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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical
Co-operation among Developing Countries on its fourth session*

* Provisional text only. The final text will be issued as a document for the fortieth session of the General Assembly (A/40/39).

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1	4
I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	2 - 18	4
A. Date and place of the session	2 - 3	4
B. Attendance	4 - 12	5
C. Opening of the session and election of the President .	13 - 15	8
D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	16	9
E. Election of officers other than the President	17 - 18	9
II. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE	19 - 71	9
A. Opening statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme	19 - 28	9
B. Summary of the views of delegations	29 - 71	11
1. Overview	29 - 37	11
2. TCDC/ECDC	38 - 42	14
3. Role of the United Nations system	43 - 46	15
4. Role of the United Nations Development Programme .	47 - 50	16
5. Role of Governments	51 - 53	17
6. Financing of TCDC	54 - 60	18
7. Information systems	61 - 64	19
8. Practical recommendations	65 - 69	20
9. Other considerations	70 - 71	21
III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	72 - 84	21
A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary	72 - 73	21
B. Views expressed by delegations following the adoption of the decisions	74 - 78	21

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
C. Schedule and organization of work for the fifth session of the High-level Committee	79 - 82	22
D. Report on credentials	83	23
E. Draft report of the Plenary	84	23
IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION	85 - 89	23
A. Closing statement by the Administrator of UNDP	85 - 87	23
B. Closing statement by the President	88 - 89	24

Annexes

I. Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its fourth session ...	26
II. List of documents	34

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with recommendation 37 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, 1/ as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, a High-level Meeting of all States participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was convened at Geneva from 26 May to 2 June 1980 to carry out an overall, intergovernmental review of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) within the United Nations development system. The report of the first session of the intergovernmental body 2/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to change the name of the High-level Meeting to High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and requested the Administrator of UNDP to convene the next session of the Committee under the same organizational and procedural arrangements as were made for the High-level Meeting. The second session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 1 to 8 June 1981 and its report 3/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Committee's second session and endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, the structure of the third session of the High-level Committee consisted of the Plenary and only one working group, and this practice was expected to be followed in future sessions. The third session of the High-level Committee met in New York from 31 May to 6 June 1983 and its report 4/ was considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

I. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the session

2. The fourth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries was held in New York from 28 May to 3 June 1985. The High-level Committee held a further meeting on 5 June 1985, to consider the adoption of its report.

3. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under procedural arrangements recommended by the High-level Committee at its third session.

B. Attendance

4. The following 89 States participating in UNDP were represented at the session:

Afghanistan	Gabon	Norway
Algeria	German Democratic Republic	Oman
Argentina	Germany, Federal Republic of	Pakistan
Australia	Guatemala	Paraguay
Austria	Guinea	Peru
Bahamas	Guyana	Philippines
Bangladesh	Honduras	Poland
Barbados	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Belgium	India	Romania
Benin	Indonesia	Senegal
Bhutan	Iraq	Spain
Bolivia	Israel	Sudan
Botswana	Italy	Suriname
Brazil	Jamaica	Swaziland
Burkina Faso	Japan	Sweden
Burma	Jordan	Switzerland
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	Kenya	Thailand
Canada	Kuwait	Trinidad and Tobago
China	Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	Tunisia
Colombia	Lebanon	Turkey
Congo	Lesotho	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Costa Rica	Malaysia	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Cuba	Malta	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Cyprus	Mexico	United Republic of Tanzania
Denmark	Morocco	United States of America
Dominican Republic	Mozambique	Venezuela
Ecuador	Nepal	Yugoslavia
Egypt	Netherlands	Zaire
El Salvador	New Zealand	
Finland		
France		

5. Members of the following offices and departments of the United Nations Secretariat participated in the proceedings of the session:

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
United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations
Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia

6. The regional commissions and other secretariat units were represented as follows:

- Economic Commission for Africa
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization

7. The following United Nations bodies were also represented:

- Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
- United Nations Children's Fund
- World Food Council

8. Representatives of the following specialized agencies and related organizations attended the session:

- International Labour Organisation
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- World Health Organization
- World Bank
- International Monetary Fund
- World Meteorological Organization
- International Maritime Organization
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Atomic Energy Agency

9. The following intergovernmental organizations which have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly were represented at the session:

- Commonwealth Secretariat
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
- Latin American Economic System
- Organization of African Unity
- Organization of American States
- Organization of the Islamic Conference
- Palestine Liberation Organization

10. National liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity were represented by:

- Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

11. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the session as observers:

African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development
Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and
Southwest Pacific
Authority for the Complete Development of the Liptako-Gourma Region
Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine
Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils
Federation of Arab Universities
Interim Committee for Coordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong
Basin
Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting
Intergovernmental Committee for Migration
Lake Tchad Basin Commission
Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
Senegal River Organization

12. As proposed by the Administrator of UNDP in paragraph 7 of his report to the General Assembly (A/34/415), and as approved by the Assembly in resolution 34/117, the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were invited to be represented at the session:

Airport Associations Coordinating Council
All Pakistan Women's Association
American Automobile Association
American Foreign Law Association, Inc.
Bahai International Community
Balkan-Ji-Bari International
Christian Peace Conference
Committee on Space Research
Confederation of Asia and Pacific Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Conseil de l'Entente
Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce
Defence for Children International
Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture
International Alliance of Women
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
International Association of Judges
International Bar Association
International Cargo Handling Co-ordination Association
International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries
International Chamber of Commerce
International Confederation of Catholic Charities
International Council on Social Welfare
International Council of Psychologists
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Foundation for Development Alternatives
International Juridical Organization

International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association, Inc.
International Social Science Council
International Studies Association
International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technicians
International Union of Architects
International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
Institute of International Education
National Eye Institute
North Slope Borough
Rehabilitation International
Rotary International
Save the Children
Soka Gakkai International
Soroptimist International
Trickle Up Program, Inc.
World Confederation of Labour
World Energy Conference
World Federation of Engineering Organizations
World Federation of Methodist Women
World Muslim Congress (Motomar Al-Alam Al-Islami)
World Psychiatric Association
World Population Society
World Society for the Protection of Animals
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
World Veterans Federation
Zonta International

C. Opening of the session and election of the President

(Agenda items 1 and 2)

13. The session was opened by Mr. Luis Garcia Cerezo (Spain) on behalf of the President of the third session of the High-level Committee, Mr. José Luis Pardos-Perez (Spain).
14. Mr. Hamed Zeghal, Director General of the Agence Tunisienne de Coopération Technique of Tunisia, was elected President of the High-level Committee by acclamation.
15. In his opening statement, the President said that the purpose of TCDC was not to replace the technical assistance provided by the developed countries or the United Nations system. Its intention was to reduce to the extent possible the serious imbalance that existed in international relations and to contribute to the development of the countries of the southern hemisphere.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 3)

16. The Committee adopted the agenda (TCDC/4/L.1) and the organization of work (TCDC/4/L.2). It was agreed that agenda items 5 and 6 would be the subjects of the general debate in the plenary. The Working Group which began its work on 29 May, was assigned agenda items 5 and 6 for detailed review of draft decisions and recommendations. A list of the documents considered at the fourth session of the Committee is contained in annex II.

E. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 4)

17. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President: Mr. Oscar R. de Rojas (Venezuela)
Mr. Peter Marx (German Democratic Republic)
Mr. Faruq Ziada (Iraq)
Rapporteur: Mr. Saviour F. Borg (Malta)

18. The Committee approved the President's recommendation that Mr. de Rojas should act as Chairman and Rapporteur of the Working Group.

II. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

A. Opening statement by the Associate Administrator
of the United Nations Development Programme

19. The Associate Administrator of UNDP stated that TCDC had been born out of the aspirations of the developing countries to build their national and collective self-reliance and that the need for TCDC was still acute because of imbalances in the international economy and the dwindling resources for multilateral co-operation. The developing countries, in all regions, had been affected, in varying degrees of gravity, by the international economic environment.

20. The need for TCDC was even more urgent and imperative now, especially in Africa. It was his firm conviction that TCDC had a significant role to play in the medium- and long-term rehabilitation of the drought-stricken countries of that region.

21. The Associate Administrator then stated that the significance of TCDC as an important instrument of development had been recognized and reaffirmed in many forums of developing countries. In the past two years, since the Committee's last session, several sectoral meetings had taken place in accordance with the Caracas Programme of Action of the Group of 77 which reaffirmed the importance of

TCDC in the promotion and implementation of economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC). These sectoral meetings had produced valuable studies and recommendations in such vital areas as raw materials, financing, trade, food and agriculture, energy and on technical co-operation among developing countries. The Second Meeting of the Heads of National Agencies for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries held in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, in September 1984, urged member States to allocate an amount in their national budgets for the promotion and support of TCDC activities; it also recommended that portions of UNDP indicative planning figures (IPFs) and of the assistance provided by international and regional banks and funds and parts of bilateral assistance should be set aside to finance TCDC activities. These proposals had been approved by the Third Meeting of the Inter-governmental Follow-up and Co-ordination Committee on ECDC at Cartagena in September last year.

22. Economic co-operation among developing countries has been one of the major concerns of the non-aligned Movement since its inception. The Seventh Summit Conference of the Movement held in New Delhi in 1983 and the recent New Delhi Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement reaffirmed the importance of ECDC and TCDC among the non-aligned and other developing countries. The Associate Administrator said that on the United Nations side there had also been intense activity in reviewing ECDC and TCDC. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA) had prepared a cross-organizational programme analysis (COPA) on ECDC and TCDC as supported by the United Nations development system. The Joint Inspection Unit had also prepared a report on the performance of the United Nations development system in support of TCDC.

23. The Associate Administrator remarked that it was gratifying to note that this session was being attended by an impressive number of observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Recommendations 14 through 22 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action highlighted the important role of intergovernmental organizations in the promotion and implementation of TCDC at the subregional, regional and interregional levels; and recommendations 11 and 12 of the Plan assigned important roles to non-governmental professional and technical organizations, and to public and private enterprises and institutions, in the promotion and support of TCDC. He expressed confidence that the participation of these IGOs and NGOs in the Committee's deliberations would prove to be mutually stimulating and useful.

24. The Associate Administrator then introduced the nine reports prepared for the consideration of the Committee, four on the general progress of TCDC and five on the organizational and support arrangements for TCDC. Referring to the report on the progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (TCDC/4/2) and the report on the maximization of use of capacities of developing countries and the problem of "brain-drain" (TCDC/4/2/Add.1), the Administrator said that despite a lack of quantitative increase for TCDC in financial terms the data that had been received indicated that interest in the potential of TCDC was on the increase and that many agencies were seriously searching for more TCDC modalities in their technical co-operation activities. Many agencies had referred to financial constraints as an obstacle to expanding their support for the promotion and implementation of TCDC.

25. The Associate Administrator remarked that the High-level Committee, at its third session, had appealed to the Governments of developed and developing countries to establish appropriate administrative measures to collect information and report on a systematic basis on their TCDC activities at the bilateral and multilateral levels. He pointed out that only 30 Governments (27 developing and 3 developed) had provided information on their TCDC activities (TCDC/4/3). Information gaps in the TCDC capacities of developing countries and inadequate administrative arrangements, in particular the absence of strong focal points in many countries, continued to hamper the growth of TCDC.

26. The Associate Administrator also presented to the High-level Committee the report from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (TCDC/4/INF/1); the report endorsed by the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the co-operative exchange of skills among developing countries, through TCDC (TCDC/4/4); a report on the use of country, regional, interregional and global IPFs during 1983-1985 (TCDC/4/5); a report on the staffing of the Special Unit for TCDC (TCDC/4/8); and a note on the use of country IPFs for TCDC activities (TCDC/4/9).

27. The Associate Administrator, in referring to the report on the utilization of funds from Special Programme Resources (TCDC/4/6), stated that it had been estimated that for every dollar contributed externally, approximately \$3.32 of contributions in cash and in kind were generated by the developing countries themselves.

28. The Associate Administrator, referring to the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES) (TCDC/4/7), highlighted the fact that the INRES data bank contained information on 2,300 institutions from 97 countries and more than 50,000 line items. The Associate Administrator concluded that in the final analysis the success of TCDC continued to depend on the developing countries assuming responsibility for its implementation and on the improvement of the catalytic role of the United Nations development system. The UNDP administration looked to the Committee for guidance and direction to ensure that TCDC, which was so vital for development, would grow in influence and importance in building the national and collective self-reliance of the developing countries.

B. Summary of the views of delegations

1. Overview

29. Many of the delegates referred to the seven years that had elapsed since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the two years since the third session of the High-level Committee. It was disheartening to many of them that although many efforts have been deployed towards promoting and implementing TCDC, the achievements left much to be desired in view of the enormous potential for such co-operation. It was paradoxical that the uncertainties of the world economy, which provided additional reasons for developing countries to strengthen their co-operation, were among the very important causes for the slow progress in the

area of ECDC and TCDC. Many representatives felt that while responsibility for TCDC resting primarily with the developing countries themselves was being emphasized, they nevertheless believed that a much higher level of commitment was required from the developed countries. The efforts of the developing countries towards achieving economic co-operation among themselves were crowned by the adoption in 1981 of the Caracas Programme of Action, when the Group of 77 at its highest political level undertook to provide economic co-operation among developing countries with an implementable and action-oriented framework.

30. It was generally agreed that the foundations on which TCDC was based - self-reliance, the need and the will to initiate and sustain truly co-operative efforts to solve specific common goals, to develop complementary capabilities and to build and strengthen institutions serving common needs - demanded that it be a conscious effort on the part of all concerned. Such an effort should include the ability to create, expand, transfer, adapt and diffuse the knowledge of developing countries, for the benefit of the global community.

31. It was the view of some delegates that in reviewing TCDC activities - now that the end of the decade of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action approached - it was necessary to exert greater efforts over a broad area in an attempt to synthesize longer-term and more resolute commitments and tasks in the implementation of the Plan. It was also mentioned that because the efforts exerted by the international community to strengthen TCDC had so far been insufficient, and because there were different interpretations of the Plan among the individual countries and organizations of the United Nations development system, there was an urgent need to breathe new strength into the recommendations contained in the Plan.

32. Many delegates stated that there were numerous examples of how developing countries were sharing efforts and experience despite the severe limitations of resources. It was further stated that the major cause for concern was not that the TCDC programmes and projects were not being promoted, but that the ultimate TCDC goal of self-reliance continued to be a distant objective. Given the current global economic and financial crises, and the across-the-board cut in the UNDP resources, the institutionalization of TCDC has been hampered. However, organizing meetings among TCDC focal points officials was an initial step in the right direction.

33. Most of the delegates from developing countries expressed interest in exchange of technical co-operation among themselves and reaffirmed their readiness to provide practical assistance. It was further stated by many of the delegates that the slow progress in TCDC so far was due to insufficient political will and inadequate financial support from the United Nations agencies and from the developed countries. Most of the delegations agreed that African countries and the least developed countries should receive special attention to facilitate their involvement in TCDC with its concomitant benefits. It was also agreed that developing countries, in general, were now fully conscious of the potentials of TCDC and had moved a long way from rhetoric to action in the promotion of collective self-reliance and economic co-operation for development.

34. Some delegates expressed the view that recurrent economic pressure on socialist and developing countries hampered the development of international economic co-operation. There was a strong need to establish or re-establish confidence in international economic relations. Furthermore, as much as possible, the technical activities of the United Nations system should be financed from additional, voluntary resources. TCDC should be accomplished by Governments of the developing countries concerned, with due respect to the role of the public sector as a basic element for development.

35. Some delegates pointed out that primary responsibility for the promotion and implementation of TCDC rested with the developing countries themselves. What was required was political will on their part. It was therefore disappointing that there was a continued reluctance at the national level on the part of those Governments to make larger allocations in their national budgets for that purpose. That inhibited the expansion of TCDC and had consequences for the support TCDC might receive from the United Nations system. The international community's role should be supportive and catalytic in nature. The entire international community should be associated with the development effort, and all countries should contribute to it according to their resources and depending on their experience. Most of the donor countries were prepared to continue multilateral and bilateral support for TCDC activities.

36. The representatives of some of the United Nations agencies agreed that some basic factors were and would always be fundamental for true implementation of TCDC. These factors included the existence of political will among the countries concerned; the establishment of certain necessary mechanisms; readiness to share resources of all types - not merely financial ones; and a clear and agreed identification of concrete areas for co-operation. It was further stated that any joint endeavour must promote authentic socio-economic development and lead to increasing self-reliance among the countries involved. It was also noted that the population sector was especially well-suited to the exchange of knowledge and experience among the developing countries because most of the experiences gained so far in population programming were from activities in developing countries themselves. Firm commitment to the promotion of TCDC as a valuable instrument for achieving self-reliance for the developing countries in the area of food was also stressed. The interrelationship between development processes at all levels and the position of women during the United Nations Decade for Women was clearly established, resulting in a large number of innovative concepts, approaches and strategies related to women and development. It was generally agreed by the agencies of the United Nations system that patience and determination were all important and that the organizations would continue to play their role with innovation and imagination.

37. Representatives from non-governmental organizations also expressed their views on the progress being achieved in TCDC and confirmed their continued efforts in support of TCDC. One representative stated that his organization promoted self-help among communities in a number of countries all over the world and that it was seeking TCDC extension agents to come to communities to teach the people what they had learned through TCDC.

2. TCDC/ECDC

38. The delegates of several developing countries recognized the importance of the link between TCDC and ECDC. It was also mentioned that TCDC was an integral element of multilateral development co-operation. Most delegations further pointed out that the strengthening of TCDC led naturally to the strengthening of ECDC in the broader context. It was generally agreed that a higher level of commitment to TCDC was needed and that developing countries' focal points would have to be assisted in their systematic determination of national TCDC needs and efforts. The concept had not, however, received the kind of support envisaged in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action from the developed countries or from the United Nations system. TCDC had been given merely declaratory support and had been approached in an incoherent and unco-ordinated manner. There had been no differentiation between promotional and operational TCDC and the difference between TCDC, as opposed to the traditional technical co-operation, had not been recognized.

39. Some delegations held the view that TCDC might stimulate progressive transformations in international economic relations and lead ultimately towards the establishment of a new international economic order. It was believed that for developing countries it would be useful to understand the co-operation between socialist countries within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The socialist countries had also carried out several activities in promoting co-operation between themselves and the developing countries. A representative of one delegation pointed out that his country continuously strove to provide effective co-operation for implementation of development plans of developing countries by helping to set up industrial plants, training specialists and professionals and providing manufacturing and industrial expertise. TCDC programmes were part of an overall restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. It was further believed that the arms race and increased militarization were detrimental to any efforts for the furthering of TCDC.

40. A delegation speaking on behalf of a group of countries stated that a practical and innovative concept could only succeed with the will of Governments and when it stimulated relationships between developing countries. TCDC, as a concept and a method of work, should be a natural and integral part of development co-operation both in the bilateral and in the multilateral spheres. It was further stressed that TCDC was neither an end in itself nor a substitute for co-operation with developed countries and that the approach of these several countries was based on complementarity of that innovative concept and traditional forms of technical co-operation.

41. Some of the delegates felt that many organizations of the United Nations system appeared to have inadequate internal arrangements for promoting and co-ordinating TCDC and ECDC. In this context, organizations of the system should endeavour to devise a coherent and workable strategy for efforts in support of co-operation among developing countries.

42. Several of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies also referred to the link between TCDC and ECDC and described their activities in this field. In

the area of meteorology, for example, international co-operation among countries, both developed and developing, had existed for over 130 years and the success in implementing TCDC programmes was essential for the success of the world meteorological programmes. The representative of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women stated that decisions taken by the High-level Committee on integration of women in development through TCDC were proof that women's needs and participation in the development process deserved special attention.

3. Role of the United Nations system

43. The importance of the continued and strengthened support and assistance by the United Nations system to economic co-operation among developing countries was stressed by representatives of many delegations. The promotional and catalytic role of the United Nations development system in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was essential. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action had called for the spirit of TCDC to permeate more fully the United Nations system, which involved designing a "lobby of conscience" within each organization to keep the concerns of co-operation among developing countries in the forefront and to act as a focal point for co-operation with other organizations. Many delegations felt that the pattern of such arrangements, however, had so far been very uneven. In most of the United Nations organizations, TCDC remained more of a peripheral activity and was not accorded due priority. The United Nations system might consider increased financial support to certain TCDC activities to give renewed life to that important aspect of South-South co-operation. In this regard, it had to be kept in mind that such co-operation should not be a substitute for North-South co-operation but rather be complementary to it. A call for the support of the international community and the United Nations system in pursuing common objectives at the subregional, regional and interregional levels was acknowledged. In this context, representatives of many delegations mentioned their own joint programmes for promoting and co-operating in TCDC areas with the various organizations of the United Nations system.

44. It was pointed out by representatives of several delegations that as networks promoted by agencies had become self-sustaining and fully operational, network members themselves now tended to imitate new co-operation activities for which catalytic and supportive assistance might then be given. Most delegations agreed that the United Nations system had a great deal more to contribute towards this end. It was therefore of crucial importance that such contributions have the support and participation of developed countries. At the same time a greater effort on the part of developing countries was called for.

45. One delegation said, in referring to several complaints by developing countries that inadequate support from the developed countries and the United Nations system had been a major constraint in TCDC activities, that it seemed that the developed donor countries were to blame because the developing countries were not willing or able to co-operate among themselves. A number of delegations emphasized that TCDC was the primary responsibility of developing countries themselves, and that any increase in United Nations activities should be in response to moves among the developing countries to increase their own activities in that field.

46. Representatives of many bodies and organizations of the United Nations system summarized their efforts undertaken in support of TCDC and of the progress achieved through collaborative activities with the member States. These activities included assistance by facilitating exchange of data and experience, granting training fellowships, co-sponsoring training courses and meetings, organizing study tours and intercountry consultations, promoting and disseminating appropriate technology, and assisting in the provision of technical consultants, supplies and equipment. A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa, on behalf of the regional commissions, pointed out that the commissions did not seek to replace their member States, but to support them in their efforts at self-help and endogenous development. Many representatives stressed that their agencies were giving priority to TCDC activities within their respective organizations' frameworks, that their agencies were serving as a catalyst for the TCDC programmes of the developing countries themselves and that they were working towards the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries.

4. Role of the United Nations Development Programme

47. Many delegations commended the catalytic and supportive role of UNDP in promoting TCDC within the framework of the guidelines of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and subsequent related legislations. However, in view of various interrelated constraints both at the national and international levels which stood in the way of progressive application of TCDC modality in technical co-operation, many delegations emphasized the need for a much more intensive, innovative and expanded role for UNDP in identifying, encouraging and supporting TCDC activities. In this connection, some delegations spoke of the potential which could be exploited by, inter alia, the earmarking of proportionate funds from regional and global indicative planning figures (IPFs), the introduction of some flexibility in the application of UNDP regulations relating to the use of country IPFs for TCDC purposes, and the strengthening of the Special Unit for TCDC within UNDP headquarters as well as by encouraging the network of UNDP field offices to play a much more active and innovative role in promoting TCDC. On this score some delegations made specific references to the findings, observations and recommendations of the report by the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations development system's support in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in which the rationale for a new impetus for TCDC was examined in the context of, inter alia, an expanded role for UNDP.

48. Some other delegations, while reaffirming the principle that UNDP does and should indeed have a catalytic and supportive role in the furtherance of the cause of TCDC, stated that they were of the view that any move to place UNDP beyond this mandate would be tantamount to unnecessarily undermining the basic tenet on which the concept of TCDC was founded in the first place: that TCDC was the primary responsibility of developing countries themselves.

49. Relating this recurrent theme, which received heavy emphasis throughout the deliberations, to some specific ideas which favoured a much more expanded role for UNDP in TCDC, one delegation queried the logic for an expanded UNDP role while in fact the information available to the present session of the Committee showed that the commitment of the developing countries themselves to TCDC had by and large left much to be desired in many respects.

50. In keeping with this thinking, the same delegation, supported also by some others, felt that expansion of the role of UNDP whether it be through increase of its funding of TCDC or through strengthening of the Special Unit for TCDC, would not be necessary since this would represent an undesirable deflection from where attention was properly called for. In this context, some delegations maintained that there should be no change in the existing mechanism for the catalytic and supportive role of UNDP in mobilizing the factors and resources already existing in the developing countries themselves.

5. Role of Governments

51. Delegations from developed countries were unanimous in emphasizing that the primary responsibility for TCDC remained with the developing countries themselves. Several remarked, on the basis of information compiled from the documents submitted for their review, that the Governments of developing countries had not allocated adequate funds which were necessary for the development of their TCDC activities despite the cost benefits of TCDC. Consequently, they reminded these Governments that funds from the United Nations development system and/or from developed countries should be sought only to supplement their own as the United Nations system and the developed countries were to play only a catalytic and supportive role in TCDC programmes. One delegate recommended that the concerned developing countries should strengthen their national focal points for TCDC to enable them to play a more active role in the promotion of TCDC.

52. Delegations from developing countries acknowledged, once again, that TCDC was their primary responsibility but reminded the developed countries of their obligations under Recommendation 35 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. One delegate expressed the opinion that the main TCDC activities should be best carried out under the guidance of the Governments of the developing countries concerned, in the framework of their national development planning or their declared development priorities and with due respect to the role of the public sector as a basic element for development. A few delegates suggested that the Governments of developing countries should also encourage the participation of the private sector in the promotion and implementation of TCDC. A delegate recalled the recommendations and initiatives for the promotion of TCDC that followed the first and second Meeting of Heads of National Technical Co-operation Agencies in Developing Countries, held respectively in October 1982 in Tunis and in August 1984 in Ljubljana, which included the strengthening of national focal points for TCDC, the establishment of a multisectoral information network (MSIN), legal and other appropriate arrangements for promoting mutual technical co-operation and the boosting of mutual technological and technical co-operation among enterprises from developing countries.

53. It was also inferred, from the experience of a few developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region, that the interested Governments could proceed to determine their specific TCDC needs and those capacities that they could offer to other developing countries. Preferably on a subregional basis, the interested developing countries could meet and exchange their respective inventories of needs and capacities in various sectors and decide on the appropriate course of action for implementing TCDC activities.

6. Financing of TCDC

54. Many representatives of developing countries felt that the decrease in UNDP resources programmed during the third programming cycle, inadequate support from developed countries and the minimal growth of total resources available to the United Nations system over the past few years constituted an overall constraint on formulating new economic and technical co-operation activities among developing countries, and had prevented TCDC from achieving its full potential up to the present. It was the view of most of the delegations that the utilization of country, regional and interregional IPFs had shown no significant improvement or growth in TCDC activities since 1982. It was said that some portion of global, regional and interregional IPFs should be made available for TCDC activities. Concerning Special Programme Resources, one delegate stated that the funds had originally been placed at the disposal of the UNDP Administrator for meeting emergencies. Another delegate stated that this account had a carry-over from the last cycle and, when added to the amount earmarked for this cycle, represented a considerable sum. Some of those funds, it was pointed out, should be allocated to TCDC at least until the end of the cycle.

55. Many delegations called on developed countries to respond more favourably to TCDC by allocating additional funds and resources for such activities. The United Nations system might consider increased financial support to certain TCDC activities identified in the Caracas Programme of Action to give renewed life to that important aspect of South-South co-operation. Many delegations favoured increased financial and other support by the United Nations development system for TCDC activities and called for the allocation of more resources from the UNDP Special Programme Resources for action-oriented TCDC activities. Furthermore, it was felt that it was necessary to ensure a more predictable source of financing for TCDC from UNDP.

56. Support was expressed by one delegation for a proposal to allocate resources of the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund for financing activities in the field of TCDC. It also requested that the United Nations Interregional Centre on Remote Sensing to be established in Warsaw, for participants from developing countries, be included among projects to be financed from this Trust Fund.

57. The view of the major donor countries was that with the United Nations system of organizations constrained by budgetary restrictions, the principal responsibility of financing TCDC depended ultimately on developing countries. The political will of developing countries was also very important in effecting real co-operation in developmental efforts. One delegate mentioned that TCDC was an instrument to assist developing countries in following an independent way of development and therefore it was discouraging that only 14 countries receiving UNDP assistance had set aside part of their IPF for TCDC activities. It was further stressed that allocations in national budgets of developing countries for the promotion and support of TCDC were also insufficient. Other delegations emphasized that it was difficult to accept that UNDP Special Programme Resources should be used to finance TCDC activities.

58. One delegate expressed the view that while he understood calls for increased UNDP funding of TCDC, he could not fully subscribe to all the solutions being proposed to overcome the problems that limited a more widespread use of TCDC. For TCDC to be truly successful, it must be the result of initiatives undertaken by developing countries themselves and financed from their domestic resources. UNDP resources must serve, first and foremost, national development plans, the realization of which could benefit from technical co-operation from other developing countries. It was stressed that at a time when UNDP continued to face budgetary constraints, it was not advisable to modify current policies governing the use of IPFs for TCDC, and this delegate would not agree to any increase of Special Programme Resources for TCDC because of serious constraints on UNDP resources in general. The country IPF should be considered as a catalyst and a supplementary contribution only, the financing of such activities being the primary responsibility of the developing countries themselves.

59. One delegate speaking on behalf of a group of countries was in favour of the continued use of IPF resources for TCDC activities to provide supplementary and catalytic support. He stated, however, that UNDP Special Programme Resources were not an appropriate source of financing for TCDC. To make TCDC reliant on that exceptional source of financing would do the concept of TCDC a great disservice.

60. Several of the organizations of the United Nations system also referred to the subject of financing of TCDC, and mentioned that they frequently provided financial and organizational assistance to Governments. The representative of WHO pointed out that it was essential to realize that the international role and limited budget of WHO made major funding of TCDC activities difficult. However, WHO and several other United Nations agencies stressed that they would collaborate with the Governments in obtaining resources from other sources, for instance, bilateral and multilateral development agencies. A representative of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women suggested that innovative ways of financing TCDC activities should be found such as combined financing from multiple sources and establishment of financial consortia.

7. Information systems

61. Most delegations agreed that the importance of information for TCDC could not be overemphasized and stressed the importance of finding systemized ways of matching needs and capacities. In this connection, several delegations mentioned the establishment of national information systems in their countries to meet this need.

62. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the enlargement of the Information Referral System (INRES) and the launching of the TCDC/INRES Inquiry Service. These actions were seen as positive and important steps in the global promotion of TCDC.

63. Several delegations, in noting the progress made by INRES and the need to overcome a number of constraints, expressed hope that the system would continue to expand, be more popularized and updated on a regular basis. In addition, it was

hoped that linkages would be established with other information systems in the United Nations development system. One delegate said that the utilization of INRES would further improve, after the establishment of information networks being designed by developing countries. The Group of 77 was engaged in the establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) and the non-aligned movement had made considerable progress in the development of its Research and Information System.

64. In the view of some delegations, the questionnaire requesting information on current TCDC activities should be simplified in order to ensure more replies from institutions and Governments.

8. Practical recommendations

65. Several delegations of developing countries, citing successful experiences of bilateral and multilateral consultations on specific TCDC activities in different economic and social sectors (with catalytic support from the United Nations development system), recommended this methodology for wider application. One delegation suggested that such consultations should, preferably, be specific in their area or sector with respect to requests and offers, and should be multilateral in nature.

66. Some delegations advocated the need for strengthening the national focal point mechanism for TCDC whose continued administrative and substantive weaknesses in some countries posed a major impediment to the injection of TCDC modalities in development processes and hindered also the effective utilization by those countries of bilateral and multilateral consultative modalities. The United Nations development system could play an important supportive role in the strengthening of the TCDC focal points especially through the provision of training and facilitation of consultations between developing countries.

67. A number of delegations recommended the strengthening of the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC so as to enable it to discharge all its mandated functions, especially, as one delegation emphasized, the development of new ideas, concepts and projects for promoting TCDC. Some delegations, on the other hand, felt that such strengthening was not practicable at this time when UNDP was itself facing budgetary constraints.

68. Two delegations suggested some further simplification of the UNDP programming procedures governing TCDC projects financed from the country IPF. One delegate noted in particular that this could simplify the procurement procedures so that tendering for TCDC projects could be restricted to developing countries only.

69. One delegation welcomed the measures taken by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to reinforce the service for recruitment of experts based in Geneva and to enlarge their search of candidates from the Middle East and North Africa. He hoped that this was the first stage towards the extension of such actions to other regions of Africa and Asia.

9. Other considerations

(a) Training

70. It was recognized by many delegations that training of national staff was a very important element in the development process. A number of delegations referred to training programmes held in developing countries open to participation from representatives of other developing countries in various fields such as rural banking, agricultural management, small business consultancy and providing training facilities to experts, including doctors, engineers, technicians, bankers and administrators. It was felt that the development of human resources would also be of great benefit in TCDC efforts and UNDP had an important role to play in this. Ways and means to increase the quality and quantity of human resources in development should also be studied.

(b) Regional co-operation

71. Many delegations supported all efforts towards regional co-operation, in particular for transportation and communication efforts in Africa and Asia. In promoting such co-operation, the regional framework seemed to be the best suited to promote TCDC, since a commonality of interest and purpose existed. The United Nations regional commissions and machinery were mandated and very well placed for promoting such co-operation.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

A. Report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary

72. At its sixth meeting, on 5 June 1985, the Committee considered the report of the Chairman of the Working Group to the Plenary as contained in document TCDC/4/L.10. In this report, the Working Group recommended the adoption of seven draft decisions.

73. Following a few editorial amendments made orally, the Committee adopted by consensus the draft decisions recommended to it by the Working Group. The texts of the decisions are reproduced in annex I as decisions 4/1 through 4/7.

B. Views expressed by delegations following the adoption of the decisions

74. The representative of Egypt, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, stated that the reference to the country indicative planning figure in the Committee's decision 4/4, Activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries under the country, regional and interregional indicative planning figures, did not prejudice the prerogative of the respective Governments to exercise their full authority and sovereign right on the use of their countries' IPFs and that the review mentioned in paragraph 3 of the decision referred only to the procedures of the administration of UNDP.

75. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, in referring to decision 4/4, pointed out that his delegation had joined the consensus in that decision with the understanding that the main responsibility for TCDC lay with developing countries themselves, that UNDP should and could only play a catalytic role in promoting TCDC and that the country indicative planning figures remained the main source for TCDC activities.

76. The representative of the Netherlands expressed the position of his delegation that the primary responsibilities for the success of TCDC lay with the developing countries themselves and that, in this connection, shying away from the responsibility would be a disservice to TCDC. He further pointed out that this responsibility of developing countries had been inadequately reflected even in the particular case of decision 6, where the Committee had not come to grips with the budgetary implications of their responsibilities as regards the implementation of TCDC activities. There were two other decisions that were of great concern to his delegation. Decision 4/3 that pertained to the over-preoccupation with expansion of the existing institutional structures of UNDP implying that the panacea for current problems was to be found there. His delegation would interpret that decision in such a way that there was no direct connection between paragraphs 2 and 3. The other decision, 4/6, undesirously referred to a very specific source of UNDP funding for an interregional TCDC project, which, in the opinion of his delegation, conflicted with an earlier agreement the Council had arrived at. He concluded that, in attempting to reinvigorate TCDC, the objectives of which everyone - and his Government in particular - cherished, these elements undesirously deflected attention from where it was properly called for.

77. The representative of the United States was concerned that the decisions adopted detracted from the primary focus of TCDC - a process of co-operation among developing countries, contributed to and primarily financed by the developing countries themselves. His delegation continued to see the role of the United Nations system as only supportive and catalytic and could not support attempts to change the methods of funding TCDC projects by reserving funds in advance specifically for TCDC activities or by drawing upon UNDP funds other than the IPFs. He concluded that any assistance from the United Nations system would have to be put in perspective, bearing in mind the many other priorities which made demands on the limited amount of resources available throughout the system.

78. The representative of France said that the study in paragraph 9 of document TD/B/1043-TD/B/AC.40/2 should not be pursued as that study had already been done by UNCTAD several years ago. However, a new study, if needed at all, should be undertaken by UNDP, not UNCTAD, as UNDP had the lead agency responsibility for TCDC in the United Nations system.

C. Schedule and organization of work for the fifth session of the High-level Committee

79. On behalf of the Bureau, the President suggested to the Committee that, in order to ensure better preparations, its sessions be held in future at three-year intervals and not at two-year intervals as was currently the case. Moreover, the

sessions should alternate between New York and Geneva and be held always prior to the regular sessions of the UNDP Governing Council. In accordance with this proposal the next sessions would have to be held in 1988.

80. The President pointed out that this proposal was also motivated by the consideration that sessions at Geneva would facilitate especially the participation by high-level representatives from African countries in view of the geographic proximity and lower travel costs with respect to Geneva.

81. Several delegates stated that they would need more time to study this proposal, given the short notice with which it was presented. Pursuant to a request by a delegation, the Secretary noted that it was difficult to indicate, at this stage, the financial implications of the proposal, as the next calendar of conferences of the United Nations - due to be adopted by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session - would only cover the biennium 1986-1987. It was pointed out that the proposal would in any case entail savings as the periodicity of the Committee's sessions would be reduced from a biennial to a triennial cycle, in line with pertinent recommendations by the General Assembly itself. The Committee took note of the proposal and recommended that a final decision on this matter be taken at the fifth session.

82. The Committee adopted the draft provisional agenda for its fifth session as contained in document TCDC/4/L.11. The provisional agenda is reproduced in annex I as decision 4/8.

D. Report on credentials

83. At the sixth meeting, the President reported orally that, in accordance with rule 8 of the High-level Committee's rules of procedures, the Bureau had examined the credentials of delegations and had found them to be in order. The High-level Committee subsequently approved the oral report of the President.

E. Draft report of the Plenary

84. The Committee agreed to authorize its Rapporteur to finalize the draft report on the general debate in Plenary (TCDC/4/L.9), taking into account any amendments or comments received from delegations, and to present this report to the UNDP Governing Council at its thirty-second session.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

A. Closing statement by the Administrator of UNDP

85. At the opening of the sixth meeting, the Administrator of UNDP expressed his understanding that the High-level Committee had conducted a valuable and successful review of the progress achieved and had carried out a productive analysis of the respective roles of the various participants vested with the responsibility for the promotion and implementation of TCDC. He was particularly pleased that a number of

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had demonstrated their willingness to play a constructive role in promoting TCDC as envisaged by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. He welcomed their commitment and assured them of the readiness of UNDP to co-operate with them in their important supportive role in the promotion of TCDC. He noted that the Committee had expressed some concern at what appeared to be a somewhat slower pace of progress in the promotion of TCDC. The reasons for this were known to the Committee. However, despite the financial constraints affecting the entire organization, he assured the Committee of UNDP efforts to explore innovative and creative methods within the United Nations system to support actively the promotion and implementation of TCDC. He further stated that in connection with the new country and intercountry programming cycle, UNDP and the agencies would fully support the efforts of Governments to introduce TCDC modalities in programme and project implementation.

86. The Administrator went on to state that the Committee's encouragement for the use of country, regional, interregional and global IPFs for TCDC purposes had been noted, as well as the Committee's appreciation of the catalytic role of Special Programme Resources. He then referred to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action which stated clearly that the primary responsibility for TCDC rested with the developing countries themselves. If the recommendations of the Ljubljana Meeting of Heads of National Technical Co-operation Agencies in Developing Countries which called for the strengthening of national focal points and the allocation in the national budgets of a percentage of all technical assistance resources for TCDC were implemented, the developing countries would have both structure and the resources to support their resolve to promote and implement TCDC.

87. The Administrator concluded by thanking the delegates for their invaluable contribution to the work of the Committee. The several recommendations that resulted from the efforts of the deliberations of the Committee would enhance the work of the United Nations development system in supporting and promoting TCDC. The Administrator finally expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hussein Idris, Director of the Special Unit for TCDC, for his commitment and contributions to TCDC.

B. Closing statement by the President

88. The President in his closing remarks noted that the participation of so many delegations in the work of the High-level Committee was proof that the tree planted by the United Nations in Buenos Aires seven years ago had not been swept away by the winds. He then pointed out that 30 States had sent representatives from their capitals. He cited this as evidence of the belief of developing countries in the spirit of TCDC. He stated further that the participation of industrialized countries in the work of the Committee was a reason for hope and optimism.

89. The President continued by saying that recent developments had demonstrated the failure of individual efforts to overcome the difficulties faced by the international community. There was no indication, for example, that the global economic crisis would end anytime in the near future. In addition to economic difficulties, the natural disasters experienced by developing countries had complicated the problems of development. He believed, however, that the spirit of

understanding demonstrated by countries from both the North and the South had contributed to the success of the work of the High-level Committee. The President concluded by emphasizing that representatives had reaffirmed the principles contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/35/39 and Corr.1).

3/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/36/39).

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/38/39).

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at its
fourth session

	<u>Page</u>
4/1. 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	27
4/2. Co-operative exchange of skills among countries through technical co-operation among developing countries	28
4/3. Measures to facilitate technical co-operation among developing countries: staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	29
4/4. Activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries under the country regional and interregional indicative planning figures	29
4/5. Information from Governments on their activities in technical co-operation among developing countries	30
4/6. Utilization of funds from the United Nations Development Programme's Special Programme Resources for the promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries	31
4/7. Promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries during the fourth programming cycle	32
4/8. Provisional agenda for the 1987 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries	32

4/1. 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 Committee,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action as well as the relevant decisions adopted at its previous meetings,

Taking note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (TCDC/4/2 and Add.1) on this subject,

Taking note with concern that there has not been any overall increase in the support and promotion of activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries by organizations and organs of the United Nations system, and that technical co-operation among developing countries has not yet permeated the programme and field operations of the United Nations system as called for by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Concerned that several years after the endorsement of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action by the General Assembly many of its relevant provisions have not received adequate response or attention in the United Nations system,

1. Urges the United Nations development system to implement fully its decisions on technical co-operation among developing countries in order to contribute to the attainment of the goals established by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
2. Calls upon the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to identify more clearly the technical co-operation among developing countries dimension in their projects and activities wherever possible;
3. Invites the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to consider earmarking a specified and increasing proportion of their resources for activities and projects relating to technical co-operation among developing countries;
4. Reiterates the need to utilize fully the capacities of developing countries, and, in this context, further invites the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system actively to make increasing use of equipment, services, experts and consultants available in the developing countries, within existing rules and regulations, and to continue to review their procurement policies and practices in this regard;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary actions within existing rules and regulations in order to increase procurement from developing countries for the United Nations system by, inter alia, taking steps to overcome the lack of information about their procurement potential as well as arranging for wider dissemination of information regarding procurement potential and practices in the United Nations system;

6. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report to the Governing Council at its thirty-third session based on experiences in the field in the implementation of paragraphs 4 and 5 of this decision, including the progress achieved and bottle-necks and obstacles faced in this regard;

7. Encourages the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals as a useful experiment, and requests the Administrator to carry out an analytical review and evaluation of this experiment to be included in the comprehensive report requested in paragraph 8 below;

8. Requests the Administrator to submit a comprehensive report to the fifth session of the High-level Committee on the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

4/2. Co-operative exchange of skills among countries through technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decision 3/6,

Recalling also resolution 300 (XXIX) and decision 306 (XXX) of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

1. Takes note of the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts on Co-operative Exchange of Skills among Developing Countries 1/ annexed to document TCDC/4/4;

2. Expresses its satisfaction concerning the agreed conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Meeting of Governmental Experts as contained in the above-mentioned report;

3. Invites the Trade and Development Board to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare, in co-operation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the study mentioned in paragraph 9 of the agreed conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Meeting of Governmental Experts and to submit it to the High-level Committee at its fifth session.

1/ TD/B/1043-TD/B/AC.40/2.

4/3. Measures to facilitate technical co-operation among developing countries: staffing of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendation 34 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Measures to facilitate TCDC: Staffing of the Special Unit for TCDC" (TCDC/4/8);

2. Reiterates its firm belief that the strengthening of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries would allow the Unit to discharge fully its functions in support and progress of technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Requests the Administrator to provide adequate staffing support to the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and to report thereon to the thirty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.

4/4. Activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries under the country, regional and interregional indicative planning figures

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator entitled "TCDC activities under the country, regional and interregional IPF for the period 1982-1985" (TCDC/4/5);

2. Expresses its concern that the reduction in the United Nations Development Programme's indicative planning figures during the third programming cycle has hampered the potential contribution of the Programme to the promotion and support of technical co-operation among developing countries;

3. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to examine and keep under constant review the existing procedures in order to guarantee optimal use of country, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures for activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries under these programmes during the fourth programming cycle for the Programme in accordance with the priorities set by developing countries;

4. Recommends that the greatest possible share of resources from regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures in the fourth programming cycle within the priorities set by developing countries be devoted to projects and activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries in keeping with the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

5. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its fifth session on the progress of the implementation of this decision.

4/5. Information from Governments on their activities in technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Some information from Governments on their activities in technical co-operation among developing countries" (TCDC/4/3);

2. Invites developing countries to continue to strengthen their focal points for technical co-operation among developing countries wherever possible, with a view to promoting their activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries, in accordance with recommendations 3 and 4 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

3. Invites developing countries to arrange for the review, analysis and transmittal of the collected information on their activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries annually, and preferably not later than 31 January of the following year, to the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, for the preparation of the Administrator's report, in accordance with recommendations 1 to 22 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

4. Invites developing countries to utilize, whenever possible, the opportunities for technical co-operation among developing countries which may be provided by the multilateral institutions set up by developing countries themselves;

5. Invites developing countries to take full advantage of the possibilities for financing activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries under the United Nations Development Programme's country, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures for the fourth programming cycle, in accordance with their priorities;

6. Invites Governments of developed countries to continue to give their full support to the implementation of recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and to report on actions taken to the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries annually, but not later than 31 January of the following year, for dissemination and incorporation into the progress report to be prepared for the fifth session of the Committee;

7. Invites developing countries to make available detailed information to the extent possible, regarding their procurement potential to organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

4/6. Utilization of funds from the United Nations Development Programme's Special Programme Resources for the promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Recalling recommendations 34 (Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations Development Programme for the promotion and support of technical co-operation among developing countries) and 38 (Financial arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries) of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,

Recalling its decision 1/7 of 2 June 1980, 3/5 of 6 June 1983 and United Nations Development Programme Governing Council decisions 83/15 of 18 June 1983 and 84/25 of 29 June 1984,

Reaffirming the need for assistance for action-oriented promotional activities for technical co-operation among developing countries on a continued and reliable basis,

Having considered the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme relating to the utilization of funds from the Special Programme Resources for the promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC/4/6),

Recognizing the importance of these activities, and in particular of the interregional project entitled "Promotion of action-oriented TCDC activities" and the efficacy and efficiency with which it is being carried out,

Further recognizing the catalytic role which the United Nations Development Programme, through the Special Programme Resources, has played in the project,

Aware that previous allocations of resources to the project have been committed,

Further aware of the increasing demands from developing countries in this regard,

Taking into account the fact that \$22.5 million of the amount allocated to the Special Programme Resources for the third programming cycle have not yet been committed, of which \$8.9 million is for contingencies and activities relating to technical co-operation among developing countries,

1. Expresses its deep concern that, without additional resources for the ongoing interregional project, the promotion by the United Nations Development Programme of action-oriented activities in support of technical co-operation among developing countries for the remaining years of the 1982-1986 programming cycle would be discontinued;

2. Invites the Governing Council to consider making available additional resources during the balance of the third programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme, up to a total amount of \$1.5 million, to continue funding the project INT/83/904, including the possibility of increasing the interregional indicative planning figures to this end by drawing on an exceptional basis from the uncommitted Special Programme Resources;

3. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the fifth session of the High-level Committee on the progress achieved in the continuing implementation of the interregional action-oriented technical co-operation among developing countries project.

4/7. Promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries during the fourth programming cycle

The High-level Committee

1. Recommends that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, when considering matters related to the fourth programming cycle, allow for the allocation of a specified amount of resources, on a continued and reliable basis, for the fourth programming cycle that would be sufficient to meet the increasing needs for the promotion of action-oriented activities for technical co-operation among developing countries;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the fifth session of the High-level Committee on the progress achieved in the continuing implementation of the interregional action-oriented technical co-operation among developing countries project.

4/8. Provisional agenda for the 1987 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at the fourth session of the High-level Committee,

Approves the following provisional agenda for the fifth session of the High-level Committee, to be held in 1987:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the President of the session.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Election of officers other than the President.
5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee.
6. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical co-operation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal and information and financial).
7. Provisional agenda for the 1989 session of the High-level Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the meeting.

ANNEX II

List of documents

<u>Title</u>	<u>Symbol</u>
Provisional agenda	TCDC/4/L.1
Annotations to the provisional agenda	TCDC/4/1
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work	TCDC/4/L.2
List of documents	TCDC/4/1/Add.1
Annotations to the provisional agenda. Status of pre-session documents	TCDC/4/1/Add.2
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/4/2
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 - Addendum	TCDC/4/2/Add.1
Some information from Governments on their activities in technical co-operation among developing countries	TCDC/4/3
Co-operative exchange of skills among developing countries through TCDC	TCDC/4/4
Progress report on the utilization of UNDP's funds comprising the country, regional and interregional IPFs for TCDC activities during the period 1983-1985	TCDC/4/5
Progress report on the utilization of funds from Special Programme Resources (SPR) for action-oriented promotional activities for TCDC during the period 1983-1985	TCDC/4/6
Progress report on the expansion and use of the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES)	TCDC/4/7
Measures to facilitate TCDC - Staffing of the Special Unit for TCDC	TCDC/4/8
Use of country IPFs for TCDC activities	TCDC/4/9
Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988, Report of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	TCDC/4/INF/1