



Technical co-operation among developing countries

High-level Meeting on the
Review of Technical Co-operation
among Developing Countries
Geneva, 26 May-2 June 1980

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REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING*

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Contents

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Page</u>
	<u>List of decisions of the High-level Meeting</u>	
I.	DECISIONS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING	1
II.	ORIGIN AND MANDATE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING	16
III.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	17
	A. Date and place of the High-level Meeting	17
	B. Attendance	17
	C. Opening of the High-level Meeting and election of its President	18
	D. Election of officers other than the President	19
	E. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure	19
	F. Adoption of the Agenda	20
	G. Establishment of committees and organization of work	20
IV.	SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE	21
V.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING	33
	A. Report of Working Group I	33
	B. Report of Working Group II	34
	C. Summary of statements of delegations	34
	D. Draft report of the Plenary	35
	E. Report on credentials	35
VI.	CLOSURE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING	36

Annex

Summary of the closing statement of the President of the High-level Meeting.

List of decisions of the High-level Meeting

- I/80/1. Report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries
- I/80/2. Report on the state of transport and communications among developing countries
- I/80/3. Building knowledge through technical co-operation among developing countries: participation of women in development
- I/80/4. Establishing and strengthening national research and training centres with multinational scope
- I/80/5. Urbanization and poverty: sharing of experience among developing countries
- I/80/6. Enhancing the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation
- I/80/7. Financial resources and arrangements for TCDC
- I/80/8. Work programme for the 1981 High-level Meeting

CHAPTER I. DECISIONS OF THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING

Decision I/80/1: Report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Meeting,

Recalling recommendation 34 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action entrusting the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme with responsibility to prepare, in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations development system, a progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action and to make suggestions to expedite progress through new actions and initiatives,

Expresses appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations development system and summarized in the progress report to implement the tasks entrusted to it by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting and supporting TCDC;

Recognizes that certain actions in response to recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action require particular attention and effort on the part of governments of developing countries, governments of developed countries, and organizations of the United Nations development system, to ensure the successful implementation of TCDC on a wide scale; and with this in mind:

1. Urges the organizations of the United Nations development system to give sufficient attention, using the country's own language as much as possible in the formulation and development of programmes designed to orient and train their staffs and those in developing countries concerned with national focal points and with technical co-operation, in the programming and implementation of TCDC activities;

2. Invites all governments of developing countries which have not yet already done so to establish national focal points or other appropriate mechanisms for TCDC in keeping with recommendation 3 of the Plan of Action to promote TCDC and to facilitate the co-ordination of TCDC at the national level; to undertake long-term information and education programmes, including national workshops with the support of the United Nations development system, if necessary, for the purpose of breaking down attitudinal barriers to TCDC and mobilizing public support for TCDC as urged in recommendation 13 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and in general to actively plan and implement projects of technical co-operation with other developing countries, with the support of the United Nations development system if necessary;

debate on the Administrator's Report submitted to the Meeting to the executive heads of the United Nations regional commissions, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Universal Postal Union, UNESCO and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system for submission to their respective intergovernmental bodies for consideration and action as appropriate and to report thereon to the second High-level Meeting on TCDC;

3. Invites developing countries to co-operate in strengthening and developing their transport and communications linkages, and more specifically to identify transport and communications capacities and needs, organize joint training in research, and exchange expert and consultancy services;

4. Urges the United Nations development system to implement Recommendation 32 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, calling on them to mobilize their efforts on a continuing and intensive basis both in their respective fields of competence and in multidisciplinary joint action to increase significantly the development of projects and activities of TCDC;

5. Urges UNDP to take further steps to give the necessary orientation to its activities, programmes and projects in order to utilize to the maximum extent possible and where appropriate inputs of TCDC in current projects in the field of transport and communications, and to provide timely and appropriate assistance for the identification of needs and capacities in the developing world for the establishment of additional links of co-operation;

6. Requests UNDP to take special account of the needs identified in the programmes of the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and to prepare, before the High-level Meeting scheduled for 1981, a paper concerning possibilities of interregional TCDC activities in support of the objectives of the Decade;

7. Requests the Administrator of UNDP to include in his Progress Report to the next High-level Meeting an account of progress in TCDC activities in the field of transport and communications;

8. In the above context, specific and practical efforts should be taken to improve and strengthen the transport and communications infrastructures in the least developed, landlocked, island developing and more seriously affected countries as appropriate to their needs and requirements, in order to improve, strengthen and facilitate their transport and communications system;

9. Urges the international community, the United Nations development system, the financial and other institutions to respond favourably to the requests of developing countries for improving their subregional, regional and interregional transport and communications system.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/80/3: Building knowledge through technical co-operation among developing countries: participation of women in development.

The High-level Meeting,

Recalling the decision of the United Nations Conference on Women, held in Mexico, as well as the conference of the non-aligned and other developing countries on the "Role of Women in Development" held in Baghdad in 1979,

1. Takes note, with appreciation, of the Report submitted by the Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD);
2. Reaffirms the importance of the role of women in the process of economic and social development;
3. Calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue to give support to similar associations and intergovernmental organizations in the developing countries to prepare action-oriented studies and reports related to their experience in the participation of women in development;
4. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to transmit this report to the United Nations Conference on the Decade for Women which will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 14-31 July 1980.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/80/4: Establishing and strengthening national research and training centres with multinational scope

The High-level meeting,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action endorsed by the General Assembly resolution 33/134,

Reiterating full support to TCDC activities and to the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Conscious of the importance of the TCDC projects and programmes for the attainment of collective self-reliance among developing countries,

Aware of the advantages of TCDC and of its innovative and shared character in the exchange of experience,

Conscious of the experience gained by developing countries in the last several years in implementing TCDC projects and programmes,

Aware of the undertakings given by developed countries to contribute actively to the promotion of TCDC,

Aware also of the important role of the organizations of the United Nations development system in TCDC,

Convinced of the importance of the national research and training centres with multinational scope as one of the more specific means of enhancing TCDC, as expressed in recommendations 6 and 22 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in Resolution 2 adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference,

Bearing in mind the importance of the role to be played by such centres in TCDC which has been recognized in different international fora and by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 and by the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 held in Arusha in February 1979,

1. Recommends the successful implementation and expansion of TCDC activities in developing countries and in particular in the least developed countries, through the strengthening of all national centres with a capacity to participate in such activities;

2. Requests the Governments of the developing countries to ascertain, before the next High-level meeting on TCDC, which national centres should be regarded as having a capacity to undertake TCDC activities with multinational scope and, in turn, to inform other Governments of the objectives, structures, experience, financing and human capacity of those centres;

3. Requests those Governments also to identify new centres which have a potential for participation in international co-operation activities, including participation as a means of strengthening their own structures through TCDC;

4. Requests the strengthening of such centres at the subregional, regional and interregional levels with the full mutual support of developing countries;
5. Requests the organizations of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions and developed countries to give necessary support to the strengthening of the activities of such centres;
6. Requests UNDP and all organizations of the United Nations development system to provide, upon request, the necessary support for the compilation and dissemination of the information arising from compliance by developing countries with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, using to the maximum extent their existing capacities and capabilities, including IBRD;
7. Requests also intergovernmental organizations at the subregional, regional and interregional levels to provide appropriate support for this purpose;
8. Requests UNDP, in co-operation with competent international organizations and Governments of developing countries, to promote and strengthen scientific and technological research in development through these centres.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/80/5: Urbanization and poverty: sharing of experience among developing countries

The High-level Meeting,

Recalling Recommendation 24 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in which a request was made that the developing countries should share their experiences relating to the improvement of the living conditions of their peoples,

Recalling also the recommendations of the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements,

Taking note of document TCDC/7 and appreciating that for the purpose of identifying opportunities for TCDC activities, this document is concerned with only a limited aspect of the over-all problems of rural and urban communities in developing countries,

1. Recommends that future studies be formulated in such a way as to offer a useful basis for the planning and designing of operational activities for developing countries;
2. Calls upon the Governments of developing countries, as an integral part of TCDC activities, to share their accumulated experiences in planning and dealing with the enormous problems facing rural and urban communities, including the problem of migration of rural population to cities;

3. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations development system and other sources of international technical co-operation, and on the Governments of developed countries to provide, if so requested, the financial and technical support necessary to facilitate and promote the initiatives which can be taken by developing countries to solve their common problems;

4. Recommends that the organizations of the United Nations development system and other international agencies for technical co-operation may take up studies on a subregional, regional and interregional basis at the request of and in consultation with the countries concerned and in keeping with the TCDC modalities.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/30/6: Enhancing the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation

The High-level Meeting,

Recalling resolutions 3461 (XXX), 31/179, 32/182 and 33/154 of the United Nations General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the decision on the study on Rules, Regulations, Procedures and Practices of the United Nations Development System in Recruiting Experts, Subcontracting, Procuring Equipment and Providing Fellowships, adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-fourth session (E/6013/Rev.1, para. 525, op. para. 14),

Recalling further the recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

1. Takes note of the report on enhancing the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation as contained in document TCDC/4, pursuant to the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session and recommendations 51 through 56 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

2. Takes note of the introductory statement made by the Deputy Administrator and of the observations and suggestions made during the consideration of the item;

3. Reaffirms that the use and enhancement of the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation constitute an important means of strengthening technical co-operation, in general, and technical co-operation among developing countries, in particular;

4. Considers further that all appropriate measures designed to use and enhance the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation should be taken by the Governments of developing and developed countries, development banks and funds, and the United Nations development system;

5. Invites the Governments of developing countries to:

(a) Establish, or strengthen, as the case may be, their national recruitment services for providing expertise in technical co-operation programmes; exchange among themselves their national rosters of candidates available for technical co-operation assignments; exchange similar information to the extent possible, relating to capacities with experience for consultancy and subcontracting services, training and equipment supply;

(b) Use in the programming and implementation of projects, mindful of the importance of inputs, a result-oriented approach that takes into consideration the range of options available for achieving a specific objective;

(c) Give stronger emphasis in the design and implementation of their development plans to TCDC as an instrument for intercountry co-operation in those areas where capabilities and experience offer mutual advantages and complementarities;

(d) Establish or strengthen, as the case may be, their national focal points or co-ordinating mechanisms for TCDC in order to effectively implement the above-mentioned recommendations and play a key role in orchestrating the action-oriented approach to projects as well as the promotional and informational activities advocated in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

6. Invites the Governments of developed countries to implement, to the extent they have not done so, recommendation 35 (c), (d) and (e) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

7. Invites the development banks and funds to include, subject to their constitutional procedures, the use of capacities and supplies of developing countries to a greater extent in their projects involving developing countries;

8. Requests the organizations of the United Nations development system, especially UNDP, to:

(a) Ensure an efficient flow of information on TCDC needs, capacities and opportunities to Governments and institutions of developing countries in order to place them in a position, in the context of their operational purposes, to make choices on appropriate projects and their inputs;

(b) Facilitate consideration of TCDC opportunities becoming an integral part of the preparation of the country programmes as well as of project formulation, implementation and evaluation;

(c) Play a catalytic, supportive and innovative role in the promotion of TCDC in the wider sense, as an instrument for intercountry co-operation;

(d) Ensure that their TCDC focal points are strong and active to promote all the recommendations of this resolution. The Resident Representatives and field representatives of Agencies should be enabled to play an important role in implementing the recommendations and especially in assisting Governments, at their request, in the establishment and functioning of their own focal points for TCDC;

(e) Make efforts to identify, wherever possible, and notify developing countries opportunities for the use of experts, consultants, training facilities and subcontracting services from developing countries in projects financed by the United Nations development system;

(f) Strengthen the Interagency Procurement Services Unit to enable it to expand its work of conducting surveys in developing countries on the basis of equipment lists established by the Agencies for the purpose of identifying suppliers in developing countries; complete by the end of 1981 surveys in all developing countries considered potential suppliers of equipment for projects; bearing in mind the importance of its functions in the establishment of an early warning system for the purchase of supplies;

(g) Assist, on request, in identifying and promoting joint ventures among developing countries;

(h) Adopt a "systems approach" of creating networks of complementary training programmes involving the identification, evaluation, and, where needed, strengthening of national institutions in developing countries by subregions, regions and globally, and making arrangements for co-operative agreements under which each institution or programme is committed to provide training in an agreed field or speciality;

9. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary steps to evaluate and assess the functioning of INRES in terms of Recommendation 26 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in the light of such evaluation to recommend to the High-level meeting in 1981 and the UNDP Governing Council the further steps which may need to be taken to improve, develop and expand the Information Referral System (IRRES) and other related systems as agreed to in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/80/7: Financial resources and arrangements for TCDC

The High-level Meeting

Recalling recommendation 53 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as endorsed by resolution 33/134 of the United Nations General Assembly;

Recalling resolutions 3201 (S-VI) on Declarations on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and 3202 (S-VI) on Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order of 1 May 1974 adopted at the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly;

Recalling further the final report of the Working Group on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (DP/69) endorsed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its eighteenth session 1/ and by resolution 3251 (XXIX) on technical co-operation among developing countries of 4 December 1974 of the General Assembly.

1. Takes note of the Administrator's report on financial resources and arrangements, as contained in document TCDC/3, as well as of the observations and suggestions made during the consideration of the item;

2. Considers that adequate financial resources and arrangements for TCDC constitute an important means of strengthening technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Considers further that all appropriate measures as agreed upon in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action designed to create adequate financial resources and arrangements for TCDC should be taken by the Governments of developing and developed countries, development banks and funds, and the United Nations development system;

4. Recommends that the Governments of developing countries consider:

(a) Making allocations for TCDC through mechanisms appropriate to each country, including the possibility of earmarking a percentage of their UNDP country IPFs for TCDC activities (subject to such conditions as may be approved by the Governing Council of UNDP), and thereby providing the flexibility that may be needed to respond to TCDC opportunities as they arise;

(b) Studying the possibility of mobilizing financial and other resources available from such organizations as private enterprises, joint ventures and professional associations which fall outside the national budget;

5. Invites the Governments of developed countries to:

(a) Provide, without prejudice to existing programmes, additional financial support for TCDC projects and activities, for example through third country financing arrangements, and through increased contributions to different national, subregional, regional, interregional and international organizations, including UNDP;

(b) Use, to a greater extent, part of their development aid in general or of allocations to specific countries or group of countries for financing TCDC at the request of these countries;

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No.2 A (E/5545/Rev.1) para. 224.

6. Invites the development banks and funds, subject to their constitutional procedures, to:

(a) Supplement national efforts and give greater attention to intercountry projects using TCDC modalities;

(b) Utilize the capacities of developing countries to a greater extent in the projects financed by them;

7. Urges the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to utilize the funds of their regular budgets, wherever such funds are available for use for technical co-operation programmes, as well as their extrabudgetary funds to a greater extent for TCDC activities;

8. Requests the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council of UNDP to:

(a) Review the possibility of an increase in funding from global, interregional and regional programmes as well as from the Programme Reserve, so as to enhance the financing of projects using TCDC modalities;

(b) Facilitate by appropriate decisions the flexible use of country IPFs for TCDC, establishing the necessary procedures on the basis, inter alia, of the following principles:

(i) Bearing in mind that the financing of TCDC activities is the primary responsibility of the developing countries themselves, the country IPF should be considered as a catalyst and a supplementary contribution only;

(ii) A country's IPF can be used for financing its own inputs in TCDC projects or for inputs of other developing countries;

(iii) The reimbursement of local currency costs from the IPF of one country for the financing of TCDC components in technical co-operation projects undertaken in another country, shall be restricted to those projects which have been notified to the Administrator as at the beginning of this High-level Meeting;

(iv) UNDP's procedures related to approval of its assisted projects, compensation, hiring of national experts, procurement of equipment and services, subcontracting and related matters should be used; and in this connexion, the Administrator is requested to expedite the preparation of the modifications in the policies, rules and procedures of UNDP in accordance with Recommendation 34 (paragraph 59 (g)) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to accommodate and encourage TCDC initiatives;

(c) Consider all aspects of the question of the reimbursement from IPFs of local currency costs drawing on such expert advice and comprehensive data and information as it considers appropriate;

(d) Agree that the proposals by the Administrator for the modification of policies, rules and procedures of UNDP shall be submitted to the next high-level meeting and subsequently to the Governing Council;

9. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, through its Special Unit for TCDC, to collect and disseminate information on all potential sources for financing TCDC and provide advice for the effective implementation of the appropriate foregoing recommendations of this decision.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

Decision I/30/3: Work programme for the 1981 High-level Meeting

The High-level Meeting,

Having considered the need to expand TCDC activities through new policies, creative and innovative approaches,

1. Decides that the next High-level Meeting in 1981 should give attention, inter alia, to the following subjects, taking into account the reports to be prepared by the Administrator of UNDP in co-operation with concerned bodies of the United Nations development system and the regional economic commissions on the following matters:

(i) Identification of economic potentials which could be developed through joint ventures between developing countries through TCDC;

(ii) Description, enumeration and operation of existing and possible structures and mechanisms within the United Nations development system including the regional economic commissions and how they co-operate among themselves for the promotion of TCDC activities;

2. Requests the Administrator of UNDP to include in his next progress report on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action information on the following:

(i) Compilation and dissemination of data between developed and developing countries, international organizations and intergovernmental organizations on the existing procedures and available resources which enable the return of qualified personnel to their countries of origin;

(ii) Preparation, in consultation with the regional economic commissions, and taking into account the views of Governments of developing countries, of a methodology for promoting joint research and development programmes through TCDC among national centres with multinational scope having the capacity for co-operation on a subregional, regional and interregional level;

- (iii) Provision of support for technical training of personnel of developing countries through developing and strengthening the linkages between training institutes, organizations and enterprises;
3. Further requests the Administrator of UNDP, for the next High-level Meeting, in co-operation with the competent United Nations organizations;
- (i) To undertake appropriate studies on the role and potential of TCDC in such areas as:
- (a) Rural and industrial development;
- (b) The increase in agricultural production;
- (c) The establishment of adequate infrastructure in order to avoid emigration from rural areas;
- (d) Hydrological research, and the conservation and rational use of water, in order to combat desertification and improve the use of arid and semi-arid lands;
- (e) The exchange of scientific and technological information in these and other fields;
- (ii) Consider ways and means of setting up a system of research programmes in science and technology at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels, and thus to promote the exchange of information, experience and know-how in order to facilitate TCDC;
4. Recommends to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly to rename this Meeting as the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC.

10th Plenary meeting
2 June 1980

ANNEX

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 1981 HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the President of the meeting
3. Revision of the rules of procedure
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
5. Election of officers other than the President
6. Review of progress made in implementing the recommendations addressed to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and by the first High-level Meeting on TCDC

7. Review of progress made at the national and international level for implementation of TCDC
8. New policies, creative and innovative approaches to further the development of TCDC
9. Administrative, legal and financial arrangements for TCDC
10. Provisional agenda for the 1985 High-level Meeting
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report of the meeting

Chapter II: ORIGIN AND MANDATE OF THE MEETING

1. The United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, held in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, adopted a Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC and decided that that Plan be known as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.
2. The representatives of Member States of the United Nations gathered at Buenos Aires were determined to ensure that the recommendations contained in that Plan would not remain stagnant and that they would be implemented with growing vigour. For this reason they recommended, in recommendation 37 of the Plan of Action, that the over-all intergovernmental review of TCDC within the United Nations System be entrusted by the General Assembly of the United Nations to a high-level meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme. They further recommended that that 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 to carry out the following functions:
 - (a) Review the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
 - (b) Ensure that efforts to strengthen TCDC are sustained within the United Nations development system;
 - (c) Support new policies and innovative approaches to further the development of TCDC;
 - (d) Consider the availability of financial resources and their effective use by the United Nations development system, without prejudice to existing programmes;
 - (e) Ensure co-ordination of the promotional and operational TCDC activities of the United Nations development system.
3. The Plan of Action presents a strong challenge to the United Nations development system to orient its operational practices towards promoting and strengthening Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries. It not only calls for new approaches in project formulation, but also for increasing the financial resources available for TCDC activities.
4. The thirty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, by its resolution 33/134 of December 1978, endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. In pursuance of recommendation 37, it gave the Administrator of UNDP a mandate to convene the high-level intergovernmental meetings on TCDC envisaged by the Buenos Aires Conference. The Assembly also requested the Administrator to report to its thirty-fourth session on the organizational and substantive arrangements for the first meeting, to be held in 1980.
5. The Administrator's report (L/34/415) was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. The Assembly, in resolution 34/117, endorsed the proposals put forth by the Administrator concerning the arrangements for the first meeting.

Chapter III: ATTENDANCE 1/ AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the High-level Meeting

6. The High-level Meeting on Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held its first session in Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980.

7. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 33/134, the Meeting was convened by the Administrator of UNDP.

B. Attendance

8. The following 115 States participating in UNDP were represented at the Meeting: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

9. The Palestine Liberation Organization was represented by an observer.

10. Members of the secretariats of the following United Nations Offices and Departments participated in the proceedings of the Meeting: 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.

1/ See document TCDC/IMF/1 and Add.1 for a list of the names of participants.

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

12. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were also represented: United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Volunteers and United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office.

13. Representatives of the following Specialized Agencies and related organizations attended the Meeting: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; World Bank; Universal Postal Union; International Telecommunication Union; Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization; World Intellectual Property Organization; International Atomic Energy Agency; General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; and International Trade Centre.

14. The following organizations which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly were represented at the Meeting: Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation; Commonwealth Secretariat; League of Arab States; European Economic Community; Organization of American States and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

15. In addition, representatives of 21 other inter-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers.^{2/}

16. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in paragraph 7 of his Report to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/34/415), and as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 34/117, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited to be represented by observers. Fifty-one of these organizations were so represented.^{3/}

C. Opening of the High-level Meeting and election of its President (agenda items 1 and 2)

17. The Meeting was opened by the Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Bradford Morse. Following a brief statement of welcome, the Administrator gave the floor over to nominations for President.

^{2/} Ibid.

^{3/} Ibid.

18. The Representative of Burundi, H.E. Ambassador Terence Nsanze, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, nominated His Excellency Ambassador Wilbert-Kumaliya Chagula (Tanzania). Ambassador Chagula was elected President of the High-level Meeting by acclamation.

19. In his opening statement, the President reviewed briefly some of the ECDC/TCDC-related developments which have taken place within the United Nations system since the Buenos Aires Conference. These included those within UNCTAD, those initiated at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, the launching of the joint UNDP/UNCTAD ECDC/TCDC Programme, the consideration of TCDC at the thirty-second session of the World Health Assembly and at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, and the convening of regional conferences on TCDC under the joint auspices of UNDP and the respective United Nations regional commissions.

20. The President concluded his remarks by expressing the conviction that with the active co-operation of delegations and secretariat staff alike, the first session of the High-level Meeting would successfully accomplish the tasks set before it.

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

21. Acting on a proposal of the President, the Meeting agreed to defer consideration of the provisional Rules of Procedure and to proceed with the election of other officers in accordance with the applicable rule of procedure of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the following officers were elected by acclamation: H.E. Ambassador Hassan Ali Dabbagh (Kuwait), Vice-President; Sr. Jose Luis Pardo-Perez (Spain), Vice-President; H.E. Ambassador Petal Voutov (Bulgaria), Vice-President; and Sr. Jorge T. Pereira (Argentina), Rapporteur.

E. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

22. At its third plenary meeting, following consultations within some regional groups, the Meeting considered the provisional Rules of Procedure as contained in document TCDC/2 and Corr.1. The President drew attention, in particular, to the proposal that the Bureau of the Meeting be reduced in size from 18 Vice-Presidents to three, and to the proposal that the credentials of representatives be examined by the Bureau rather than by a separately established credentials committee. He noted, in this connexion, that the proposed Rules follow more closely the corresponding provisions in the rules of procedure of ECOSOC and of governing bodies of a number of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly.

23. The President also referred to rule 3 on the drawing up of the provisional agenda by the Administrator, emphasizing that he would do so on the basis of the work programme approved by the Meeting at a previous session or sessions.

24. Following approval of an amendment to rule 12 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, the Meeting adopted the text as contained in TCDC/2/Rev.1.

F. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 4)

25. At its third plenary meeting, the Meeting also considered the provisional agenda as contained in document TCDC/1. In this regard, the President pointed out that in accordance with rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure as adopted, the responsibility for examining the credentials of representatives would be assumed by the Bureau of the High-level Meeting. Item 7 of the provisional agenda, therefore, which provided for the appointment of a Credentials Committee, could be deleted and the remaining agenda items renumbered accordingly.

26. Following a brief discussion, the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda with the deletion of item 7. The remaining agenda items were renumbered accordingly. Item 10 was then revised and item 12, "Other matters", was added. The new agenda is contained in document TCDC/1/Rev.1.

G. Establishment of committees and the organization of work

27. The Meeting had before it for consideration a Note by the Secretary on the organization of work, document TCDC/10. The recommendation that two Working Groups be established to deal with the substantive items on the agenda was approved. The Meeting also approved the following allocation of items on the revised agenda:

Working Group I : items 8 and 10

Working Group II: items 9 and 7(c)

Plenary : items 7(a), (b), (d), 11 and 12

28. The Meeting also approved the proposed schedule of work as contained in document TCDC/10.

29. In addition, the Meeting approved the President's recommendation, based on informal consultations, that during this first session of the High-level Meeting, Vice-President Dabbagh act as Chairman of Working Group I and Vice-President Pardos-Perez as Chairman of Working Group II.

Chapter IV: SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

Opening statement of the Administrator

30. The Administrator of UNDP stated that one of the main functions of the High-level Meeting would be to assess what progress had been made by the United Nations development system in implementing the recommendations made 20 months ago by the Buenos Aires Conference. While this was indeed a short span in which to judge action, it had to be remembered that the countries gathered at Buenos Aires were determined to ensure the momentum of what they set in motion there and to guide the recommendations adopted in the Plan of Action to fuller realization through regular review and appraisal of TCDC activities.

31. The Administrator then referred to the many international meetings, held since the Buenos Aires Conference, where the principles and objectives of TCDC, as set out at that Conference, were endorsed and where TCDC was recognized as a key instrument of ECDC. They included in chronological order the Arusha Meeting of the Group of 77, UNCTAD V, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Governments of Non-Aligned Countries and, recently, three regional TCDC meetings; two organized by UNDP in collaboration with Governments of the African and Arab State regions, and the other organized by the Regional Commission for Latin America in collaboration with the Governments of Latin America.

32. The General Assembly had established a High-level Meeting as an intergovernmental mechanism for reviewing TCDC and as an instrument to accelerate action to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The Administrator emphasized that it was up to distinguished representatives at the Meeting to explore how the most could be made of this mechanism and to determine how the High-level meetings could effectively serve to enhance concrete TCDC activity, identify constraints and recommend remedies. Referring to the Progress Report (TCDC/3), he believed that it set forth an impressive record of responses by the United Nations system to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. He pointed out, however, that it was impossible to recount every action reported by every organization and every regional commission within the mandatory space limitations on documentation.

33. The Report did not include responses to the Plan of Action by Governments of developing countries not involving support from the United Nations system; nor did it catalogue responses by developed countries to recommendations 35, 36 and 38. It could be argued that some form of regular voluntary reporting by Governments on their TCDC activities might well have a dramatically effective promotional value. TCDC was too broad and diffused a subject, the Administrator said, to lend itself readily to comprehensive treatment or to quantification. Lack of uniformity in definition was

an added difficulty in terms of quantification. He therefore felt that progress reports should be selective and illustrative. However, he requested Governments to keep the United Nations system informed of noteworthy TCDC actions initiated by them of which the system would otherwise be unaware. Such information could either be included in a separate report to the next High-level Meeting or published in the TCDC News and disseminated separately.

34. The Administrator then introduced three studies prepared for the consideration of the Meeting: TCDC/5 on transport and communications; TCDC/6 on building new knowledge; and TCDC/7 on urbanization and poverty. He felt that, in preparation for future Meetings, sectoral studies could be prepared by appropriate United Nations specialized agencies. He then drew attention to two other documents before the Meeting: one pertaining to enhancing the capacities of developing countries to undertake technical co-operation (TCDC/4); and the other to ensuring the availability of adequate financial resources for TCDC (TCDC/8).

35. The Administrator also stated that while attitudinal barriers to the promotion of TCDC still existed, he believed that since Buenos Aires they had begun to crumble. In this sense, he stressed the need for assisting in the training of government officials concerned with TCDC and indicated that the Special Unit had already taken steps to prepare suitable training materials for that purpose.

36. The Administrator concluded by emphasizing that it was not the memory of yesterday, but the promise of tomorrow - the promise of an equitably interdependent world operating within the framework of new and just economic relationships - that must command the attention of the High-level Meeting. Such relationships could be achieved only through universal co-operation and mutual understanding among all peoples. TCDC could contribute substantially to the realization of this goal.

Statement of the Director-General for Development and
International Economic Co-operation

37. The Director-General drew attention to those salient characteristics of TCDC which made it a vital instrument in the process of establishing the new international economic order. He said that the world economy was passing through a period of acute uncertainty and disjunction. There was deep concern about the ability of the international system to overcome the multiple crises confronting it and to establish a more equitable and just economic order in which all countries could effectively pursue their development goals. Unless the international community took decisive and concerted action, the disintegrative forces already at work would gather momentum, with severe and lasting repercussions on development and international economic co-operation. It was to set the stage for such action as adopting a new international

development strategy for the 1980s that the United Nations General Assembly was to hold a special session in August/September 1980. The outcome of the present High-level Meeting on TCDC would have an important bearing on those efforts.

38. The Director-General said that the construction of 'bridges across the south', an idea first advanced in connexion with TCDC at the Buenos Aires Conference, had now become a concept that cried out for practical application. Such bridges could make a direct and substantial contribution in promoting ECDC and redressing existing imbalances in international economic relations by facilitating the flow of capital, labour, technology and know-how among developing countries. TCDC could become an important instrument for separating finance and technology components in such a way as to meet the needs and circumstances of individual developing countries.

Furthermore, TCDC could increase opportunities for creating skilled manpower pools, planning education and manpower needs, establishing joint training institutions and consultancy agencies, forging links between skill flows and capital transfers and establishing agreed norms concerning employment, remuneration and security.

39. Finally, the Director-General said that, while the Administrator of UNDP, with the co-operation of other organizations, had begun to introduce a greater measure of TCDC in UNDP's programmes and activities, it was widely acknowledged that the entire United Nations system must be permeated by the spirit of TCDC and that all organizations in the system should intensify their actions for its promotion and support.

Summary of statements of delegations

40. In the discussion, delegations pointed to the role of TCDC in the broader context of the establishment of a new international economic order. Several representatives referred to the development problems being encountered by the developing countries as a result of the present adverse international economic structure and a number emphasized the challenges which the international community faced in the continuing North-South dialogue and in the preparation of a new International Development Strategy. It was suggested that, with some notable exceptions, there appeared to be a hardening of positions by many of the developed countries on some of the issues which were central to the development of the developing countries. One representative suggested that the role of ECDC and TCDC in global development should be viewed against the background of a world consisting of technologically advanced countries on the one hand and countries rich in raw materials on the other. The problem was one of working out the mechanisms for transferring or exchanging one for the other on just and equitable terms. Such transfers or exchanges could provide the basic foundation for international solidarity and for the establishment of the new international economic order.

41. Given this wider perspective, there was a general reiteration of the views expressed at the Buenos Aires Conference regarding the importance of TCDC as a means

for building the national and collective self-reliance of developing countries. In addition, TCDC could serve as one of the bases for an effective development dialogue between developing and developed countries. Properly implemented global and regional TCDC programmes could help in reducing the inequality among nations in their scientific and technological capability. At the same time, several delegations echoed the Administrator's view that TCDC should not be regarded as an end in itself, but rather should be one of the instruments applied to foster economic and social development in the developing countries.

42. The opportunities provided by the High-level Meeting to review progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and to chart a course for the further advancement of TCDC were welcomed. Many delegations emphasized that the principles embodied in the Plan of Action remained valid and the more significant recommendations of the Plan were frequently referred to. Several delegations expressed the view that the first High-level Meeting should serve not only to maintain the momentum generated by the Buenos Aires Conference, but also provide the additional impetus and stimulation for the effective integration of TCDC at the national, regional and international levels. There was a general feeling that the concept of TCDC was well-established and efforts should focus on action designed to ensure its application. Displeasure was expressed by some delegates at the modest progress achieved in the application of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action since its adoption two years previously and the view was expressed also that the concept was still largely untried. Some felt that the High-level Meeting should attempt a more-effective formulation of the concept of TCDC and should serve to determine the most effective methods for its practical implementation.

43. Several representatives pointed out that the promotion of TCDC was primarily the responsibility of the developing countries, although they should be supported in their efforts both by the developed countries and by the United Nations system and other international institutions. Particular importance was attached to the role of the United Nations system and it was frequently emphasized that the system's on-going activities in this area should be continued and strengthened.^{4/} The representative of the Group of 77, as well as other delegates, praised the work of the UNDP and United Nations organizations in the promotion of TCDC. Several representatives commended the work of the Special Unit for TCDC in UNDP. Though small, the Special Unit had been at the centre of TCDC's progress over the last two years. They welcomed

^{4/} The representatives of several United Nations organizations addressed the meeting and provided an overview of their organization's TCDC activities, reflected in paragraphs 61 to 68 below.

the progress report it had prepared and felt that the studies commissioned by the Special Unit were appropriate and timely. However, one representative expressed some concern over the possible preoccupation of the Special Unit with the preparation of reports and wished to see the Unit become more action and field oriented, acting as a catalyst to create new TCDC projects and ideas. One representative proposed that separate TCDC Units be established in individual field offices. Others suggested that in order to consolidate the gains made by TCDC, the next High-level Meeting should focus on studies concerned with the relevant legal and administrative arrangements since the strengthening of TCDC called for the strengthening of the modalities for its implementation.

44. A large number of delegations referred to their TCDC programmes and experiences either in their statements or in documents they circulated. Most detailed the sectors and areas in which they had developed their capabilities for providing inputs for TCDC. Although the areas of activity varied from country to country, in totality they embraced the full spectrum of economic and social development. The examples which were cited indicated that many developing countries had considerably expanded their capacities and arrangements for TCDC since the Buenos Aires Conference. Representatives of several developing countries stressed the importance of national focal points for overseeing and co-ordinating TCDC programmes and projects and they explained the administrative arrangements they had made for the purpose of co-ordinating TCDC on an interdisciplinary basis.

45. Some representatives of developing countries drew attention to the fact that, since the Buenos Aires Conference, they had substantially increased their support for fellowships to nationals of other countries, especially in their regions. In addition, some developing country delegations indicated that their governments were now involved in trying to engage the private sector and private consulting firms more fully in TCDC.

46. Several representatives referred to a number of intergovernmental meetings which had produced recommendations regarding TCDC subsequent to the Buenos Aires Conference, most particularly the regional meetings on TCDC which had preceded the High-level Meeting. These meetings had demonstrated the substantial scope for the further expansion of TCDC and consequently it was agreed that the results of some of these meetings should be made available as documents of the High-level Meeting.^{5/}

^{5/} See TCDC/INF/4.

47. Some delegations expressed support for the Administrator's idea that governments should be encouraged to submit short regular reports on their TCDC activities which were selective and illustrative in character with emphasis on new ideas.

48. In commending the Progress Report (TCDC/3) as a valuable working document for the meeting, several representatives made special reference to part VIII as a well-presented summary of the continuing obstacles to the advancement of TCDC. Various suggestions were made as to the means that should be employed to overcome these obstacles. These included the training and orientation of developing country personnel concerned with the development process in the principles of TCDC and in the organization and management of TCDC activities as well as the maximum use of information media to break down attitudinal barriers to TCDC. On the other hand, the representative of the Group of 77, as well as several other delegations, emphasized the importance of narrowing the gap between the developed and the developing countries in the area of science and technology. He also said that there was an urgent need to find solutions for the use of national know-how and suggested that the developing countries could make better use of their universities and scientific research centres. In particular, he pointed out that, in the case of some regions and subregions, homogeneity arising from common traditions and the use of a common language enhanced the possibilities of meaningful TCDC activities.

49. Representatives of developed countries stated that their governments attached great significance to the concept of TCDC and its implementation. TCDC offered vast possibilities to developing countries to help each other rather than relying solely on traditional forms of assistance and it equally contributed to the enhancement of their creative capability to solve their own development problems. Some developed countries indicated that they had, in pursuance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, established guidelines for TCDC within the framework of their general technical co-operation programmes. Many developed country representatives indicated that, in order to respond to the recommendations in the Plan of Action addressed to developed countries, they had reviewed, expanded or reoriented their technical co-operation programmes in order to give more support to TCDC ventures initiated by developing countries. Some examples given of such support were assistance to developing country training institutions which admitted nationals of other developing countries, particularly those having a pilot or model character; earmarking scholarships for the training of the nationals of one developing country in another developing country; networking through non-governmental channels; topping up

salaries for specialized personnel made available by a partner country; not tying assistance for technical co-operation to procurement in their own countries; and establishing a technological question-and-answer service intended to make the experience of individual developing countries readily available to others.

50. In contrast, some delegations expressed serious concern over the very slow progress towards the more equitable participation of the developing world in the supply of inputs to UNDP programmes and projects. They saw no substantial change since Buenos Aires in the pattern of such supplies, but rather a maintenance of the privileged position enjoyed by the developed world in that area. A number of developing countries had already proved their capacity to provide a wide range of quality goods and services at a reasonable cost, but those countries did not still figure as significant suppliers to the UNDP. One representative pointed out that the number of developing countries which were currently in a position to provide further inputs for the UNDP programme was relatively limited. Nevertheless, there was general agreement that new mechanisms should be established to enable a greater participation of the developing world as suppliers of goods, services, and equipment. Periodic and timely information would enable a more effective response from organizations and institutions in developing countries to the requirements of particular programmes and projects.

51. The high level of expenditure on armaments was another characteristic of present international relations which was referred to by some delegations. They emphasized the relationship between disarmament and development, pointing to the adverse effects of the high level of armament expenditures on the availability of resources for development purposes.

52. While recognizing that TCDC was primarily the responsibility of developing countries, several delegations felt that the developed countries should provide financial resources to ensure that this new mechanism was effectively utilized. In particular, some delegates emphasized that the least developed countries needed additional financial resources to enable them to promote TCDC activities. Many representatives agreed with the Administrator that a clear set of guidelines should be established for TCDC activities financed by the United Nations development system, distinguishing between those which were promotional and therefore eligible for funding from a source such as the Programme Reserve and those which were operational. Several delegations emphasized that country and intercountry IPI's were an important source of financing for TCDC activities. While endorsing this view, a few delegations emphasized that IPI's were provided to foster the national development of the country

concerned and consequently the guise of TCDC should not be used to subsidize a country's bilateral assistance programme from its IPF. Several representatives expressed the view that a special allocation should be made from the Programme Reserve to finance TCDC activities, while others felt that it was important to ensure that the Programme Reserve remained available for other activities, especially the unforeseen expenditures for which it was originally established.

53. More generally, some representatives pointed out that, though there were many TCDC projects which developing countries were quite competent to execute themselves using their own capacities, it was often found impossible to finance these projects on a purely TCDC basis. They thus had to be financed by and executed through traditional mechanisms. They therefore urged developed countries to give due consideration to the provision of additional financial resources for technical co-operation, particularly in programmes and projects which developing countries felt fully competent to implement.

54. Many delegations referred to the importance of effective information flows in facilitating TCDC. Several references were made to INRES and some delegations expressed the view that INRES should register capacities available in the developing world to a far greater extent than it presently did. They therefore appealed to all countries concerned to respond more fully to the questionnaires they received from UNDP on their capacities for TCDC. Others voiced the view that INRES had been only a limited success because it focused on the supply side of the TCDC equation by providing information on the availability of technical co-operation resources, rather than identifying needs or demands for these services. Several delegations felt that future High-level Meetings should be provided with an evaluation of the use made of INRES by developing countries.

55. Some representatives commended the World Bank survey on existing local capabilities of developing countries. They felt that the preparation of a comprehensive computerized roster of consulting firms in developing countries would be a worthwhile effort in support of TCDC programmes and projects.

56. Some representatives, referring to the emphasis given in the course of the debate to regional and subregional TCDC, expressed disappointment at the inadequate attention given to interregional TCDC activities which were just as important. For some countries these activities were even more important than regional TCDC, having regard to their geographical location. One delegation referred to the Mediterranean Action Plan involving three different regions as an excellent example of successful interregional TCDC. Another delegation suggested that interregional TCDC should be considered at the 1981 High-level Meeting.

57. The representative of Syria stated that the situation in the Arab region was far from normal and that this had an impact on technical co-operation among the Arab countries. The de facto situation was that all economic, technical and cultural activities between Arab countries and Egypt had been suspended due to the ratification of the Camp David Agreement. He requested the United Nations system to understand this situation, and to take the necessary measures to adapt its activities accordingly. He stated that there were two contradictory systems. The first was established under the Arab League and its specialized agencies and the second was the new system created by the Camp David Agreement and the Washington Agreement. This latter system was in contradiction to the precepts and mechanisms of Arab integration and unity.

58. In reply the representative of Egypt referred to the current co-operation between his country and many countries in the region on a bilateral level. He added that it would be regrettable if this co-operation were adversely affected because of temporary political difficulties. He expressed his country's willingness to ensure all conditions for mutually beneficial co-operation.

59. Some delegations felt that, having regard to the drastic changes which the economic environment was undergoing, the need for special measures in favour of the least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected developing countries were more urgent than ever and urged the Meeting to pay special attention to their situation.

60. One representative proposed that the 1981 High-level Meeting should examine the implementation of recommendations 6, 7, 14, 27 and 35 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

61. Representatives of a number of United Nations system organizations addressed the Meeting. The Assistant-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, emphasized that TCDC was a key element in the search for a new international economic order. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for TCDC rested with the developing countries themselves, her Department had taken fully into account its potentially significant role as promoter and catalytic agent for TCDC. The Division of Policy and Resources Planning acted as a focal point for all TCDC matters and maintained working contacts with UNDP's Special Unit and other relevant bodies to promote and advance TCDC activities. In accordance with recommendation 32 (a) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Department had sponsored meetings, study tours, seminars and workshops designed to stimulate concrete TCDC activities. Similarly, the Department was following Recommendation 37 (c) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, by using the scarce resources of the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation to

concentrate increasingly on pilot and demonstration projects which had a TCDC orientation. Other fields covered by the Department's activities included development planning, water resources, energy, multi-purpose river valley development projects and national household surveys. Attempts had also been made to draw attention to the role of women in TCDC, particularly in relation to the planning and execution of activities.

62. The Executive Director of UNIDO said that his organization had actively promoted ECDC and TCDC since its creation, beginning with assistance to sub-regional groupings in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He then outlined the various other initiatives that UNIDO had taken in expansion of its TCDC activities. A key element in the UNIDO programme was its endeavour to make available the experience of the more industrially advanced developing countries to other developing countries. UNIDO's allocations for TCDC had steadily grown and had reached the value of \$500,000 for the 1980-81 biennium, representing 7.5 per cent of UNIDO's regular programme allocation. He drew the attention of the meeting to paragraph 112 of the Progress Report (TCDC/3) which included a description of a very interesting feature of UNIDO's support of TCDC, namely the organization of Solidarity Meetings of Ministers of Industry designed to encourage co-operation of a group of developing countries in the industrial development of a selected least developed country.

63. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) stated that there were two basic strains to the concept of TCDC - one was for structural change in the international order and the other was for developing countries to co-operate among themselves. As the world community approached a new decade, it had to come to grips with changes in three basic areas. These were in trade, in the international monetary and financial system and in the need to intensify co-operation and the linkages among developing countries. Two facets were relevant to these tasks - one was the need for developing countries to strengthen links among themselves and the other the need to strengthen the position of the developing countries when dealing with the developed countries, he said. The developing countries needed to resolve differences among themselves and to forge common positions. They had to mobilize and commit their own resources in the pursuit of international objectives. The main thrust in TCDC and ECDC had to be the building up of linkages among the developing countries themselves through concrete programmes and measures. The Secretary-General added that UNCTAD had long been concerned with TCDC and was increasingly moving from study and analysis to concretization and implementation of TCDC and ECDC programmes.

64. The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA informed the meeting about recent UNFPA initiatives towards intensifying the promotion of TCDC. These included the establishment early in 1979 of an internal task force for TCDC to study programme trends and population activities of UNFPA in order to relate them more closely to the goals and objectives expounded in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. That task force was now completing new UNFPA Guidelines on TCDC for staff use. UNFPA had also intensified its support to intercountry population activities of a TCDC character. Flowing from its study on TCDC entitled "Population and Mutual Self-Reliance" published in 1978, his organization had analysed recent UNFPA-assisted activities which helped in building national and regional capacities for TCDC.

65. The representative of FAO detailed the TCDC activities of his organization. He stressed the need for added emphasis on the promotion of regional TCDC projects as well as the need to give careful consideration to the future orientation of INRES. He was glad to state that FAO's experience in TCDC reinforced the view expressed by the Administrator in his opening observations that attitudinal barriers to the implementation of TCDC had begun to break down significantly.

66. The Assistant Director-General for Co-operation for Development and External Relations of UNESCO said that long before the term TCDC first made its appearance, UNESCO had been engaged in several educational and cultural activities which were of a TCDC character or bore a TCDC approach. He drew attention to three obstacles to the promotion of TCDC. First, an erroneous interpretation of the concept itself, namely that it was a formula to disengage developed countries from participation in the development process; second, that it was synonymous with regional co-operation; and third, the problem of financing TCDC. He then drew attention to UNESCO's Associate Expert Scheme under which young specialists from developing countries gathered experience by working on UNESCO projects in other developing countries and then returned to their own countries with the benefit of that experience. This, in his view, was an example of technical co-operation and the opposite of the "brain drain".

67. The Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) informed the meeting that his Organization had provided a wide range of export services to more than 40 developing countries, most of which involved the establishment of export promotion bureaux, but had also included trade information services, trade fairs, export financing and similar activities. There had recently been a growing need for export promotion activities and the demand for ITC's services had increased accordingly. Additionally, import management had become a new but increasingly important aspect of ITC's activities. In both cases, it was necessary to apply the practices of developing rather than developed countries so that TCDC was an indispensable characteristic of ITC's activities. Another

recent TCDC venture undertaken by ITC had been a project to exchange experience among chambers of commerce in developing countries. The Executive Director closed by assuring the Meeting that ITC stood ready to respond to any further demands which the developing countries wished to make upon it.

68. The representative of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation explained that his organization was a governmental body which comprised 34 French-speaking developing and developed countries in five continents. It was actively involved in promoting international technical co-operation in collaboration with the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other international and regional organizations. Its technical co-operation programmes gave emphasis to several TCDC types of activities relating to training, exchange and dissemination of information, renewable sources of energy and use of medicinal herbs. It had also brought out a directory of scientists and research institutions operating in French-speaking countries.

Chapter V: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

69. At its 10th Plenary meeting, the Meeting considered the reports of Working Groups I and II as contained in documents TCDC/WG.I/L.4 and TCDC/WG.II/L.4, respectively; the draft report of the Plenary, as contained in documents TCDC/L.3 and Add.1; and the report on credentials contained in TCDC/L.2.

A. Report of Working Group I

70. Introducing TCDC/WG.I/L.4, the Chairman of Working Group I drew attention to the following draft decisions which the Group recommended for adoption by the High-level meetings:

- (i) Report on the state of transport and communications among developing countries (TCDC/WG.I/L.2). (See decision I/80/2 in Chapter I of this report.);
- (ii) Building new knowledge through TCDC: participation of women in development (TCDC/WG.I/L.3 and Corr.1); (See decision I/80/3 in Chapter I of this report.);
- (iii) Establishing and strengthening national research and training centres with multinational scope (TCDC/WG.I/L.5); (See decision I/80/4 in Chapter I of this report.);
- (iv) Urbanization and poverty: sharing of experience among developing countries (TCDC/WG.I/L.6); (See decision I/80/5 in Chapter I of this report.);
- (v) Work programme for the 1981 High-level meeting (TCDC/WG.I/L.7). (See decision I/80/8 in Chapter I of this report.).

71. In response to a query concerning operative paragraph 4 of the draft decision on the work programme for the 1981 High-level Meeting, the Secretary of the Meeting assured delegations that the change in name to High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC would in no way affect the participation in and substantive arrangements for future sessions as foreseen in recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 33/134. The sole purpose of the recommended change was to bring the name of the High-level Meeting more into line with those of other similar bodies of the General Assembly.

72. In reply to another query, delegations were assured by the Administrator that the co-ordination of ECDC and TCDC activities in the United Nations development

system was a continuing process. He reminded members of the Meeting of the establishment of the joint UNDP/UNCTAD Standing Committee on ECDC/TCDC and emphasized that its function was regarded as essential to the effective carrying out of related projects and programmes. The Administrator also said that the subject of ECDC/TCDC co-ordination would be covered in the progress report to the next session of the Meeting.

73. The following amendment was made to the draft decision contained in TCDC/WG.I/L.2: in the third preambular paragraph, the word "all" was deleted.

74. The draft decisions recommended by Working Group I were then adopted by the High-level Meeting by consensus.

B. Report of Working Group II

75. Introducing TCDC/WG.II/L.4, the Chairman of Working Group II drew attention to the following draft decisions which the Group recommended for adoption by the High-level Meeting:

- (i) Report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC/WG.II/L.2); (See decision I/80/1 in Chapter I of this report.);
- (ii) Enhancing the capacities of developing countries for technical co-operation (TCDC/WG.II/L.3). (See decision I/80/6 in Chapter I of this report.).

76. The Chairman, with respect to the Working Group's consideration of agenda item 10, Financial resources and arrangements for TCDC, also drew attention to the establishment by the President of a Contact Group which was able to obtain consensus on a part of the draft decision contained in TCDC/WG.II/L.5 (see decision I/80/7 in Chapter I of this report).

77. The High-level Meeting then adopted by consensus the draft decisions recommended by Working Group II.

C. Summary of statements of delegations

78. Following adoption of the draft decisions, one delegate expressed the hope that future studies and reports would reflect a greater field orientation on the part of the Special Unit for TCDC. He also expressed concern over the intrusion of political issues in the deliberations of the Meeting and hoped that it would not reoccur at future sessions. Another delegate reiterated the view of his Government that the regular budgets of organizations in the United Nations development system should be increasingly used for TCDC activities.

D. Draft report of the Plenary

79. The Rapporteur introduced Chapters II, III and IV of the draft report of the High-level Meeting as contained in documents TCDC/L.3 and Add.1. In response to a query by one delegate, the Rapporteur explained that the participants at the High-level Meeting would be listed in accordance with the Administrator's proposal for participation in the meeting as contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of his report to the General Assembly (A/34/415).

80. The chapters of the draft report contained in TCDC/L.3 and Add.1, as revised, were adopted by the High-level Meeting.

E. Report on credentials

81. At the 10th Plenary meeting, the High-level Meeting also approved the report on credentials which was submitted by the Bureau in accordance with rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure.

Chapter VI: CLOSURE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

82. Following encouraging and appreciative statements by the Chairman of the Group of 77, by a spokesperson for the African, Asian and Latin American Groups and by the Administrator, the President made a final statement (see the Annex to this report) and declared closed the first session of the High-level Meeting on the Review of TCDC.

ANNEX

Summary of the closing statement of the
President of the High-level Meeting

In his concluding remarks, the President reviewed briefly what the High-level Meeting had accomplished. He emphasized that the Meeting had started to carry out the functions assigned to it by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action: i.e. (1) reviewing the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Plan of Action; (2) ensuring that efforts to strengthen TCDC are sustained; (3) supporting new policies and innovative approaches to further development of TCDC; (4) considering the availability of financial resources and their effective use by the United Nations development system, without prejudice to existing programmes; and (5) ensuring co-ordination of the promotional and operational TCDC activities of the United Nations development system.

The President stressed that the achievements of the Meeting were not a once-and-for-all event but would be part of a continuing exercise which would not stop until the body itself ceased to exist.

Referring to the relationship between economic co-operation and technical co-operation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC), the President expressed his personal agreement with the view that TCDC was a key enabling instrument of ECDC and that the two were complementary activities with the same objective: the achievement by the developing countries and regions of collective self-reliance.

The President went on to underscore the catalytic role of the United Nations development system in promoting and implementing TCDC activities and, in this connexion, expressed the view that the United Nations regional commissions should assume greater responsibilities as well as be ensured adequate resources by Member States for the tasks that lay ahead.

With respect to the consensus which was achieved on each of the questions considered by the High-level Meeting, the President expressed his deep appreciation to the delegates for their co-operation and substantive contributions which enabled the Meeting to avoid fruitless confrontations among the various regional groups.

In closing, the President reminded the delegates that TCDC is a means and not an end in itself. He referred to it as a stepping stone towards the establishment of the new international economic order, and expressed the sincere hope that - given the necessary political will - the forthcoming Special Session of the General Assembly, together with the Global Round of North-South negotiations to be launched, would usher in a new era bringing the new international economic order closer to realization.
