclusively with the promotion of technical co-operation among developing countries. In the opinion of those representatives, the existing organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, specifically UNDP and the specialized agencies, each within its own sphere of competence, shared a common interest in the promotion of such co-operation and were best qualified to consider the subject at their periodic meetings.

156. Numerous participants referred to the interest which had been aroused by the Conference, not only in government circles but also among economists and journalists and the general public, in the idea of technical co-operation among developing countries as a supplemental means of furthering development. They expressed the hope that the momentum generated by the Conference would not be lost. Several representatives suggested that from time to time conferences might be called to review the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

157. The representatives of some Eastern European countries pointed to the complementarity of economies of socialist countries and those of developing countries, which could be used for supporting TCDC. They mentioned that experiences

of the socialist countries in technical co-operation, not least in the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, could also be utilized, where appropriate, for promoting TCDC.

158. One representative cautioned against the attempt to sidetrack TCDC onto a wrong course with a view to creating a system of neo-colonialism.

159. The representative of a developing socialist country of Eastern Europe said that his Government would be pleased to act as host to an international meeting to discuss technical co-operation in agriculture among developing countries; he hoped that the Conference would recommend that such a meeting should be convened.

160. One representative proposed that a study group be established to consider the practicability of a voluntary arrangement which would allow the accumulation of credits for co-operation by a multilateral clearing framework within the UNDP.

161. One representative suggested that a conference might be convened in a few years' time to review the progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Another representative suggested that the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology would provide a forum in which the promotion and support of technical co-operation among developing countries could be assessed.

Chapter VI

REPORTS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE AND OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, AND ACTION ON THESE REPORTS BY THE CONFERENCE

A. Report of the Main Committee

162. At its 2nd meeting on 30 August 1978 the Conference established a Main Committee to consider agenda item 9, "Adoption of a plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries", and to report to the Conference.

163. The Committee had before it the draft Plan of Action submitted in a note by the Secretary-General of the Conference (A/CONF.79/5) as the basis for its deliberations.

164. The Committee held seven meetings, from 30 August to 10 September 1978, and heard comments from delegations on the draft Plan of Action, at its 1st and 5th meetings. At its 5th meeting, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended Working Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin Bassin (Finland), Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee, to consider the draft Plan of Action and to report to the Committee. The Committee, at its 6th and 7th meetings, considered the draft text submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group as a result of informal consultations held on the draft Plan of Action (A/CONF.79/MC/L.2 and Add.1-3).

165. At the 7th meeting the Committee considered certain amendments proposed by some delegations. After informal consultations these amendments were agreed to and incorporated into the draft Plan of Action. In addition the Committee was informed that the draft of a preamble to the Plan of Action had been agreed upon in informal consultations. The text of the draft preamble accordingly appeared in the draft Plan of Action submitted to the Conference (A/CONF.79/10/Add.1).

166. The Committee at its 7th meeting on 10 September 1978 approved the draft Plan of Action as a whole, as amended, and recommended it to the Conference for adoption.

167. Three draft resolutions entitled "Assistance to Namibia", "National research and training centres of multinational scope" and "TCDC in the spheres of employment and human resources" were submitted to the Committee by the representative of Jamaica on behalf of all participating States that are members of the Group of 77 (A/CONF.79/MC/L.3, 4 and 5).

168. At the 7th meeting the Committee, having heard comments by several delegations regarding the three draft resolutions (one of them in a revised version, A/CONF.79/MC/L.5/Rev.1) and the procedure for dealing with them, agreed to refer them to the plenary for consideration.

Action in plenary

169. At its 18th meeting on 11 September 1978, the Conference considered the three draft resolutions which had been remitted to it by the Main Committee (see the preceding paragraph).

170. The Conference adopted the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to Namibia" (A/CONF.79/MC/L.3). 1/

171. After the adoption of the draft resolution the representative of the United Nations Council for Namibia expressed the Council's thanks to the Conference.

172. At the same meeting the Conference adopted the draft resolution entitled "National research and training centres of multinational scope" (A/CONF.79/MC/L.4). 2/

173. At the same meeting also the Conference adopted the revised draft resolution entitled "Technical co-operation among developing countries in the spheres of employment and human resources" (A/CONF.79/MC/L.5/Rev.1). 3/

174. Before the adoption of this revised draft resolution, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany reiterated his Government's view that decisions and recommendations agreed upon in other forums could be binding only in so far as members of all groups had participated in the decision-making process. That view applied to all decisions that referred to such decisions taken in other forums. His Government felt strongly in particular that documents of such other forums should not be reproduced as documents of this and similar Conferences. The only reasons why his delegation would not object to paragraph 5 of the revised draft resolution were the specific character of the Conference and the relevance of the documentation referred to in that draft resolution to technical co-operation among developing countries. He added that it should be understood that the decision in the said paragraph 5 would not be regarded as a precedent.

175. At the 19th plenary meeting on 12 September 1978, Mr. A. Muhith (Bangladesh), Rapporteur of the Main Committee, introduced the Committee's report (A/CONF.79/10) and the Plan of Action recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Conference (A/CONF.79/10/Add.1).

176. The representative of France made a statement concerning the recommendation in paragraph 60 (c) of the Plan of Action. As his delegation had observed in other forums, it did not consider that there was any connexion between the tying of aid and the quality of aid. What it regarded as fundamental was that the developing countries should receive an increasing quantum of aid. It was to be feared, in his delegation's opinion, that the untying of aid might at times be reflected in a decline in the donors' contributions. The French authorities were, however, keenly aware of the difficulties or drawbacks to which the tying

1/ For the final text, see chap. II of the present report, resolution 1.

2/ For the final text, see chap. II of the present report, resolution 2.

3/ Idem, resolution 3.

mechanisms might give rise. Accordingly, they were fully disposed to study, case by case, the scope for action to remedy the situation. That was precisely the concern which had caused his delegation to request that a reference to "alternative arrangements" should be inserted in the passage in question. The representative of France added that his statement did not, of course, in any way affect his delegation's participation in the consensus on the Plan of Action. The French delegation was pleased to give its full support to the Plan of Action, which assuredly constituted a most important stage in international action in the cause of development.

177. At the 19th plenary meeting on 12 September 1978, the Conference took note of the Main Committee's report (A/CONF.79/10) and adopted the Plan of Action as recommended by the Main Committee (A/CONF.79/10/Add.1). It was agreed that the recommendations in the Plan of Action would be numbered. 4/

B. Report of the Credentials Committee

178. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 August 1978, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Canada, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Seychelles, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America.

179. The Credentials Committee held one meeting on 7 September 1978. Mr. Harka Bahadur Gurung (Nepal) was unanimously elected Chairman.

180. The Committee noted from a memorandum submitted to it by the Secretary-General of the Conference, as orally amended by the Secretary of the Committee, that as of 7 September 1978:

(a) There were 138 States participating in the Conference;

(b) Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, by representatives of 101 participating States;

(c) The credentials of the representatives of three States were communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference in the form of cables from their respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs;

(d) The representatives of 18 States were designated in letters or notes verbales from their respective Permanent Representatives or permanent missions in New York, or from their embassies in Buenos Aires;

(e) The names of the representatives of 11 States were communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference by other authorities different from those specified in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference;

(f) In respect of five States participating in the Conference, no communication regarding the designation of their representatives had been

4/ For the final text, see chap. I of the present report.

received, but the Secretary-General of the Conference had been informed that proper credentials for these representatives had been dispatched.

181. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to accept the credentials of the representatives of the 101 States referred to in subparagraph (b) of the preceding paragraph. The Committee further agreed that, in the light of past practice and in view of the short duration of the Conference, the communications referred to in subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e) of the preceding paragraph should be accepted provisionally, pending the receipt of the formal credentials of the representatives concerned. The Committee noted that in the latter instances assurances had been given that proper credentials would be transmitted as soon as possible. Furthermore, with respect to the representatives referred to in subparagraph (f) of the preceding paragraph, the Committee agreed that they should be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference, in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure, it being understood that their credentials had already been issued and were being transmitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Committee also authorized its Chairman to report directly to the Conference in the event that, in the time intervening between the meeting of the Committee and the consideration of its report by the plenary, further credentials should be received.

182. The representative of Nigeria said that, consistent with the decision taken at the meeting of the Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity in July 1978, he reserved the position of his delegation with regard to the credentials submitted by the delegation of the Comoros. The representative of the Seychelles associated herself with the statement of the representative of Nigeria.

183. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reaffirmed, with regard to the participation of representatives of Chile in the Conference, the position taken by the delegation of the USSR in the Credentials Committee of the thirty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

184. The representative of China reserved the position of her Government with regard to the credentials submitted by the delegation of the Republic of Korea. She stated that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was the sole legitimate representative of the entire Korean people and that the South Korean authorities were in no way qualified to represent the people of Korea.

185. The representative of the United States of America stated that, in his Government's view, the competence of the Credentials Committee was limited to verifying whether (a) the credentials submitted had been signed by authorized officials of participating Governments, (b) the signatures were genuine, and (c) the persons submitting the credentials were those named. His Government considered that credentials committees were not empowered to consider extraneous political issues concerning particular policies followed by individual Governments. Accordingly, his delegation reserved its position with regard to the statements made by the representatives of Nigeria, the Seychelles, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and China.

186. Upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee thereupon decided to submit this report to the Conference for approval.

Action in plenary

187. At the 17th plenary meeting on 11 September 1978 the Chairman of the Credentials Committee introduced the Committee's report (A/CONF.79/9) and added that, since the circulation of that report, some further credentials had been received, bringing the number of representatives in respect of whom proper credentials had been received to 103. In addition, one further communication like those referred to in paragraph 3 (e) of the report had been received.

188. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, stating that he was speaking on behalf of the group of Arab States participating in the Conference, formulated a reservation in the following terms:

"With reference to the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.79/9), I would like to announce, on behalf of the Arab Group participating in the Conference, a reservation concerning the credentials of the delegation of the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine, inasmuch as this entity is based fundamentally on aggression, usurpation of the territories of the Palestinian people and the eviction and expulsion of that people from their homes. Moreover, it seizes every opportunity to increase its expansion at the expense of its neighbours by occupying the territories of three Arab States members of the international organization and by continued aggression against Lebanon. Lastly, the Arab delegations would like their reservation concerning the credentials of the Zionist entity to be recorded and to be reflected in the official documents of the Conference."

189. The representative of Israel stated in reply that, if the preceding speaker had had Israel in mind when referring to a "Zionist entity", he wished to place on record that the credentials of the representative of Israel had been duly recognized by the Credentials Committee. Hence he was at a loss to understand what were the grounds for the foregoing reservation or its meaning in the context of the Conference.

190. The President of the Conference stated that both of these statements would appear in the report of the Conference.

191. At the 17th plenary meeting on 11 September 1978 the Conference adopted the report of the Credentials Committee.

Chapter VII

ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE ON A DRAFT RESOLUTION CONSIDERED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE MAIN COMMITTEE

192. At the 19th plenary meeting of the Conference on 12 September 1978, the representative of Jamaica, as spokesman for the countries members of the Group of 77 which were participating in the Conference, proposed a vote of thanks in the form of a draft resolution entitled "Expression of gratitude to the host country".

193. The spokesmen on behalf of the other regional groups joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

194. The draft resolution was adopted. 1/

195. The representative of Argentina made a statement in response.

1/ For the text, see chap. II of the present report, resolution 4.

Chapter VIII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

196. The Rapporteur-General introduced the draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.79/L.2 and Add.1, 2 and 3) at the 17th plenary meeting on 11 September 1978.

197. The Conference considered chapters III, IV and V of the draft report at the 18th plenary meeting on 11 September 1978, and adopted them with certain amendments.

198. After the adoption of chapter III of the draft report the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated, with reference to the last sentence of paragraph 130 of that chapter, that his delegation wished the following statement to be reflected in the report of the Conference:

"A number of delegations stated that accusations like those referred to in the paragraph in question should be regarded as designed to divert the attention of the participants in the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries from the task of solving the really urgent problems."

199. One representative, speaking on a point of order, stated that it was improper practice to reopen a matter that had been settled, as the paragraph in question had been expressly adopted by the Conference.

200. At the 19th plenary meeting on 12 September 1978, the Conference adopted the draft report as a whole and authorized the Rapporteur-General to complete the report, in conformity with the practice of the United Nations, with a view to its submission to the General Assembly during the thirty-third session.

201. At the same meeting, after a statement by the Secretary-General to the Conference, the President of the Conference made a closing statement 1/ and declared the Conference closed.

1/ For the full text of the President's statement, see annex IV to the present report.

Annexes

Annex I

ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE ON 30 AUGUST 1978

It is a special pleasure for me to be with you in Buenos Aires today to open this historic United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

At the outset, I would like to take the opportunity to thank His Excellency President Jorge Rafael Videla and the Government of Argentina for the warmth of their welcome and for the gracious hospitality they have so kindly extended to us. The support and co-operation Argentina has always given to the United Nations is emphasized by its generosity in undertaking to host two important United Nations conferences within the past two years. For this we are deeply grateful.

In beginning this Conference today, we open what may well be a new era in the development process. Its significance goes far beyond the implications of its seemingly technical title. This fact has been manifested many times by Governments all over the world during the preparatory period for your deliberations in the next 12 days.

The timeliness of the entire concept of technical co-operation among developing countries was stressed by the Council of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries which met in Belgrade last month. Furthermore, both this year and last, the heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopted a special resolution in support of the Conference. Above all, its urgency and importance are reflected in the high level of the delegations gathered here. In fact, I understand that never before have so many ministers in charge of planning assembled at a global United Nations development conference.

This Conference is the most recent demonstration of the United Nations effort to help find solutions to the interlocking problems of our interdependent world. The previous conferences the United Nations has sponsored in recent years, including those on environment, population, food, desertification, human settlements, water - even as this one on technical co-operation among developing countries - must not be looked at in isolation. Each forms part of new global strategies to cope with global problems that affect all of us. Each draws and builds upon its predecessors, just as the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development next year will undoubtedly benefit from and as appropriate absorb the results of this Conference.

By the same token, this Conference is not limited to one narrow phase of development. It is rather concerned with a broader dimension of international co-operation for development that needs urgent strengthening. In its entirety, TCDC is a critical, even indispensable instrument in international economic relationships designed to improve and strengthen development strategies and programmes affecting hundreds of millions of people.

All nations in all regions are involved. But clearly it has a special meaning for the developing world. As the General Assembly stated at its last regular session, the basic objectives of technical co-operation among developing countries are the furthering of their national and collective self-reliance, and the enhancement of their creative capacity to solve their development problems.

In this sense, I should note it is particularly appropriate that this Conference is taking place in Latin America, where the movement to achieve collective self-reliance has deep roots. It is a movement that I believe may now be entering a new and decisive stage through TCDC.

At the heart of the concept of national self-reliance there is, of course, a new determination to ensure that a chosen development effort is undertaken to the maximum extent possible, with, by and through the human and material resources available within a country. The tendency to assume that development almost automatically meant external assistance from developed countries derived in part, from the emergency nature of the massive post-war relief and development programmes which necessarily involved outside aid and technical assistance from richer countries to poorer ones. It also derived in part from a colonial heritage that too often neglected indigenous human skills and ingenuity. The past decade, however, has been marked by an upsurge in the aspirations of peoples in the developing countries to realize their own potential and to assert their cultural identity, and we are now beginning to see the crumbling of outdated attitudes to self-reliance.

But the growth of national self-reliance does not mean that developing countries no longer require technical co-operation and aid. What we must avoid here is the discouraging of local initiative and the fostering of an excessive dependence on external sources of advice or technology. Care must also be taken to evaluate properly the co-operation thus received to make certain it is consonant with the history, culture, and special economic requirements of the developing country involved.

The responsibility here is mutual, and I am heartened to know that this fact is now increasingly recognized by traditional donor countries. And clearly technical co-operation among developing countries themselves is no less essential. For it is the developing countries themselves that finally must decide how best to use their own resources.

The exchange of experience through TCDC can therefore provide invaluable new strength and vitality for development. There is now a great reservoir of practical experience as to how best to draw upon outside advice when it is needed, and how to make the most suitable choices of technology in the many fields of development. There are also significant resources in developing countries in expertise, training institutions, and technology that other developing countries may find more attuned in various fields, and accordingly wish to use. Through TCDC, countries, on the basis of sovereign equality, can thus exchange and accumulate knowledge in the most self-reliant use of all technical co-operation, from whatever source, including developed countries.

TCDC can also provide much stronger links among development planners in their urgent search for new models, and more innovative and nationally effective approaches to the enormous challenges of overcoming mass poverty and other forms of deprivation. Here again, it is not a question of turning away from resources offered by

industrialized countries, but the truly urgent need for the developing countries to share every ounce of their experience and insight, every significant result of trial and error, in their struggle to secure and enhance the lives, the health, the productive and creative power of their peoples.

At the same time, we must be aware that new questions - searching questions - are being asked within industrialized countries about the direction in which earlier assumptions about economic growth may be leading their societies. Many problems of social and economic management of huge cities, of environmental and other effects of highly concentrated industrialization, and of depletion of non-renewable resources, were scarcely perceived 30 years ago. Today, they are of overriding concern. Many developing countries have already begun to witness some of these trends emerging from the same models.

If TCDC can help to create a more continuous and more dynamic exchange of ideas and experience among development planners in the developing countries, their capacity to deal with these newly perceived issues resulting from industrialization and the growth of giant cities may be greatly enhanced. And from all these processes at work across the globe, the world as a whole will acquire more profound and more widely tested understanding of the meaning of growth, and new approaches to enhancing the quality of human life.

But there are other ramifications to this Conference that we must keep in mind. The objective of furthering collective self-reliance widens the dimensions of TCDC, and is an important ingredient in the search for a new international economic order. A priority goal in collective self-reliance is increased economic co-operation among developing countries. The developing countries have held many intergovernmental meetings among themselves to discuss such co-operation, the decisions on which derive from their individual national sovereignty. The agenda of work has been written, and important concrete actions have been taken and many more are under way in all regions.

The organizations of the United Nations system have mobilized themselves with a keen sense of commitment to the processes of economic co-operation among developing countries, and as indicated in the report recently submitted to the joint meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), are providing increasing support to this endeavour.

But it is time, I believe, to make even more decisive and concrete moves to accelerate co-operation among developing countries in all relevant fields, including trade, monetary and development financing arrangements, transport and communications, joint energy and technology ventures, and many others. The developed countries for their part have an important role and interest in such co-operation; by providing resources and support for these processes, they will both promote and benefit from the strengthening of world development.

For many such new or expanded forms of co-operation, there are fundamental prerequisites of technical co-operation for joint bilateral or multilateral feasibility studies, legal and technical specifications, training of specialized staff, and the development of managerial capacities. This technical stage, which frequently is needed alongside the resultant economic action, is yet another aspect of TCDC. As the action programme for economic co-operation adopted by the Council

of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries at Belgrade emphasized, TCDC is the process that creates the technical foundations for almost all regional and interregional co-operation among developing countries in all substantive fields.

The prospect of the developing countries forging increasingly powerful economic ties among themselves may prompt the question whether this will add to the divisions in the world's economy. An answer involves setting such new horizontal technical and economic co-operation in global perspectives.

A vital source of the economic and technological strength of the developed countries today is founded upon and constantly reinforced by processes clearly analogous to TCDC, though they are not given any comparable name. I refer to the vast networks of exchange of intellectual, scientific, economic, financial and technological knowledge among the developed countries, through their research and development centres, universities and specialized training institutes, technical and commercial journals, libraries and advanced information systems.

It has been on the foundations of such technical co-operation that the developed countries have built an unprecedented network of arrangements for economic co-operation among themselves, either bilaterally or in various multilateral groups and communities. Within the framework of their own geographic and other mutual interest, developing countries have an opportunity to encourage similar co-operation among themselves.

This does not mean they should sacrifice those constructive contacts with industrialized countries that fill their own specialized development requirements. In all probability the need for greater contacts with industrialized countries will grow as the developing countries reach a higher stage of technological development that takes into account their own traditions and aspirations for the future.

As in any aspect of restructuring of economic and technical relationships, adjustments will be needed, and may not be easy. But year by year the interdependence of all national economies is becoming more and more evident. Millions of jobs in the developed countries now exist because of their trade with the developing countries, which provide many of the natural resources and commodities essential for industrialized economies. There should be no doubt of the need for fair and stable but periodically adjustable terms being accorded these critical exports. But the developing countries must also expand co-operation among themselves in order fully to provide for the coming massive demand from their own growing populations, and they must have a larger role as exporters of processed and manufactured products. Nevertheless, with such an increased global demand, the share of that demand for exports from developed countries also cannot be in doubt.

This growing economic interdependence - North, South, East and West - is demonstrated by the dual symbolism in the special emblem of this United Nations Conference. For it depicts both the bridge of technical co-operation among developing countries and in the vertical curving lines connecting the hemispheres, that same interdependence to which I have referred. The emblem of this Conference also provides a symbol of the ultimate vision of a world development partnership, based on sovereign equality. It depicts the need for the developing countries to employ TCDC to enhance their capacity in all their international economic relations.

In all of these considerations as to the role and potential value of technical co-operation among developing countries, it should be clear that TCDC is not the exclusive possession of the United Nations development system. While the system should stand ready to provide support and assistance as and when requested, it is the sovereign prerogative of every developing country to determine its relationships and modalities of co-operation with other developing countries.

It has, however, been clear from many fora that developing countries do wish that the supporting promotional and programming roles in TCDC already played by the United Nations should continue and indeed be expanded. The draft Plan of Action submitted to this Conference reflects the Secretariat's efforts to suggest what these continued roles would involve, taking into account the extensive comments of Governments in the Preparatory Committee.

It is for the Conference to make the final recommendations about all of these matters. I wish at this time, however, to pledge the fullest and most energetic support of the United Nations in the effort to expand technical co-operation among developing countries in the light of your recommendations and as requested by your Governments.

I am confident that this will be a memorable Conference. Yours is the historic opportunity to chart a new course of hope and co-operation among 2 billion peoples who have hitherto had only limited contact with each other. Their common bond is their largely untapped skills and creativity. By helping to give them a direction and purpose in realizing their rich potential, you can create a new and stabilizing equilibrium in the world and open new horizons for humanity. There can be no firmer foundation on which to build a world of peace and security for all.

I wish you every success.

Annex II

ADDRESS BY H.E. JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA, PRESIDENT OF THE
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, AT THE OPENING MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE ON 30 AUGUST 1978

On behalf of the Argentine people and Government I want to express our pleasure in having you here and our hope that throughout the days to come you may be inspired by the sentiments of peace and justice which must govern all striving for collaboration among nations.

Argentina is proud to be your host and, as is its tradition, is willing to share with its fellow-nations the task of building a better world.

We are meeting today with a readiness to make progress in dialogue and to give substance to the ideas which will make technical co-operation among developing countries a reality.

In this process we must remember the fundamental principles of our work: human solidarity and the feeling of brotherhood in the hearts of men. The breadth of the debate that is now beginning and the effectiveness of the measures proposed will be determined by whether these principles truly prevail.

It is quite possible that the hopes of some may be shaken when they contemplate a world in the throes of economic and social turmoil, renewed terrorist violence and serious setbacks in the progress of the less developed countries.

It is, however, at such times that we must reaffirm and pledge ourselves to the permanent values: two concepts set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, two goals which, despite the difficulties encountered, have become a reality in the work of the Organization.

We believe that it is against this background of reaffirmation and commitment that the Conference is being held. As the late Pope John XXIII said, mutual assistance among nations is an inescapable requirement. It cannot be conditional, and it cannot be limited to facilitating the exchange of goods and factors, but must also seek to reduce existing inequalities between nations.

In the past we have witnessed and benefited from, in varying degrees, the co-operation extended by more developed countries or through international organizations. Now we are trying to create new options through which the developing countries themselves, taking responsibility as suppliers of technical co-operation, can play an active role.

This is an enormously important step, not only because it releases new potential for exchanges among these countries but also because it signposts the way to rapprochement and understanding.

This new dimension of technical co-operation should not, however, be viewed as a completely isolated process. Its tremendous potential as a multiplier of previous efforts, its suitability for intensifying the adaptation of technology and its favourable effect on the migration of skilled human resources are three very weighty factors in any development process. The institutions and bodies which have traditionally helped to finance international technical co-operation should therefore consider including in their financial assistance programmes new arrangements; this will certainly be one of the constructive results of the Conference.

The Argentine Republic embarked on technical co-operation with countries in this continent many years ago. In so doing, it was continuing a course of action which started on the battlefield during the wars of independence and continued in times of peace as a permanent testimony to the Argentine people's desire for solidarity and sentiments of brotherhood.

However, we also believe that this type of co-operation is of world significance and, in the same spirit that led us to offer to act as host to this Conference, our Government has decided to set up a fund to promote technical co-operation among developing countries.

This meeting which brings you together has a special merit: it is a new and compelling call to man's creative ability.

It also has a significance which transcends the economic and-social sphere. It provides an opportunity to come together to affirm a value which is also political: co-operation.

Essentially, however, this Conference has a moral justification. It forms part of a deep-rooted striving to discover and smooth the paths which ennoble human life in all parts of the earth.

I am attending this ceremony on behalf of the Argentine people and Government in the certainty that the Conference which begins today is following the right course. It is also proof of a collective determination to work out new ways of reducing inequality among nations and, hence, among the individuals who constitute the ultimate objective of our work.

I wish you great success in the work you are beginning today.

Annex III

STATEMENT BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE HASSAN BIN TALAL OF
THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

at a plenary meeting of the Conference held on 31 August 1978

Technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) has been called a "new dimension of international co-operation for development". It seems to me that, in conceptual terms, it is neither "new" nor merely a "dimension".

It is not new because centuries ago when the Arabs shared within the East and with the West their knowledge of science and technology, it was, in fact, a form of TCDC without the present terminology. Things have, of course, changed since, in the Arab world as well as in the West. But TCDC continued linking central and southern America, stretching from China and India to the Muslim world, across Africa and over the Mediterranean to Europe until recent technological advances divided the globe sharply into North and South, widening the chasm between the haves and the have-nots.

TCDC as a concept is not new but the terminology to promote it is new. In a note submitted to the Conference by the Secretary-General of the Conference, it is rightly stated "Behind such terms as 'strengthening of institutions', 'information referral and exchange', and 'reorientation of capacities' stand precisely those processes that have provided the vital arteries of all human progress everywhere, at all times through the ages".

TCDC is not merely a dimension but rather a movement in itself whose inescapable necessity has recently become clearer to the developing world owing to the difficulties in the North-South relations. This movement complements significantly the efforts to promote a New International Economic Order. The attempts at a meaningful North-South dialogue have hitherto led only to a series of monologues "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing". This state of affairs has brought about, inevitably, a greater awareness in the developing world of the need for national and collective self-reliance. It is, therefore, understandable that the Kuwait Declaration of 5 June 1977 characterized TCDC as "a historical imperative brought about by the need for a new international order". This Declaration appropriately called TCDC "a conscious, systematic and politically motivated process developed to create a framework of multiple links among developing countries".

These multiple links are necessary not only to articulate the diverse thinking within the developing world and present a more harmonious position in the context of its relations with the developed world, but also, and above all, to explore new methods and means of improving and accelerating the development process itself. This is essential because while considerable progress has been achieved at the global level during the last two decades, vast sections of the world population have remained deprived of the fruits of this progress. The affluence of the developed nations has, on the whole, increased. The developing countries have, on the other

hand, been "running faster to remain at the same place". Some of them have, in fact, become poorer because of a variety of domestic and international factors.

In the World Development Report, released a few days ago by the World Bank, it is stated that some 800 million individuals continue to live in a state of "absolute poverty" which is described by the President of the Bank as "a condition of life so characterized by malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy as to be beneath any reasonable definition of human decency".

Despite the lofty aims of the Development Decades and various strategies adopted to redress the inequities in the over-all world economic situation, the fact remains that today two thirds of the world's gross output is generated and enjoyed by less than one third of the world's population living in the developed countries. A third of the world's exports of primary commodities other than fuel is supplied by the developing countries as compared to only one tenth of the world's manufactured goods supplied by them. While there are more mouths to feed in the developing world, inflation coupled with world recession has only made these countries weaker in meeting the challenge of economic development.

Poverty has been defined as "an economic condition that prevents you from going anywhere - except into debt". The outstanding external debt burden of the developing countries is fast reaching an intolerable level. It is estimated that, at present, almost 17 per cent of the export earnings of the poorer non-oil developing countries go simply to debt-service payments. Although certain developed countries have taken positive steps to help alleviate the problem, much more needs to be done if the developing countries are to be enabled to make maximal use of their limited resources.

I do not wish to tax your patience with facts and figures on the sorry state of affairs in the developing world. I do, however, wish to emphasize that the disequilibrium in the world economic situation and the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries is not only unhealthy for the future of the world in economic as well as political terms, but also incompatible with basic human values.

Many years ago, a British statesman said that the world belongs to "the few and the very few". In a way, it might still be true. However, it is being increasingly recognized that the future of this world is largely dependent upon what mankind can collectively do for "the poor and the very poor" who constitute the vast majority of the global population. Never before in history was the destiny of "the few and the very few" so intimately linked with the fate of "the poor and the very poor".

Within the developing world, sometimes called the Third World, there is what might best be termed as the "Fourth World" - the world of the least developed - inhabited by those whose destitution is far greater than their ability to overcome it. Although their fate has been receiving increasing attention for some years, much more remains to be done. TCDC can play a significant role in the international effort being deployed on their behalf.

Besides the group of the least developed countries within the developing world, there is a tendency at present to form groups or clubs in order to promote or defend special interests. This leads further to mushrooming of group-oriented mechanisms which sometimes tend, by the very nature of their functions, to hamper

the regional and international development process. There are the oil-producing countries, the island countries, the land-locked countries, countries grouped together on the basis of common commodities, etc. It is true that special problems need special attention. However, such fragmentation of the developing world should not lead to the fragmentation of its objectives or the weakening of its over-all position. Similarly, there are countries, like my own, which are not islands, not land-locked, not oil-producing, etc. Such countries are still the majority in the developing world; their interests should not be considered peripheral, nor their problems neglected just because they have not yet formed a club.

In the same vein, let me stress that individual efforts of countries should remain an important criterion for technical assistance. Good performance in the development effort should be rewarded, not penalized. Countries showing encouraging growth rates should not cease to be eligible for soft loans or similar concessionary treatment until they have reached a decent level of development. At present, such countries, suddenly deprived of certain privileges, hit simultaneously by inflation at home and recession abroad, lose incentive, get discouraged and start falling back in their development effort. The vicious circle thus created needs to be broken through a review of eligibility criteria applied for aid to developing countries.

The much used and abused term "interdependence" needs to be viewed in a different light. This Conference will, I hope, help to increase the awareness of the need to evolve an equitable interdependence to replace the existing "hierarchical" relationship between the North and the South. However, beyond helping the developing countries to negotiate more effectively in the context of a New International Economic Order, TCDC has other equally important self-contained objectives. Before turning to them, let me stress that TCDC is intended neither to replace the existing relationship between the North and the South nor indeed to be used as an argument against the continuation of North-South technical flows. In fact, more coherent and effective co-operation between developing countries will need and call for comparable technical support from the North since it will increase the absorptive capacity of developing countries for technical and other imports from developed countries.

The principal objectives of TCDC are to promote national as well as collective self-reliance and to enhance the effectiveness of international technical co-operation. However, before any progress can be made towards achieving these objectives, we in the developing world have to, as it were, clean our own houses by removing what have been termed as "attitudinal barriers". We should develop greater confidence in the ability of other developing countries and have faith in the principle of mutual help for mutual benefit. Many of us have to modify the conventional growth-oriented development strategies and pay greater attention to their distributional implications. Many of our planners, trained and experienced in conventional planning, have to realign their thinking in order to make a new departure. More attention needs to be paid to indigenous values and local conditions in the planning process. Additionally, the planners who are often unduly burdened by national, historic and political legacy tend to analyse more the short-comings of the past than the possibilities of the future. This gives rise to the tendency to blame others for failure and hide behind slogans, thus blurring the perception of reality.

Naturally, beyond the weaknesses that the planners or policy-makers might have, there are real problems which hamper development through technical

co-operation; for example, lack of adequate national infrastructures; artificial grafting of over-sophisticated technology; internal political conditioning leading to a search for short-term benefits rather than long-term planning; social and traditional hang-ups which serve as barriers to modern technology; lack of educational systems and training facilities geared to the promotion of satisfactory planning process, etc. TCDC is expected to help developing countries compare notes on these problems and learn from each other's experience for the mutual benefit of all. A beginning can already be made at this Conference for a critical self-examination with the conviction that understanding a problem is the first step towards solving it. We, in the developing countries, need help. But are we doing enough to help ourselves? Your deliberations in the coming days will, I hope, provide the answer to this question.

I firmly believe that, given the necessary political will on the part of those who bear the responsibility of governing the vast populations of developing countries, the obstacles which might have hitherto seemed insurmountable, can be removed. It should be recognized that during a long period of time, stretching over centuries, ancient civilizations which flourished in what is today the developing world, and from which humanity as a whole derived its first significant intellectual, scientific and technological innovations, were not only cut off from each other but also unable to continue the cross-fertilization of ideas and skills. This compartmentalization of the total reservoir of humanity's knowledge resulted on the one hand in a certain stagnation among much of the world population and, on the other, in the rise of a relatively small number of States that acquired enormous power. Although these States have extended much needed and appreciated assistance to the developing countries, it has not been adequate enough quantitatively and qualitatively. Hence the present disequilibrium between the North and the South.

TCDC poses the challenge to break free from the past narrowly directed channels of intercourse among nations in order to open up the whole world as a resource to enable developing countries to solve problems of a magnitude and character never before tackled in an organized manner, in so short a time scale and with such limited commitment of financial resources.

I come from a region which has a unique variety of developing countries ranging from the least developed to some with colossal financial resources but inadequate technological structures - a region bedevilled by complex political problems - a region on whose stability depends in a large measure world peace and security. From the point of view of economic development through technical co-operation, the region has extraordinary potential. At present, some countries have sizeable financial resources but lack human resources, while others have abundant human resources but lack financial resources.

The limited experience of technical co-operation at regional and subregional levels that the countries in West Asia have hitherto acquired shows clearly the immense scope of complementarity. I am sure that this Conference and the world movement to promote TCDC will give further encouragement to identification and implementation of projects, at the regional level, which will eliminate duplication and spare the various countries concerned the isolated and costly efforts in favour of collective efforts leading to mutual benefit.

The Economic Commission for Western Asia has already done a considerable amount of basic research work in this regard. One of its recently completed studies relates to the feasibility of establishing an Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer

and Development of Technology. This idea has the fullest support of my country in view of the dire need for such a Centre and the immense benefits that it could bring in the immediate future and on a long-term basis. We do not feel that it should lead to the establishment of a prestigious bureaucracy. Rather, it should be a technical centre for analysis and evaluation, serving as a catalyst enabling each country of the region to make fuller use of its potential and of what others in the region have to offer. The Centre should help in the identification of "appropriate technology" and facilitate the pooling of regional resources for promoting it.

Western Asia is a region with an unusually rich combination of financial, natural and human resources, which have not been fully harnessed. There is, for example, the possibility of agreements at regional or subregional levels for industry-sharing programmes, under which the parties could pool resources in order to specialize each in a given complementary area of the chosen industry the products of which would have preferential access to the entire market. I understand that the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has concluded successfully such an agreement in the field of agro-industry - a domain which has remained neglected for a long time in our area.

Within the Western Asia region, my country's experience of economic development has been an unusual one. The theatre of armed conflict three times within the span of a decade, subject to major demographic upheavals and to all the political problems that a war inevitably leaves behind, suffering consequently from serious socio-economic problems, Jordan has none the less forged ahead in its development plans with the conviction that, whatever happens in the area, optimism is practical policy. From the period of the First Three-Year Plan in 1972 through to the present Five-Year Plan, we have practically doubled our per capita income in current terms. However, this progress has its own dilemmas. For example, the credit-worthiness of Jordan has reduced its eligibility for soft financing from such institutions as the World Bank, while the benefits of development have been nullified to a great extent by inflationary pressures.

In this connexion, we are also concerned about the patterns of distribution of the benefits of growth. We continue to explore, like most developing countries, ways and means, in the public and private sectors, of promoting more equitable and just distribution. One possible approach in our case is a fuller utilization of our banking system, in particular our specialized credit institutions, for financing our social development-oriented projects. These institutions could be used also, in the case of labour-exporting countries, for making better use of remittances of workers abroad. At present, most of this rich financial source is used up in purchasing of luxury consumer goods, which not only hampers over-all development but also encourages inflation. An international understanding on a better use of funds through regulation of labour flows coupled with incentives within labour-exporting countries for investment schemes with a strong social content, would help greatly in meeting the challenge of balanced over-all development.

Jordan is a country relatively poor in natural resources but rich in human resources. In our planning, we have remained aware of the social and human aspect. As His Majesty King Hussein has often said, "Man is the centre of gravity in our development efforts". In developing our human resources, special attention is being paid to the role of women - a role whose importance needs to be more fully realized at regional and global levels in the context of TCDC.

For decades, we have practised TCDC by supplying skilled and semi-skilled workers to other developing countries of the area. At present, more than one third of the country's labour force is employed abroad, mainly within the region in countries such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Some 66 per cent of our engineers, 48 per cent of agricultural engineers, 34 per cent of medical doctors and 24 per cent of pharmacists of Jordan are serving abroad. Similarly, technical assistance agreements have been signed, in the context of TCDC, with other developing countries of the region such as Egypt, Iraq and Syria. The details of various areas where TCDC is provided and received by Jordan are contained in the national report submitted to this Conference. I would not wish, therefore, to take your time in illustrating how deeply Jordan is committed to TCDC.

Allow me, however, to highlight one aspect which is going to be the subject of your deliberations under agenda item 8. In terms of supply of human resources and brain drain, it is clear that the world at large still discriminates between labour and capital exports. There is need to compensate labour-exporting countries to make up for the loss of skilled people needed in the development process. At the 63rd International Labour Conference in Geneva, I had occasion to propose the establishment of an International Labour Compensatory Facility. The General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, passed unanimously a resolution dealing with this subject. Considerable groundwork to translate the idea into reality has been done by ILO and UNCTAD. I would request the support of this Conference in carrying forward the idea which already has the support and sympathy of countries directly concerned and should lead to a satisfactory international agreement regulating the flow of labour in a manner compatible with the interests and development efforts of contributing and receiving countries.

Jordan is deeply committed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations and is a staunch supporter of its development system. We greatly appreciate and are grateful for the valuable assistance we receive from it. Without wishing to be critical and because of our commitment to the United Nations development system, I would wish to make a few comments on it. We welcome the constructive suggestions contained in the draft recommendations relating to the system. Obviously, in the framework of technical assistance, the existing system needs further streamlining and adjustment to the demands of TCDC. Frankly, the developing countries could do with fewer reports and more action. After all, what is lacking is not so much ideas but the means to translate them into reality. A United Nations expert actually helping in a technical centre within a developing country is more useful than a dozen experts at Headquarters analysing the economic trends of that country, important as such analyses may be. The work of the regional commissions may need to be reviewed in this regard.

We participated in the effort of restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations and have followed with interest the measures already taken to implement the relevant General Assembly resolution. We would appreciate further speedy action in this regard at the regional and field level.

Turning to the practical measures already taken in the context of TCDC, let me say that we greatly welcome the newly instituted Information Referral System (INRES). In my travels to various developing countries, I have often been amazed by the lack of information on what each side can offer to the other in terms of technical co-operation. I can, therefore, hardly over-emphasize the usefulness of INRES in facilitating the process of TCDC. Going a step further, I would hope that

a parallel pooling of information at the regional level, possibly through the regional commissions, could be the first step towards promoting projects of regional scope involving a pooling of resources. This could eventually lead to central regional planning and finally to a stage where, through the convergence of interests, developing countries sharing common interests could go beyond narrower considerations of sovereignty and domestic interests and pool resources for the development of the region or the subregion as a whole. These ideas might, at present, appear utopian and far-fetched, but I do believe that it is constructive to remain hopeful and optimistic without losing touch with reality.

I have been greatly struck by the emblem of this Conference. It connotes "a bridge across the South". Let me venture to say that it is "a bridge over troubled waters" and it is built on pillars which are still fragile. However, here in Buenos Aires at this Conference the developing world has reached the bridge: it must now be crossed. Let us hope that beyond the bridge lies the land of plenty, protected by a future of peace and prosperity. Allow me, in conclusion, to wish you all godspeed in the crossing of the bridge.

Annex IV

STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE AT THE
19TH (CLOSING) PLENARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON
12 SEPTEMBER 1978

Our labours have ended. The work has been intense and rewarding.

Less than two weeks ago the Secretary-General of the United Nations told us:

"I am confident that this will be a memorable Conference. Yours is the historic opportunity to chart a new course of hope and co-operation among 2 billion peoples who have hitherto had only limited contact with each other. Their common bond is their largely untapped skills and creativity. By helping to give them a direction and purpose in realizing their rich potential, you can create a new and stabilizing equilibrium in the world and open new horizons for humanity."

Today we can respond to that appeal with practical results, because the countries which make up the international community have once again shown their ability to tackle practically and realistically the problems associated with inadequate economic development.

At this Conference we have heard none of those theoretical digressions proper to academic forums or ancillary organizations, largely because we all understood that our most important function is to lay the foundations for the growth and progress of our peoples.

We also understood that there can be no place in this process for any type of discrimination against countries which, by struggle and sacrifice, have already attained a significant degree of development.

I believe also that we agreed that no distinctions will be made on the basis of political considerations, which are contrary to the spirit and content of the United Nations Charter.

After all, the right to development cannot be restricted, because it is independent of transient situations.

If this is understood, one of the worst irritants, which has sometimes divided countries and regions whose common interests are patent, will have ceased to be a source of tension between those countries and regions.

The success of this Conference also shows that the participating States accept as a basic premise the existence of a world community for which all are jointly responsible.

This responsibility requires a firm determination to make concerted efforts to reduce the disparity in standards of living between nations, an objective

that will inevitably help to eliminate much of the present political tension in the world.

All this requires as its point of departure two fundamental questions which stand out clearly in today's international landscape. The first, because of its relevance to the whole philosophy of co-operation for development, is interdependence, that is, the increasingly close ties which link countries, regardless of differences based on geographical distance or differences in ideology or political system.

The phenomenon of interdependence arises because Governments have realized that they cannot satisfy domestic needs and at the same time attain international goals without some degree of concerted action with other countries. Similarly, although interdependence is more in evidence in highly industrialized societies, it is also significant in communities that are less developed.

While this phenomenon can be seen most clearly in the economic sphere, it also has important political consequences, one of which is to make it impossible for countries to isolate themselves: they need increasingly to keep abreast of what other Governments are doing, since the effects can be felt in the most distant regions.

It is self-evident that under this system there must be respect for the freedom of peoples to choose their own paths to development, guided by the ideal of regional and global harmony which is the very essence of the pluralistic society of mankind.

The second factor which makes co-operation necessary arises from the existence of an international community which is both complex and complete:

Complex, because no State can by itself achieve and sustain such minimum technological levels as will produce growth without friction: that necessarily demands the help that other States can give it.

Complete, because the waning of colonialism has given to the world, as never in the past, a large number of sovereign countries whose intrinsic political equality must be accompanied by genuine equality of opportunity in the economic sphere as a better guarantee of peace in the future.

This, then, as we see it, is the framework for all the economic and social measures advocated by the United Nations.

Fellow-delegates, I believe that, with the documents adopted at this Conference, we are making a major advance in TCDC, the implementation of which offers bright prospects in the political and ethical spheres - in the latter sphere, because the individual must be the prime beneficiary of the objectives we have set ourselves.

This Buenos Aires Plan of Action also represents a further step to strengthen the fundamental role assigned to the United Nations and the other agencies and organizations of the development system in promoting assistance to developing countries. It is important to bear in mind that every country in the world will share in implementing this new dimension of international co-operation: not only the developed countries but also those developing

countries whose intermediate level of technological progress qualifies them to serve as "adapters" in the process.

The Conference has brought the conceptualization phase to an end. That phase will be followed by the work of equipping the national institutions of our countries to put TCDC into practice at home and internationally.

I believe that I am speaking for all the participants in reaffirming our confidence in the United Nations Development Programme as an essential factor for the financing of technical co-operation and TCDC, together with the funds and foundations which were announced during the general debate.

As President of the Conference and a citizen of the host country, I want to convey to you my sincere admiration and gratitude for the dedicated and responsible manner in which you have performed your task.

I must also emphasize the constant willingness to compromise and tireless energy you displayed, because they were decisive factors in our success.

Throughout the Conference, I myself was privileged to participate with you in negotiations to overcome difficulties in connexion with some of the most sensitive items of the agenda.

I can assure you that those occasions have left me with a deep impression of a realism transcending petty interests which augurs well for the future of technical co-operation among developing countries.

I also express special thanks to the United Nations Secretariat, its specialized staff, interpreters and advisers, to whose solid and tireless work much of our success is due.

May I emphasize that what I have just said is not just a routine courtesy, but represents my sincere personal conviction.

Many thanks, and my best wishes for the happiness and professional success of each and every one of you.

I declare closed the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

Annex V

MESSAGES ADDRESSED TO THE CONFERENCE BY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT

A. Message addressed to the President of the Conference by the President of the United States of America

I congratulate you and the organizers of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries.

We live in a time of world-wide struggles for economic development, social justice, and political independence. Because I believe that the success of these struggles will serve all humanity, my administration is committed to work with the developing world on issues that affect the prices of its labor, raw materials, and manufactured goods. We understand when developing countries ask for increased participation in international decisions, and we want to be helpful when developing countries seek to reduce their technological dependence on the industrialized world by developing their own capabilities.

This last goal - to enhance technological capabilities in the developing world - is the goal of this Conference, and it is one that I strongly support.

For too long, the developing countries have tended to rely exclusively on the industrialized countries for their technology. We look forward to a world in which developing countries can be producers as well as purchasers of technology.

The United States supports technical co-operation among developing countries for three reasons:

First, the lessons of development are often most effectively taught by those who have just learned them.

Second, the labor, educational, and social factors in the middle-income developing country may be more appropriate for a poorer country than are those of a highly industrialized country.

Third, independence requires diverse relationships with other countries, both industrialized and developing. The collective self-reliance of the developing countries can enhance their ability to work with the industrialized countries in seeking solutions to our common problems.

In the future, it must increasingly be technological capabilities - not just technology itself - which is transferred to the developing countries. That is why I am establishing a foundation for international technological co-operation, which I hope will work for institutions in your countries as you develop your own technologies.

For all these reasons, we applaud your efforts to build bridges across the South.

The United States welcomes the opportunity to be both a participant and a beneficiary of the activities that will emanate from the plan of action of this conference. We look forward to playing a part in the provision of development services and expertise. But we also recognize that true national development depends ultimately on the growth of autonomous capacities in each country to create, adapt, and use new techniques and knowledge.

I extend my personal hopes to you, Mr. President, and to all the delegates assembled here that this Conference will achieve its important goals.

(Signed) Jimmy CARTER
President of the United States
of America

B. Message addressed to the President of the Conference
by the President of Cape Verde

I have the honour, on the occasion of the opening of the Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to request you to convey to the participants in this important meeting and its organizers my best wishes for the success of the Conference. I am convinced that, as a bridge between developing countries, it will be a means of attaining our common objectives of social and economic progress and will serve to strengthen our unity in establishing a new international order.

(Signed) Aristides PEREIRA
President of the Republic of
Cape Verde

C. Message addressed to the President of the Conference by
the President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau

On behalf of the people and the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau, and on my own behalf, I have the honour to send cordial greetings to Your Excellency, and through you to all the delegations participating in this important Conference.

In reaffirming our total support for the objectives of the Conference, which constitute a common goal for the developing countries, we hope that irreversible progress will be made towards new forms of co-operation, while recognizing the importance of the continuation of an effective North-South dialogue with a view to the acceleration of independent national economic development of our countries for the benefit of our peoples and humanity as a whole. With best wishes for success.

(Signed) Luis CABRAL
President, Council of the State
of Guinea-Bissau

Annex VI

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
A/CONF.79/1	Provisional agenda	4
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A/CONF.79/3 <u>a/</u>	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries on its third session	
A/CONF.79/4	Organization of the work of the Conference	5
A/CONF.79/5	Draft plan of action for promoting and implementing technical co-operation among developing countries	9
A/CONF.79/6 and Corr.1	Technical co-operation among developing countries as a new dimension of international co-operation for development	8
A/CONF.79/7	Message addressed to the President of the Conference by the President of the United States of America	
A/CONF.79/8	Message addressed to the President of the Conference by the President of Cape Verde	
A/CONF.79/9	Credentials of representatives to the Conference Report of the Credentials Committee	7 (b)
A/CONF.79/10 and Add.1	Report of the Main Committee	9
A/CONF.79/11	Message addressed to the President of the Conference by the President of the Council of State of Guinea-Bissau	

* * *

a/ The reports of the Preparatory Committee on its first and second sessions were issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/32/42, Corr.1 and 2).

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
A/CONF.79/INF.1 and Corr.1	List of participants * * *	
A/CONF.79/L.1	Report on the pre-Conference consultations held at the Centro Cultural San Martin, Buenos Aires, on 29 August 1978	
A/CONF.79/L.2 and Add.1 to 3	Draft report of the Conference * * *	10
A/CONF.79/MC/L.2 Add.1 to 3 and Corr.1 (Chinese and French only)	Draft text submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Committee (Mr. Benjamin Bassin) as a result of informal consultations held on the draft plan of action (A/CONF.79/5)	9
A/CONF.79/MC/L.3 <u>b/</u>	Assistance to Namibia: draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Jamaica	
A/CONF.79/MC/L.4 <u>b/</u>	National research and training centres of multinational scope: draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Jamaica	
A/CONF.79/MC/L.5 and Rev.1 <u>b/</u>	TCDC in the spheres of employment and human resources: draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Jamaica	
A/CONF.79/MC/L.6	Draft report of the Main Committee * * *	9

b/ Submitted on behalf of all participating States which are members of the Group of 77.

National reports

The national reports were issued in their original languages as presented by Governments. Translations into the other working languages of the Conference were prepared by the Secretariat.

Volume I (A/CONF.79/NR/1)

Botswana, Burma, Chad, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Upper Volta, Uruguay and Zaire.

Volume II (A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.1)

Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Burundi, Central African Empire, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Volume III (A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.2)

Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Djibouti, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United States and Venezuela.

Volume IV (A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.3)

Brazil, Grenada, Guatemala and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Associated State of St. Lucia.

Volume V (A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.4)

Barbados, China, Congo and Niger.

Other reports issued during the Conference

Somalia	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.5)
Norway	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.6)
Haiti	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.7)
Portugal	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.8)
Bhutan	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.9)
Nigeria	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.10)
Gambia	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.11)
Costa Rica	(A/CONF.79/NR/1/Add.12)

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