

Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

14. *Takes note* that enhanced cooperation could help focus the activities of the United Nations system in the field of science and technology for development for greater impact;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need for further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional, interregional and global levels to promote technology research, training and dissemination as well as joint projects in developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

16. *Requests* the relevant organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to promote the development of effective and mutually beneficial technological cooperation between countries with economies in transition and all other countries, including in the area of new and emerging technologies;

17. *Notes* the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

18. *Takes note* of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

19. *Stresses* the potentially important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

20. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure that women have equal access to and equal opportunity to participate in scientific and technological areas, especially in areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting  
20 December 1995

#### 50/102. United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,<sup>45</sup> adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and subsequently endorsed and reaffirmed by the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, having as its priority objectives the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy,

*Having considered* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa",<sup>48</sup> and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

*Recognizing* the crucial significance of science and technology, including the related information technologies, for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology and the promotion of endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the process of growth and development,

*Recognizing also* that the fundamental objective of science and technology to meet basic needs should be to create conditions that increase the ability of people living in poverty to gain access to, fully understand, integrate, use and generate knowledge and technology creatively in order to satisfy their basic needs,

*Stressing* the importance of South-South cooperation in the promotion of science and technology in Africa in the context of, *inter alia*, modalities for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

*Noting* the efforts being undertaken by African leaders within the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa, 1995-2005,

*Taking note* of the Cairo Agenda for Action, adopted on 28 June 1995 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-first ordinary session,<sup>49</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa",<sup>48</sup> and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon;<sup>50</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and implement activities in support of science and technology in Africa in the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation

<sup>48</sup>A/50/125-E/1995/19, annex.

<sup>49</sup>See A/50/647, annex II, resolution AHG/Res.236 (XXXI).

<sup>50</sup>A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1, annex.

with the organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to make concrete proposals on activities, in the context of the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, to be carried out in 1996, aimed at strengthening United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa, taking into account the views and recommendations contained in the reports mentioned above and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

96th plenary meeting  
20 December 1995

#### 50/103. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990, in which it endorsed the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,<sup>51</sup> and 49/98 of 19 December 1994, in which it decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,

Reaffirming the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action, the prime objective of which is to arrest the further deterioration in the socio-economic situation of the least developed countries, to reactivate and accelerate growth and development in those countries and, in the process, to set them on the path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Expressing serious concern that the least developed countries as a group have not been able to achieve many of the objectives of the Programme of Action and that their overall socio-economic situation has continued to deteriorate,

Noting with concern the reduced flow of development resources to the least developed countries, the resulting need to accord them priority in the allocation of concessional resources and their continued marginalization in world trade, as well as the fact that many least developed countries face serious debt problems and more than half are considered debt-distressed,

Taking note of agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995 of the Trade and Development Board<sup>52</sup> on the annual review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, which was underpinned by *The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report*,<sup>53</sup>

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,<sup>54</sup>

1. Reaffirms the Programme of Action for the Least

Developed Countries for the 1990s<sup>51</sup> as the basis for continuing cooperation between the least developed countries, which have the responsibility for their own development, and their development partners, based on shared responsibility and strengthened partnership, as well as its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Endorses the measures and recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,<sup>55</sup> annexed to the present resolution, which are designed to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action over the second half of the decade;

3. Calls upon all Governments, international and multilateral organizations, financial institutions and development funds, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and all other organizations concerned to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to implement the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and recommendations of the mid-term global review so as to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries and to enable them to participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalization;

4. Notes that many least developed countries, for their part, have been implementing courageous and far-reaching policy reforms and adjustment measures in line with the Programme of Action, and in that regard emphasizes the need for national policies and measures aimed at establishing macroeconomic stability by rationalizing public expenditure and adopting sound monetary and fiscal policies so as to ensure a dynamic private sector by such means as providing a sound legal framework and improving human resources development, living standards, health and the status of women, and calls upon the international community to provide adequate support thereon;

5. Strongly urges all donor countries to implement fully and expeditiously their commitments in all relevant areas, including the agreed menu of aid targets and commitments as set out in the Programme of Action and support to reinforce structural adjustment reform, as well as the measures agreed upon at the mid-term global review so as to provide a significant and substantial increase in the aggregate level of external support for the least developed countries, keeping in mind the increased needs of those countries as well as the requirements of the countries added to the list of the least developed countries following the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

6. Stresses the critical importance of providing multilateral assistance for the least developed countries, in the form of grant-based multilateral programmes, and in that regard calls attention to the need to ensure adequate replenishment of the International Development Association and the soft-term windows of the regional development banks;

7. Emphasizes the serious debt problems of the least developed countries, which necessitate strengthened efforts to formulate an international debt strategy that should include concrete measures to alleviate the debt burden and

<sup>51</sup>See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

<sup>52</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/50/15), chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>53</sup>United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.2

<sup>54</sup>See A/50/745. See also A/50/746.

<sup>55</sup>A/50/745, parts one to three.