

**Second Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-II), Tunis, Tunisia, 5 – 10 September 1983**

**Final Report**

**I. Introduction and Organizational Matters**

**A. Introduction**

1. Pursuant to the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA) and at the invitation of the Government of Tunisia, the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee (IFCC-II) was held in Tunis from 5 to 10 September 1983.

2. The Meeting was attended by 69 delegations from the following Member States of the Group of 77:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Yemen, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Lebanon, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Mauritania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine Liberation Organization, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Republic of Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

3. Representatives from the following organizations and research institutes of the developing countries also attended the Meeting:

Arab League, Arab Monetary Fund, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE), Research Centre for Cooperation among Developing Countries (RCCDC), Third World Forum, Centre for Economic and Social Studies of the Third World (CEESTEM).

4. Representatives from the following offices and organizations of the United Nations System and other international organizations participated as observers:

DIEC, DIESA, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, ESCAP, ECA, and ECLA, Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IBI).

**B. Election of Officers**

5. At its opening session, the Intergovernmental Committee elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ben ARFA, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, in charge of International Co-operation, as Chairman. The Committee also elected by acclamation H.E. Mr. Felipe JARAMILLO of Colombia and H.E. Mr. Manaspas XUTO of Thailand as Vice-Chairmen.

### **C. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

6. The Intergovernmental Committee adopted the draft agenda.
7. The Intergovernmental Committee also decided to establish two sessional Committees and to allocate item 3 to Committee I and items 4, 5 and 6 to Committee II. The two Vice-Chairmen, H.E. Mr. Felipe Jaramillo and H. E. Mr. Manaspas Xuto served as Chairmen of Committee I and Committee II respectively.
8. Subsequently, Committee II decided to establish an informal Working Group to take up the consideration of item 5(e) under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Indrajit S. Chadha of India.
9. The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee was assisted by the Core of Assistants to the Chairman of the G-77 in New York, members of which also served as Secretaries of the two Sessional Committees of the Intergovernmental Committee.

### **D. Documentation**

10. The Intergovernmental Committee had before it the Reports of technical meetings held in pursuance of the implementation of the CPA since IFCC-I as well as other documentation prepared by the Office of the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.

### **E. Opening Statements**

11. In his keynote address H.E. Mr. Beji Caid ESSEBSI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, stated that the developing countries should in their development efforts depend increasingly on their endogenous and collective capabilities, particularly since these countries, taken together, possess the required human and material resources to do so. The Caracas Programme of Action and its on-going implementation constituted the best proof of the determination of developing countries to establish the essential foundations for a wider and deeper South-South Cooperation.

12. He underscored the unique opportunity provided by IFCC-II to assess the achievements of the last two years and to put forward suggestions for joint undertakings in the future, bearing in mind the present realities of developing countries and the stage reached so far in the North-South dialogue, the necessity of which remains valid but which is still in the difficult stage it has been in for several years despite the political will of the developing countries and the wisdom they have shown in their position.

13. In the light of this situation the Foreign Minister emphasized the need to further strengthen South-South Cooperation. He therefore urged the Group of 77 to move forward from the stage of programmes and objectives to one of practical projects, particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels.

14. He further stated that effective coordination remained one of the essential tasks of the G-77 and suggested that the New York Chapter should be provided with additional resources commensurate with the magnitude of the responsibilities entrusted to it. He also cautioned on the need to avoid duplication of work and in this context asked whether it was useful to establish new economic bodies within the Group of Non-Aligned Countries similar to those stipulated in the Caracas Programme of Action.

15. In his statement to the meeting, Ambassador Farooq Sobhan of Bangladesh, Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, called for accelerated implementation of the CPA with a sense of determination. Collective self-reliance was both a political and economic necessity, he said.

16. He presented a detailed assessment of the progress achieved since IFCC-I in the implementation of the CPA and analyzed the difficulties experienced in the process. With the calendar of technical meetings under the CPA to be completed by the end of the current year, the implementation of the programme would enter a more action-oriented phase requiring ever more closer involvement of member states, particularly through their respective national focal points. The need for IFCC-II to give greater impetus to the national focal points is thus of the highest importance.

17. The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York observed that the growing political commitment to ECDC reflected the heightened awareness in developing countries of the importance of their efforts to promote and strengthen ECDC. This awareness needed to be fully reflected through the adoption and implementation of appropriate policy measures at national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. To this end, he enumerated a series of specific measures for consideration of the Committee for immediate implementation.

18. He stressed the need for continuing efforts to further strengthen cooperation and coordination between the various Chapters of the Group of 77, to encourage greater involvement of the organizations and research institutions of developing countries and to enlist more active support of the U.N. System towards the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

19. The representative of India made a statement in his country's capacity as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. Statements were also made by the Secretary General of UNCTAD, and the Executive Secretary of ECLA on behalf of the Regional Commissions of the United Nations.

#### **F. Adoption of Report**

20. At its closing session, the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee adopted the Report, as contained hereafter. The Chairman of the Meeting made a statement at the closing session.

#### **G. Hosting of IFCC-III**

21. The Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee decided, after expressing its deep gratitude to the Government of Colombia for its offer to host IFCC-III, to hold its next session in Colombia in 1984.

#### **H. Acknowledgement**

22. The meeting expressed deep appreciation to the President, the Government and the people of Tunisia for the hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting. A resolution to this effect was adopted.

### **II. Review of Results of Technical Meetings held during 1982 – 1983 and Follow-up Action**

#### **A. Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries**

23. The Committee considered the Report of the Meeting of Heads of National Agencies of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Tunis 25-29 October, 1982. The Committee also considered at the same time the Report of the Experts' Meeting on the Multisectoral Information Network (MSIN) held in New York in May 1983 as a follow-up to the Tunis Meeting on TCDC. Both reports were presented by the Tunisian delegation.

The main proposals of the report were:

- a) the identification and strengthening of national TCDC focal points;
- b) promotion of inter-enterprises cooperation and the drawing up of a model contract for the recruitment of experts from developing countries.
- c) The establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) for the Group of 77.

24. Action Taken by the Committee

- a) The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting of Heads of National Agencies of Technical Cooperation and decided that the report be forwarded to the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-77 for approval.
- b) The Committee also recommended to the meeting of Foreign Ministers for approval the results of the experts meeting on the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) and noted that care should be taken in its establishment to avoid duplication of existing information networks at the regional and global levels and further suggested that the MSIN should take advantage of existing or projected information carriers, such as TIPS/DEVNET.

25. The Committee considered the Report of the meeting on Model Contract for Experts and Inter-governmental Agreement for the recruitment of experts among developing countries held in Caracas 8-11 August, 1983. The report was introduced by the delegation of Venezuela which noted that neither the model contract nor the inter-governmental agreement was a rigid document but a flexible guideline for developing countries who may wish to engage in technical collaboration with one another.

26. The model contract defined who could be termed an "expert" and his rights and obligations in the recipient state while the inter-governmental agreement sought to provide a framework for the relationship between a supplier and recipient state on the subject of the recruitment of experts as part of technical cooperation among such states.

27. In the discussion of this report many delegates highlighted three basic areas as the shortcomings of the report:

- a) Its lack of balance.
- b) Its rigidity as a result of its great detail.
- c) Its lack of provisions for training of local replacement or the so called counterpart component.

28. Some delegations wondered whether it was useful to depart, as the model contract had done, from generally and universally accepted standards for the hiring of experts such as those in use by the UNDP. These delegations were of the view that apart from the terms of the model

contract being too general, recruitment of experts should be made within the framework of inter-governmental agreements.

29. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee took note of the Report and requested that it be transmitted to member states of the Group of 77 by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York for their comments within a specific time frame.
- b) An inter-governmental meeting should be convened by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to consider further the Report and the comments of member states so as to finalize discussions on the issue.
- c) Such inter-governmental meeting was also requested to address itself to the issue of inter-enterprises cooperation, whose examination was not completed at the Caracas meeting due to lack of time.

## **B. Food and Agriculture**

30. The Committee noted with appreciation the comprehensive statement by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in Rome analyzing the alarming food and agricultural situation of developing countries and measures that must be taken to reverse or contain the situation and decided that the report should be circulated to delegations and member states.

31. The Committee noted that the Second Experts Meeting on Food and Security which was recommended by the IFCC-I meeting in Manila had not taken place and underlined the importance of convening this meeting at an early date. The consensus view of delegations was that the Report on World Food Security by the Director-General of the FAO should not be regarded as a substitute for the expected results of the expert meeting mandated in Manila. It was felt, however, that the FAO Report might serve as a useful technical input to such a meeting.

32. The Committee affirmed the high priority it attached to the Food and Agriculture sector and urged the stepping up of activities in implementing relevant decisions related to the Caracas Programme of Action in this field.

33. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee therefore called upon the G-77 in Rome, to convene the second expert group meeting on Food Security Reserve Scheme as soon as possible.
- b) The Committee noted that the Group of 77 in Rome planned to convene the ECDC Global meeting on Food and Agriculture in Bucharest in mid February 1984.

## **C. Energy**

34. The Committee considered the Report of the Meeting of Experts of the Group of 77 on Technical Cooperation in Energy which was held in Vienna, May 23-27, 1983. This Report was presented to the Committee by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in Vienna who expressed that the meeting was marked by poor attendance of relevant experts.

35. In its conclusion, the Report:

- a) Called on member states to establish or strengthen mechanisms for promoting energy planning activities and the collection of information at the national, sub-regional and interregional levels.
- b) Urged member states to assess present levels of technical and managerial personnel involved in energy programmes, identify as well as assess the required skills and knowledge and on the basis of these formulate appropriate training programmes.
- c) Requested member countries to identify institutions that could become centres of excellence.
- d) Urged member states to consider undertaking a study on the scope of existing national consultancy and advisory services to provide services on a sub-regional or regional basis in such areas as training in all areas of energy management, conservation and use.
- e) Recommended that a list of research projects both planned or underway at the national level be compiled and if possible for arrangements to be worked out for the shared international financing of those projects having a common objective or end use.
- f) Recommended that regional coordinating organizations dealing with energy similar to OLADE, OAPEC and ASCOPE could at the same time serve as links between the regions may be set up.
- g) In addition to efforts aimed at establishing international, sub-regional and regional institutions in the field of energy, the report recommended that full use shall be made of other existing sub-regional and regional institutions that may play a role in the field of energy.

36. While some delegates complimented the quality of the Report, others felt that its recommendations were too general and therefore did not lend themselves to practical follow-up actions by member states. Delegates also stressed the need for standardization of information-related aspects of energy. It was generally felt that an inventory of National Research and Training Centres of Multinational Scope (NRTCMS) of developing countries in the field of energy be prepared by members states and made available through the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.

37. Some delegations underlined the necessity to make explicit the objectives and the main fields of cooperation in this subject. In this respect, they stated that such cooperation should be mainly oriented to increase the self-reliance of developing countries and to ensure their energy transition.

38. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee took note of the Report and recommended that a second expert group meeting be convened that will produce specific and action-oriented proposals on technical cooperation in energy among developing countries.
- b) The Committee also urged member states to make special efforts to send experts to this second meeting.

39. The Committee considered the Report of the meeting on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held at ECLA headquarters in Santiago, Chile 4-8 July, 1983. The Report was presented by the Office of the Chairman of G-77 in New York.

40. In its conclusions the Report:

- a) Urged every member country of the Group of 77 to designate a focal point for cooperation among developing countries in the field of NRSE.
- b) Called upon member states to identify in a brief and concise format, areas of NRSE in which they need or can offer cooperation and circulate this information to all members of the Group of 77.
- c) Recommended Action Committees and National Research and Training Centres of Multinational Scope as possible instruments for cooperation between member countries.
- d) Made an appeal for the participation and the greater use of existing national institutions, sub-regional and regional organizations, especially those in the field of energy such as OLADE, ASCOPE, the African Centre for Solar Energy and the UN Regional Economic Commissions.

41. Many delegates attributed the lack of the new ground covered by this meeting in cooperation in NRSE among developing countries to the poor attendance and to the failure of member states to take certain actions recommended by the Rio de Janeiro meeting on NRSE in 1982. Some delegates, while welcoming the recommendation of the meeting that member countries provide on a standardized form certain data and identify areas in which they need or can offer cooperation in NRSE, wondered how the information would be processed and distributed to and between member states.

42. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee took note of the Report and the poor attendance of experts at the meeting.
- b) The Committee also called on member states to provide the required national information and data on NRSE as recommended in the report and forward these to the Chairman of the G-77 in New York for compilation and dissemination.

43. The Committee considered the Report of the Meeting on Energy Development, Supplies and Rationalization of Consumption held in Bangkok, 15-19 August 1983. The Report was presented by the delegation of Thailand. It reiterated that energy is one of the elements that play a crucial role in the development of developing countries.

44. The proposals contained in the Report called for supportive actions to make cooperation in the field of energy more effective, by means of the identification of requirements and of existing capabilities in developing countries.

45. The report made the following specific recommendations in the field of fossil fuels:

- a) Cooperation in solid fuels: the recommended measures include close working relationships between national consultancy and operating organizations in the coal and solid fuels sectors; identification and enlisting of services of established coal research and development laboratories and institutes in developing countries having a long established coal industry, and cooperation in the area of capital equipment supply for coal production and utilization between developing countries that manufacture such equipment and those requiring it.

- b) Cooperation in exploration and production of hydrocarbons. The experts recommended that mobilization of financial resources for energy exploration and development be made through existing international, regional and other financial institutions whose facilities should be fully utilized. Such mobilization would give further stimulus to existing and potential cooperative arrangements between developing countries. It was felt that the concept of creating the Third World Petroleum International, a consortium of state petroleum enterprises of developing countries for cooperation in petroleum exploration and development of hydrocarbons resources should be further studied. The experts also recommended the identification of existing energy training institutes in the developing countries and the promotion of national research and training centres of multinational scope.
- c) Cooperation in Downstream Activities: The experts recommended to examine additional areas of cooperation by completing a study on downstream activities, such as refining, transport and distribution in line with the relevant provisions of the Caracas Programme of Action.
- d) It was recommended that cooperation among developing countries in conservation of energy resources, regulations and environmental protection should be encouraged.
- e) It was recommended that information exchange should be promoted through the setting up of an Energy Information System, as a component of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) and of the Technological Information Pilot System (TIPS).
- f) As regards manpower requirements and training, it was recommended to fully utilize available facilities and services of the UN System in the area of energy and to intensify the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting on Technical Cooperation in Energy. National ECDC Focal Points or the appropriate sectoral focal points are requested to identify areas of needs and available resources for training and education in the countries, and to submit relevant information to the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.
- g) Direct contacts between existing sub-regional and regional organizations or arrangements concerned with Petroleum Cooperation, such as ARPEL, OLADE, ASCOPE, and OAPEC, should be encouraged.
- h) It was recommended to establish an Action Committee to ensure further progress in cooperation among developing countries in the field of fossil fuels. The Action Committee should accomplish the following tasks:
  - i. To examine and make recommendation on the most suitable modalities of cooperation among developing countries in the field of fossil fuels.
  - ii. To define characteristics and format for inventory of requirements and capabilities in the field of fossil fuels.
  - iii. To contribute to the identification of promising cooperation projects in the field of fossil fuels.
  - iv. To promote implementation of identified projects by stimulating participation of interested developing countries in cooperative arrangements in accordance with the modalities defined in (a) above.



46. In the discussion of this Report many delegates commended its proposals especially the initiative to set up an Action Committee. However, a number of delegations felt that the tasks and functions assigned to the Action Committee were too broad.

47. Some delegations therefore were of the view that the objectives of the proposed Action Committee be specified and adjusted accordingly when the Committee meets so as to identify concrete projects of cooperation.

48. The delegation of India informed the Committee that its authorities will circulate to all member countries through the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, a list of available training programmes in the field of energy.

49. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee noted with appreciation the proposals of the report.
- b) The Committee also welcomed the offer of the Government of Thailand to hold the first meeting of the proposed Action Committee on cooperation in fossil fuels in early 1984.
- c) The Committee also recommended that the Action Committee examine its terms of reference when it meets with the aim of facilitating action on specific and concrete projects.

#### **D. Industrialization**

50. The Committee considered the Report of the Global Meeting on Industrialization convened in Vienna May 30- June 2, 1983. The report was presented by the G-77 Chairman in Vienna. In order to promote cooperation among developing countries in the field of industrial information, the meeting recommended four measures for immediate implementation by member states of the Group of 77 with assistance from the UN System:

- a) It recommended that UNIDO be called upon to publish systematic industrial information provided by member states of G-77 that would cover the practical needs as well as promote the ECDC activities of developing countries.
- b) It called for the creation and strengthening of regional Associations of Chambers of Commerce and/or Industry and the periodic meetings of these associations in order to promote the flow and exchange of information.
- c) It requested member states to identify through the Chairman of the G-77 in New York a list of institutions and organizations to which UNIDO may forward existing industrial information.
- d) It called on member states of the G-77 to work actively towards the establishment of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) and to designate focal points so as to improve the system of exchange of information on their activities in the field of industrialization.

51. During the discussion many delegations supported the recommendation for the publication by UNIDO of systematic industrial information for developing countries. It was also stated that since UNIDO was in a position to assist States who wish to create new or strengthen existing regional associations of Chambers of Commerce and/or Industry, the Group of 77's role should be that of encouraging member states to make use of the Agency's services in this area.

52. Some delegations expressed reservations about the recommendation of the Report which calls for member states to identify through the Office of the G-77 Chairman in New York a list of institutions and organizations to which UNIDO may forward existing industrial information. These delegations felt that they should have direct communication on this issue with UNIDO.

53. Some delegates were of the view that as a result of the worsening world industrial situation described in the report it should not have limited itself to only an examination of collation and dissemination of industrial information. These delegates therefore urged that a meeting be called to discuss those critical issues and areas of industrialization that were not covered by this Report.

54. The Committee was informed of the recommendations of the Meeting on Pharmaceutical Industry which took place in Tunis, 2-5 September, 1983, and asked its Tunisian hosts to circulate its results to all G-77 countries.

55. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee took note of the Report and recommended to the forthcoming meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77 that an expert meeting be convened to look into those areas of industrialization that were not covered by the Vienna meeting.
- b) The Committee called on the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to initiate immediate consultations with the UNIDO secretariat with respect to the publication of systematic industrial information for developing countries.

## **E. Finance**

56. The Committee considered the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts for the Study of the Feasibility of a Bank of Developing Countries (The South Bank) held in Ljubljana on 29 August to 2 September 1983. The Report was introduced by the Head of the delegation of Venezuela, as one of the Vice Chairmen, on behalf of the Chairman, Yugoslavia.

57. Broad agreement was expressed by the Committee on the necessity of the establishment of a Bank of Developing Countries. However, some countries did not associate themselves either with the idea of the Bank or with the Report of the Ljubljana expert meeting and explained their reasons for taking this position.

58. It was pointed out that it is essential to avoid the constraints that have hampered the operative capacity of similar financial institutions.

59. Some delegations also pointed out the need to avoid duplication of the functions of existing financial institutions and that it is necessary to utilize fully and strengthen the existing facilities.

60. In commenting on the conclusions of the Inter-governmental Group of Experts, the Committee noted that:

- Within the range of functions that have been proposed for the South Bank, namely development finance, balance of payments support, export financing, commodities stabilization and support to regional payment and credit arrangements, it was felt that to

- start with the South Bank should be based on concrete and practical arrangements that would enable self-sustained and commercially viable operations.
- It was felt that the South Bank should be an inter-governmental institution of developing countries wishing to participate in it.
  - The possible participation of private capital could be considered in the future if governments so desire.
  - It was considered that the size of the capital of the Bank should be a result of the functions assigned to it.
  - It was felt that further in-depth work was required on the main aspects of the Bank including its capital and voting structures.
  - It was also considered appropriate that particular attention be given to the special needs of the Least Developed Countries in the activities of the Bank.

61. The Committee agreed that for the South Bank to be a feasible institution, it should be based on concrete and practical arrangements that would enable self-sustained operations. Sound lending policies and project selection should ensure the commercial viability of the institution.

62. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee recommended that the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York transmit the Report of the Inter-governmental Experts Meeting, together with the technical documentation and the Report of IFCC-II, to all the member states of the Group of 77 inviting their comments before the end of March 1984.
- b) The Committee entrusted the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to prepare for and convene a meeting of high-level Governmental experts, not later than June 1984, preferably including representatives of Central Banks, to complete the work undertaken by the meeting of experts in Ljubljana in 1983, in the light of the comments of governments on the Report of the 1983 Ljubljana meeting; the Report of IFCC-II and the technical documentation existing and to be prepared by UNCTAD in cooperation with UNIDO.
- c) An informal indicative list of issues relating to the Bank was circulated as information to Governments of the Group of 77.
- d) The Committee invited UNCTAD and UNIDO to continue to provide assistance, as required to complete the feasibility study. The Chairman of the Group of 77 was also entrusted to secure the assistance of organizations of developing countries.
- e) The Committee expressed its appreciation to UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNDP, and the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE) for their valuable assistance.

### **III. Follow-up on the decisions of ECDC Technical Meetings held during the period 1981-1982**

The Committee considered the document on Follow-up Decisions of ECDC Technical Meetings.

#### **A. Trade**

##### **63. Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)**

The Committee heard reports on the status of the negotiations on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) from the Chairman of the Group of 30 in Geneva and the Deputy Secretary

General of UNCTAD. It was informed that 41 member states have so far signified their intention to participate in the negotiations. Only a few countries, however, have furnished UNCTAD with information on their trade regimes. The GSTP Negotiating Committee met from 2 to 11 May 1983 in Geneva to discuss the Draft Rules in accordance with the ministerial Declaration on GSTP.

64. The Committee was also informed that the UNCTAD Committee on ECDC will meet in Geneva beginning 12 September, 1983 to consider the requests for UNCTAD support to the GSTP negotiations. Recommendations of the Committee will then be submitted to the Trade and Development Board (TDB) and the U.N. General Assembly.

65. Action taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee called upon member states of the Group of 77 who have not yet done so to signify to the UNCTAD Secretariat their intention to participate in the GSTP negotiations and to furnish as early as possible the needed information on their trade regimes
- b) The Committee urged the Group of 77 Chapters in Geneva and New York to undertake intensive consultations to ensure adequate U.N. support to the GSTP negotiations.

66. State Trading Organizations (STOs):

The Committee was informed by the representative of Yugoslavia of the status of the formation of the Association of State Trading Organizations (ASTRO) which was recommended by the symposium of STOs held in Ljubljana in 1982. It was informed that the draft statutes had been elaborated and would come into force as soon as the required minimum number of 15 STOs from developing countries would have signed it. It is expected that the first assembly of the Association will be held in Manila.

## **B. Technology**

67. The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York informed the Committee that as of date no notification has been received on the formation of Action Committee called for by the meeting of the Heads of National Agencies for Science and Technology held in New Delhi in 1982.

68. It was also informed that the examination of the question of the proposed Centre for Science and Technology for the Non-Aligned and other developing countries was held in abeyance pending results of studies on the harmonization of the ECDC programmes of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned countries.

69. Action taken by the Committee:

The Committee called upon member states to undertake follow-up actions on the specific recommendations of the New Delhi meeting including the formation of the Action Committees.

70. Project Development Mechanism (PDM) for Techno-Economic Cooperation:

The delegation of India called the attention of the Committee to the need for the member states to complete their examination of the proposal to establish the PDM, so that a definitive decision can be taken by the Group of 77.

71. Some delegations felt that the PDM could be a useful mechanism but more information was needed on how it would operate. It was felt that, although the technical meeting held on the PDM was outside the Caracas calendar of meetings, it would be useful for the Chairman of the Group of 77 to elicit the views of member governments on the eventual establishment of the PDM.

72. Action taken by the Committee:

The Committee recalled the decision of the V<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires, regarding the steps that need to be taken to implement the Project Development Mechanism recommended by the Meeting of the Group of Experts held in New Delhi in July 1982. It decided to authorize the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, in cooperation with interested member states, to initiate the necessary follow-up action.

### **C. Food and Agriculture**

Food Security Reserve Scheme

73. The Committee reiterated the decision to convene the second experts group meeting mandated by IFCC-I as a follow-up to the experts meeting held in August 1982 in Manila, as indicated in paragraph 31 above.

### **D. Energy**

74. New and Renewable Sources of energy:

The Committee noted the Report of the meeting on Cooperation in New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in July 1983 in Santiago, Chile which was largely a follow-up meeting to the one held in Rio in 1982. Appropriate actions taken by the Committee appear in the Section on technical meetings of this Report.

### **E. Finance**

75. The World Fund:

The Committee felt that it is not the appropriate time for follow-up actions on the establishment of the World Fund proposed by the meeting of experts on finance and balance of payments held in Baghdad in March 1982. It was also felt that the Fund involves North-South issues which remain to be pursued in other appropriate fora.

76. Bank of Developing Countries (The South Bank)

The meeting of the Intergovernmental Experts for the Study of the Feasibility of the Bank of Developing Countries was held in Ljubljana in August-September 1983 as a follow-up to the meeting held in Jamaica in May 1982. The comments and actions taken by the Committee appear in the section in Chapter II.

### **F. Industrialization**

77. Capital Goods:

The representative of Algeria presented to the Committee a report on the recently completed trade fair-cum-seminar on capital goods from developing countries as a follow-up to the meeting on Capital Goods held in Algiers in May 1982. On this occasion the text of the statute of the association of capital goods producers from developing countries was circulated for consideration. The Report contained in the document entitled Seminar/Exhibition on Agricultural Capital Goods emphasized the importance of trade fairs-cum-seminars in bringing together buyers and sellers of capital goods from developing countries.

78. Technical Seminar on Electrical Industry:

The delegation of India informed the Committee that the Technical Seminar on Electrical Industry to be convened in New Delhi in November 1983 has been reset for a later date which will be announced soon.

79. Yearbook on Existing Technologies and Engineering Offices:

The Committee requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and Vienna to initiate the preparation, with the assistance of UNIDO and the regional organizations, of a Yearbook on Existing Technologies and Engineering Offices in Developing Countries.

80. Action Taken by the Committee:

- a) The Committee noted with appreciation the Report on the follow-up exhibit-cum-seminar on Capital Goods held in Algiers.
- b) The Committee called upon UNIDO to complete the compendium of the needs and potentialities by the Year 2000 of each developing country in the production of capital goods. The Committee also requested the Chairmen of the Group of 77 in New York and in Vienna to enlist the participation of regional and sub-regional institutions.
- c) The Committee entrusted the Chairman of the Group of 77 to include in the TCDC component of the Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN) the identification at national and regional levels of centres for collecting and disseminating information on the training of specialized personnel.

**IV. Revision of ECDC Calendar**

81. The Committee took note of the Document on revision of the ECDC Calendar of Meetings under the Caracas Programme of Action. It noted with appreciation that the following meetings are scheduled to be held in the near future:

- i) The combined meeting on Financial Cooperation among Developing Countries, and Information on Investment Opportunities to be held in Havana during 29 November-2 December 1983.
- ii) Tendering in Development Projects to be held in Rio de Janeiro during 5-9 December 1983.
- iii) The combined meeting on ECDC in Trade and Services to be held in Guatemala during 23-27 January 1984.
- iv) Commodity Markets Surveillance to be held in Addis Ababa co-hosted by ECA, 3-6 October 1983.

82. In the light of recent experience regarding poor attendance at technical meetings, the Committee reiterated the importance of the widest participation by member states of the Group of 77 at these meetings.

83. The Committee further noted that the offers for hosting the meeting on Supply Management Measures in Raw Materials (RM1) and Joint Projects in Raw Materials (RM2), and Acquisition of Technologies (TC8) were yet to be forthcoming. The Committee, therefore, recommended to the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77, to be held in New York in October 1983, to extend the time limit for completing the CPA Calendar of technical meetings decided by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held in Buenos Aires in April 1983, to the end of June 1984. In this regard, the Committee emphasized the urgency for the completion of the Calendar of meetings under the CPA.

84. The Committee recommended that appropriate documentation for the technical meetings should be made available to member countries well in advance to enable useful participation at these meetings.

85. In the light of the discussions in the Committee and new offers of venues for hosting of the technical meetings, the calendar of the outstanding meetings under the CPA was revised by the Committee as follows.

## **V. Review and assessment of ECDC implementation mechanisms and action to strengthen these mechanisms**

### **A. Intergovernmental Mechanisms**

#### **A.1. National Focal Points**

86. National focal points are designed to be mechanisms for co-ordination, promotion and distribution of information on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, acting as a catalytic agent for the promotion and strengthening of such cooperation. The national focal point constitutes therefore an essential element for creating and maintaining national awareness of ECDC in each developing country and at the same time strengthening their commitment to take, on a priority basis, all necessary measures through their national policies and programmes to implement ECDC objectives.

87. In view of the essential role of national focal points in promoting ECDC, the Committee urged that those countries which have not done so to designate their national focal points and make them operational as soon as possible. The Committee noted with satisfaction that seventy-seven member states have already designated their national focal points as of date of IFCC-II.

88. The Committee recommended that national focal points take the following actions:

- a) At the national level:
  - (i) Publicize and raise national awareness of ECDC through all available means.
  - (ii) Facilitate coordination among different departments in which sectoral focal points for ECDC are located as well as among agencies in general engaged in ECDC activities.

- (iii) Take all relevant measures to guide and coordinate ECDC activities, including where necessary the designation of sectoral focal points.
  - (iv) Collect on a systematic basis and make available to future meetings of the IFCC through the Chairman of the Group of 77, relevant information on institutions and activities related to ECDC, and on the modalities of operation of national focal points.
- b) At the international level:
- (i) Promote adequate national participation in meetings pertaining to the implementation of the CPA
  - (ii) Maintain contact with other focal points with a view to building up a pool of information reflecting the experiences acquired at the national, sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.
  - (iii) Encourage, support and where necessary, assist ECDC activities between national enterprises and their counterparts in other developing countries.

89. The Committee further recommended the strengthening of communications between the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and the national focal points through appropriate and designated channels

## **A.2. Action Committees**

90. The Committee reiterated the importance of the Action Committee as one of the mechanisms in the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC, as reflected in paragraph 4 of the Resolution on ECDC adopted by the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires.

91. The Committee urged interested member countries, and as the case may be, their enterprises and institutions, to form Action Committees. In this context the Committee welcomed the proposals to form Action Committees recommended at technical meetings held under the CPA.

92. To this end, the Committee recalled the relevance of the guidelines for the establishment of Action Committees adopted at the first Meeting of the IFCC held in Manila in August 1982.

93. The Committee requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to compile a comprehensive outline of specific areas identified by the technical meetings for the possible formation of Action Committee and further to report on the status of the Action Committees already proposed.

94. In view of the extensive experience of some member countries at the regional level in the formation and operation of Action Committees, the Committee recommended that such experience be shared among interested member countries through appropriate activities such as seminars, symposia, workshops and study tours to be organized by economic groupings and ad hoc groups.

## **A.3. National Research and Training Centres of Multinational Scope (NRTCMS)**



95. The Committee pointed out that no National Research and Training Centre of Multinational Scope has yet been established at the inter-regional level in spite of clear guidelines for their establishment adopted at the first meeting of the IFCC held in Manila in August 1982.

96. In the context of regional efforts, the Committee noted the positive results obtained by the SELA Secretariat in Latin America. The Committee therefore recommended, drawing upon the experience in Latin America, that a questionnaire should be circulated to national focal points of Member States in order to identify potential NRTCMS. In this context, the services of the Information Referral System (INRES) of the UNDP should be utilized, and the results of this survey be made available to the Third Meeting of the IFCC.

## **B. Supporting Mechanisms**

### **B.1. Assistance to the Chairman of the Group of 77**

97. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable work on ECDC done by the Core of Assistants to the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and expressed its gratitude to those governments which have made available officials to serve on the Core and in the context of the implementation of the recommendation made at the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires to further support and assist the Core of Assistants (Paragraph 21 of the Buenos Aires ECDC resolution) recommended:

- a) that governments try to ensure that the number of six (6) assistants provided for under the Caracas Programme of Action is achieved;
- b) that governments second officials on a full time basis.

98. Where necessary and in order to fulfill increased responsibilities arising in regard to ECDC activities, governments are encouraged to provide, at their own expense, the Chairman of the Group of 77 with experts to perform temporary tasks.

### **B.2. Group of 77 Account for ECDC**

99. The Committee considered the document which contained a Statement of Account and expressed its appreciation to those countries which have contributed to the Account. The Committee emphasized the need to maintain the ECDC Account at a level which would ensure the continuity of activities under the Caracas Programme of Action. To this end and recognizing the voluntary nature of contributions, the Committee agreed:

- a) to urge those member countries which have not yet done so to contribute to the Account, bearing in mind the suggested minimum contribution of US\$ 1,000.00 and that two years have elapsed since the adoption of the CPA;
- b) to request other member countries to continue to contribute to the Account;
- c) to affirm the decision of its first meeting in Manila regarding the strengthening of cooperation of the Group of 77 Chapter in New York with the other Chapters for implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.
- d) That more detailed statements of the Account should be presented to the IFCC for its consideration in future meetings. In cases where funds from the Account are made available to other users, detailed statements of Account should be submitted by them to the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.

## **VI. Coordination and Support Measures**

### **A. Coordination among G-77 Chapters CPA**

100. The Committee reiterated its belief that close coordination among all Chapters of the Group of 77, including the Group of 24, is vital to the efficacious implementation and follow-up of the Caracas Programme of Action.

101. The Committee, therefore, recommended that:

- a) Group of 77 Chapters should serve as active centres for coordination in their respective fields of competence, so that duplication can be avoided through close monitoring of activities of relevant United Nations and UN-related bodies.
- b) All the Chairmen of the Chapters and the Chairman of the Group of 24 should endeavour to participate in each of the twice-yearly meetings of the Chairmen/ Coordinators, pursuant to item 1(c) in paragraph 89 of the Caracas Programme of Action. If necessary, the Chairmen of the various Chapters could meet more often.
- c) The Chairmen of the different Chapters of the Group of 77 and the Chairman of the Group of 24 should also endeavour to attend IFCC meetings.
- d) Each Chapter should play an active role in the preparations for the annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee (IFCC)
- e) Reports on ECDC activities of each Chapter should be made available by its Chairman in advance of IFCC meetings.
- f) The Chapters should cooperate more closely in making the G-77 Bulletin a more effective medium for information and coordination by making regular contributions in the form of news items, announcements and general information on their activities.

102. It was felt that it would be useful if the tenures of the Chairmen of the different chapters could be harmonized. It was suggested that this matter be brought to the attention of the G-77 Ministers at their next meeting for appropriate action.

### **B. Role of Economic Groupings of Developing Countries**

103. The Committee noted with appreciation the reports submitted by SELA, Andean Pact, Arab Monetary Fund, ECOWAS and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) in response to the recommendation of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires.

104. In order to strengthen the role of economic groupings and to draw upon their practical and operational experiences for the effective implementation of the CPA, the Committee recommended that:

- a) Flow of information should be encouraged between the economic groupings and the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York. In this regard, the

Secretariats of the economic groupings are requested to submit brief annual resumés to IFCC Meetings.

- b) The economic groupings should be encouraged to strengthen the Informal Contact Group of Secretariats to provide a forum for regular contacts between their organizations.
- c) The economic groupings are invited to attend G-77 technical meetings on ECDC relevant to their sphere of activities and assist in the implementation of their results.
- d) The economic groupings are invited to appoint, if possible, a liaison-officer with the Chairman of the G-77 in New York.
- e) The economic groupings are invited to take into account the results of the relevant technical meetings under the CPA in the formulation of their work programmes.
- f) The Informal Contact Group is invited to explore the capacities of economic groupings for inter-regional ECDC activities including the preparation of a survey of their operational capacities in this field.
- g) The economic groupings should be further encouraged to co-operate and to associate among themselves according to the similarities of their objectives and scope of activities.

**C. Role of Research Institutes of Developing Countries in the Implementation of the CPA**

105. Recognizing the importance of the contribution that Research Institutes in the developing countries can make and have made towards the promotion of ECDC, such as the activities undertaken by those institutions, the Committee recommended that:

- a) Relevant research institutes of developing countries be invited to include within their activities ECDC issues with a view to promoting ECDC activities. To this end, the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York should assist, upon request, to identify areas where analysis by research institutes would promote the implementation of the CPA.
- b) These research institutes are invited to strengthen their cooperation with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York in the context of the implementation of the CPA.

**D. Harmonization between the ECDC Programmes of the Group of 77 and the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries**

106. The Committee considered the report on harmonization between the ECDC programmes of the Group of 77 and the Movement of the Non-Aligned countries, prepared by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York.

107. It noted that progress has been made in this regard and that the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Movement of the Non-Aligned countries had considered a joint report submitted by the Chairmen of the two Groups and made recommendations for further action.

108. On the basis of the discussions in the Committee, the following recommendations were made:

- a) The meetings to be held under the Non-Aligned Action Programme and the Caracas Programme of Action should complement each other.
- b) The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in New York should remain in close touch with each other to facilitate the process of coordination and to ensure that preparations for the implementation of each Programme, where relevant, receive inputs from each other.

#### **E. Support Measures from International Organizations**

109. The Committee had before it the document and noted that the organs and organizations of the UN System already had done a fair amount of work in ECDC; however, it felt more could be done. On the basis of the Report of the Working Group on UN support measures and subsequent discussions in the Committee, it agreed that:

- a) The CPA and its technical meetings in various sectors provided a useful frame of reference and that the order of priorities established by the G-77 should be taken into account by the UN System when drawing up its work programme even though the UN System's activities embraced, and went beyond the eight sectors of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA).
- b) While a significant percentage of the work of the UN System promoted, supported or implemented ECDC, a greater and more systematic effort was necessary to meet the needs and expectations of the developing countries.
- c) Precise and action-oriented decisions could not be taken without sufficient information. It was necessary for the UN System to present, in a concise and uniform format, a regular overview of its ECDC plans and programmes.
- d) Within the decentralized structure of the UN System, there was scope for a closer coordination of effort by the various bodies of the System in their response to ECDC; at the same time, closer coordination was desirable within national administrations under the aegis of national focal points and between Chapters of the Group of 77, so that a consistent policy could be put forward in the governing bodies of the UN System.
- e) Even with better planning and improved coordination resource constraints might hamper the growth of ECDC programmes, particularly in the operational activities of the UN System, though its effects would also be felt on substantive and analytical work-programmes. While developing countries could continue to seek fresh mandates where necessary, and additional resources through the governing bodies of the UN System, every effort would have to be made to revise strategies and redeploy resources, towards the increased implementation of the CPA.
- f) In order to do this, it was necessary for the UN System to re-orient internal policies and procedures to promote ECDC.

110. On the basis of these discussions, the Committee decided to make the following recommendations:

- a) The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York should request the bodies of the United Nations System to identify and present to him and to all other bodies of the system, by the end of October 1983, a list of activities in their present or planned work-programmes that directly supported the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action.

- b) The review of ECDC activities of the UN System requested of Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) with a view of improving coordination within the System, and the cross-organizational programme analysis of the UN System's ECDC activities, to be carried out with due regard to the support of the System to the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, as called for by ECOSOC Resolution 1983/50, should in addition incorporate specific proposals and recommendations.
- c) The Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the basis of a format that is uniform and easily understood, should be requested to submit an inter-sectoral presentation of the UN System's activities in ECDC.
- d) The ECOSOC, at its second Regular Session in 1984 should examine the system-wide ECDC activities on the basis of the Secretary-General's review and should report thereon to the General Assembly.
- e) The bodies of the UN-System, if they have not already done so, should re-orient their strategies and re-deploy their resources to strengthen the implementation of ECDC. In this connection, the mandate, which was given in recommendation 33 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, was reaffirmed.
- f) The United Nations system should implement operative paragraph 11 of UN General Assembly Resolution 34/202 in providing necessary support services and other suitable arrangements to facilitate the holding of ECDC meetings by the developing countries.
- g) The UN System's substantive and research work should contain where necessary a much larger focus on ECDC in preparation of studies and analysis.
- h) Where necessary, developing countries should seek additional resources, particularly for operational activities as well as fresh mandates, in the governing bodies of the UN System for the implementation of ECDC programmes and projects.
- i) Special attention should be given by the UN System, to the needs of the Least Developed among the developing countries, enabling them to participate more effectively in ECDC programmes, projects and meetings.
- j) In order to ensure that inter-governmental decisions in all bodies of the UN System are taken on the basis of full information and are mutually consistent, there should be close coordination within national administrations, through the national focal points, as well as among chapters of the Group of 77. There should also be continuing contact with the secretariats of the UN System.

## **VII. Information Activities on ECDC**

### **A. Multi-Sectoral Information Network (MSIN)**

111. The flow of information is an indispensable ingredient for realization of all projects and programmes on ECDC. The Committee emphasized strongly that the implementation of the MSIN should be considered as one of the highest priorities for further action on ECDC. In this context, the TCDC component of MSIN should be accorded first priority for the earliest implementation. The Committee therefore recommended that:

- a) Member countries take the necessary steps to establish or strengthen their national information networks;

- b) The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York should pursue, following the modalities recommended by the Tunis Meeting of Heads of Technical Cooperation Agencies of Developing Countries, consultations with Member States which are called upon to designate, in each region, regional focal points as soon as possible and in any case before IFCC-III;
- c) Considering that the establishment of national information networks requires appropriate know-how and training, efforts be made to ensure the training of the staff of national and regional focal points;
- d) In implementing MSIN, any duplication of the United Nations information system should be avoided and complementarity with existing or projected systems should be promoted.

## **B. G-77 Bulletin**

112. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the valuable service provided by the *Group of 77 Bulletin* in regard to the dissemination of information on ECDC activities.

113. The Committee noted with satisfaction the fact that the Bulletin is now being published in the four working languages of the Group of 77 and in this context expressed its appreciation for the valuable support of ECLA and ECWA for the publication of the Bulletin in Spanish and Arabic respectively and the effort of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York for the French version.

114. The Committee recommended that:

- a) Chapters of the Group of 77 which have not done so should designate correspondents.
- b) The Chapters should make maximum use of communication facilities provided by the INTERPRESS Service (IPS) for the flow of news and other activities related to the production and distribution of the Bulletin.

## **C. Documentation Centre**

115. The Committee took note with appreciation of the activities of the Documentation Centre of the Group of 77 in New York. It recognized the important role that the Documentation Centre could play in the compilation and dissemination of ECDC information and recommended that the Centre's work should continue in conformity with the requirements for the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action and the promotion of ECDC.