

Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-VI), Havana, Cuba, 7 – 12 September 1987

Final Report

I. Introduction and Organizational Matters

A. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the decision of the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Cairo in August 1986, and at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (IFCC-VI) was held in Havana from 7 to 12 September 1987.

2. The Meeting was attended by 68 delegations from the following members of the Group of 77:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine Liberation Organization, Peru, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

3. Representatives from the following offices and organizations of the United Nations system were also present at the Meeting:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (on behalf of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and the Regional Commissions). United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

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

Association of State Trading Organizations of Developing Countries, International Centre for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries and the Organization for African Unity.

5. A representative of South West Africa People's Organization also attended the Meeting.

B. Election of Officers

6. At its opening session, the Committee elected by acclamation His Excellency Mr. Raul Roa Kouri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, as Chairman. The Committee also elected by acclamation His Excellency Mr. Chandrashekhhar Dasgupta, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, and His Excellency Mr. Habib Kaabachi, Director of Multilateral Relations and Cooperation among Developing Countries in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, as Vice-Chairmen.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

7. The Committee adopted the agenda and decided to establish two Committees. Committee I was chaired by Mr. Dasgupta, Vice-Chairman of the Meeting which considered item 4 while Committee II was chaired by Mr. Kaabachi, Vice-Chairman of the Meeting which considered items 5 through 8.

8. The Bureau of the Meeting was assisted by the Core of Assistants to the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and by representatives of the host country.

D. Documentation

9. The Committee had before it the Report of the first Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC, the reports of technical meetings held in pursuance of the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA), background and working documents prepared by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York and a series of information documents.

E. Opening statements

10. In his inaugural address, His Excellency Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, reaffirmed Cuba's determination to further the development and successful outcome of this Meeting. He also pointed out that our **promise** was the need for unity, solidarity and cooperation among Third World countries in the light of the serious problems we face as a result of today's critical international economic situation.

11. He stated that it was impossible to make a serious analysis of contemporary cooperation and development issues if we overlooked the absurd and irrational international economic order, in which the main burden of the industrialized capitalist world's economic and social crisis falls with increasing force on the underdeveloped regions of the world.

12. The Minister pointed out that cooperation among our peoples should in no way take the place of international cooperation. Because of the indifference and hostility shown toward our problems, we need to promote the self-sustained development of our economies and strive for the immediate economic and social transformation of our societies, relying first of all on our own efforts, resources and experience, but the international economic crisis and especially the payment of the service on the foreign debt prevent this.

13. The Minister stated that this Meeting should make a real effective, contribution to strengthening the Caracas Programme of Action, establishing priorities for the implementation of its guidelines in order to concentrate its scant resources on those sectors and programmes that

could benefit the greatest number of countries and that would have the maximum multiplying effect on other economic activities.

14. In his statement before the inaugural session of the Committee, the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, His Excellency Mr. Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, welcomed the participants to the Meeting and expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of Cuba for their warm reception and hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for the hosting of this Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee.

15. In his statement, Ambassador Andrade recalled the guidelines established by the Cairo High-level Meeting in August 1986. He stressed the need for developing countries to pursue their efforts in the field of ECDC/TCDC guided by realism and practical feasibility. In this framework, he provided a tour d'horizon of the agenda of the Meeting, noting that for the first time separate meetings had been scheduled to take place on the occasion of an IFCC meeting, thus contributing to make it an issue-oriented and concrete one. Ambassador Andrade also drew the attention of the Committee to the forthcoming meeting in December this year of the chambers of commerce and industry of developing countries and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Brazil for agreeing to host it. Finally, he outlined the extremely adverse international economic situation, but added that is precisely for this reason that developing countries must redouble their efforts for cooperation among themselves.

16. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Norberto Gonzalez, also delivered a statement on behalf of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and the Regional Commissions. In his statement, the Executive Secretary stressed the importance attached by the United Nations system and the Regional Commissions to the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. He stated that all the key sectors identified in the Caracas Programme of Action are incorporated into the work programmes of the Regional Commissions.

17. The Meeting also received a message from the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, His Excellency Mr. R.G. Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. He urged developing countries to continue their efforts in promoting and strengthening South-South Cooperation and felt that this type of meeting provides an excellent opportunity for the adoption of action-oriented measures to enhance solidarity and mutual assistance among developing countries.

II. Sectoral Review of the Caracas Programme of Action and Guidelines for Future Work

18. Pursuant to the recommendations of the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Cairo in 1986, IFCC-VI considered a sectoral review of the Caracas Programme of Action and adopted the following recommendations with a view to furthering its implementation.

Trade

19. The Committee reiterated that the Global System of Trade Preferences offers a real and significant opportunity to enhance trade cooperation among developing countries and to compensate for some of the inequities of the international trading system. It welcomed the

progress achieved so far in the GSTP negotiations. It also recognized the validity of the GSTP as a valuable instrument for the promotion of trade among developing countries and underlined its particular importance at a time of grave erosion of the multilateral trading system, the increase of protectionism by developed countries, and the deterioration of the terms of trade.

20. The Committee called upon participating developing countries to submit their **offer** lists as soon as possible, so that the first round of negotiations could be concluded at the Ministerial Meeting of the Negotiating Committee in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

21. The Committee took note with appreciation of the information provided by the Executive Director of the International Association of State Trading Organizations of developing countries (ASTRO) on its work and the increased membership achieved, as well as on its perspectives and future programmes of work. It urged Governments of developing countries, members of the Group of 77, to encourage their State trading organizations to join ASTRO and participate in its work in order to further expand its activities.

22. The Committee underlined the necessity for the exchange of information on end-uses of raw materials so as to enable member countries of the Group of 77 to increase their volume of tradable goods.

23. The Committee also recommended the establishment of credit and payment arrangements on sub-regional, regional and interregional bases in order to increase trade flows among developing countries.

24. The Committee welcomed the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the first meeting of Representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries, members of the Group of 77, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, on 8 – 11 December 1987, and noted with appreciation the steps taken by the Chairman of the Group of 77 in this regard. It also expressed its gratitude to the UNDP and UNCTAD for their support. The Committee also urged member countries of the Group of 77 to assist in assuring that delegations from their respective chambers of commerce and industry attend this meeting.

25. The Committee also emphasized the importance of increasing the flow of information on trade opportunities as a means of enhancing trade relations among developing countries and recommended that this should be looked into by the first Meeting of Representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries.

26. The Committee welcomed the report of the Technical Meeting on Cooperation among State Trading Organizations in the Field of Fertilizers held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21 – 24 October 1986.

Technology

27. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the Government of India for its offer to host the Centre of Science and Technology of Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries and welcomed the intimation that the Centre will soon become operational, following the attainment of the minimum of 30 countries signatories to the statute. In this connection, it recommended that the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries be requested to serve, *inter alia*, as a clearing house for information regarding scientific and technical capacities of individual developing countries, including members of the Group of 77.

28. The Committee emphasized the need for the enhancement of the exchange of information on appropriate, as well as new and high technologies among developing countries. It noted that the Centre as well as the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system could contribute in this regard. It recommended also the intensification of contacts among Government officials responsible for science and technology, for which the Non-Aligned Intergovernmental Consultative Conference of Experts on New and High Technology, to be held in India in 1988, could be an appropriate occasion.

29. The Committee further emphasized the need to enhance cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology. In this regard, appropriate mechanisms should be established to further increase the transfer of technology among developing countries.

30. The Committee also underlined the need for more active coordination and cooperation between the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 towards the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action (CPA) and the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation (APEC) in the sector of technology.

Food and Agriculture

31. The Committee acknowledged the efforts being made by FAO and other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations and committees for the developing of food, agriculture, fishing and food security.

32. The Committee recommended that the Group of 77 in Rome reactivate its working group (Group of 16).

33. In this regard, the Committee requested the Group of 16:

- (a) to consider measures aimed at utilizing the technologies available in some countries members of the Group of 77, so as to enhance the technical capacities of less advanced members of the Group;
- (b) to study proposals for enhancing food security in Africa;
- (c) to follow up on the decisions and recommendations adopted at the Global Meeting on ECDC in the Food and Agriculture Sector held in Bucharest in 1984.

34. Some delegations recommended that the WFP should be fully involved in the relevant activities of the CPA and recommended that the member countries of the Group of 77 as well as the WFP should assist needy developing countries, especially LDCs, in the establishment of food reserve stocks.

35. The Committee welcomed the efforts made by IFAD in boosting South-South Cooperation and its Special Programme for Africa.

36. The Committee welcomed the report of the Expert Meeting on Water Resources Development and Management in Developing Countries held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, on 10 – 12 December 1986.

37. The Committee also underlined the need for more active coordination and cooperation between the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 towards the

implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action and the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation in the sector of food and agriculture.

Energy

38. The Committee requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to consult member countries of the Group so as to establish mechanisms for a better utilization of the information available from international agencies.

39. The Committee also urged member countries to further expand the exchange of experience, especially regarding the rational use of energy, and the introduction and development of renewable sources of energy as well as the implementation of their national programmes in this regard.

40. The Committee invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 to undertake the appropriate consultations in order to reactivate the Action Committee on Fossil Fuels.

41. The Committee recognized the importance of the cooperation being provided by regional intergovernmental organizations and recommended that contacts among them should be promoted, with a view to increasing cooperation among developing countries in the field of energy.

Raw Materials

42. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the Action Committee on Raw Materials and the offer of Nigeria to host its first meeting and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to circulate information to be received, on the proposed Action Committee, to all member countries of the Group of 77. The Committee was of the view that the Producers Associations of developing countries should fully participate in this meeting.

43. The Committee emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation among developing countries in the field of commodities, in their primary and processed forms, in order to improve the terms of trade and ensure increased earnings from exports. In this regard, greater priority should be given to the extension of existing and the creation of new producers associations, specially among developing countries, to undertake various measures including trade promotion, programmes, exchange of information and statistics on the market situation, production, stocks and product developments, as well as to undertake supply rationalization measures with a view to bringing stability to the commodity field. Priority should also be given to the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries in the areas of processing, marketing and distribution of commodities.

44. The Committee underlined the importance and vital contribution of raw materials to the economies of developing countries and welcomed the progress made at UNCTAD-VII, in Geneva, towards the early implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the operation of the Common Fund. In this regard, the Meeting urged countries, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Common Fund Agreement.

Finance

45. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Peru for the consultations it is engaged in with other developing countries on the possibility of holding in

1988, in Lima, a meeting of representatives of central banks and finance ministries of the developing countries.

46. The Committee also reiterated the importance of making further progress in the sector of finance, especially concerning payment unions, currency clearance arrangements and trade financing, in order to further expand trade among developing countries and provide wider benefits to all participants in the GSTP.

47. The Committee welcomed Morocco's offer to host the Second Consultation Meeting of Non-Aligned and other Developing countries on the External Debt during the second half of February 1988. The Committee recommended that delegations should include high-ranking officials of their respective ministries of finance and central banks. This meeting could also serve to initiate a preliminary exchange of views on issues related to monetary and financial cooperation among developing countries.

48. Some delegations expressed their view that the proposal for the South Bank needed to be further pursued. They reiterated earlier relevant decisions.

Industrialization

49. The Committee welcomed the Report of the Experts Meeting on Consultancy, Construction and Engineering held in Havana, Cuba, on 18 – 21 May 1987, and the creation of the Action Committee for Cooperation on Consultancy, Construction and Engineering and it also requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to circulate the relevant information, so that interested countries might be encouraged to join the Action Committee.

50. The Committee noted with appreciation the Report submitted by UNIDO on its activities in ECDC/TCDC. It also emphasized the need to increase the participation of UNIDO in ECDC activities of the Group of 77. In this regard, the Group of 77 in Vienna should seek support from UNIDO for its ECDC projects.

51. The Committee also stressed the need for the Group of 77 to review the prospects for industrialization policies in developing countries, taking into account the impact of developments in the field of new and high technologies. In this regard, the Group of 77 in Vienna should organize a meeting with the cooperation of UNIDO.

52. The Committee welcomed the presentation made by the Minister of Public Works of Argentina on the establishment of the Latin American Structures Committee (CLAES), the National Research and Training Center of Multilateral Projection (CNICAM) and the future establishment of the Data Base for Consulting and Construction. This Data Base is to be coordinated with the Action Committee for Cooperation on Consultancy, Construction and Engineering.

53. The Committee called upon Latin American countries to support the activities of CLAES and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to circulate information related to the CNICAM.

54. The Committee further requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to circulate information on the future Data Base for Consulting and Construction to the Construction agencies of the member countries, so that they could request to be connected, free of charge, to the local user's final node and to have access to the Data Base when it is established.

55. The Committee recommended that the Group of 77 in Vienna consider, *inter alia*, the establishment of a working group in order to improve coordination among the regional groups of the Group of 77 and to take charge of the relevant recommendations pertaining to industrialization, in close cooperation with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York.

Technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC)

56. The Committee was of the view that the implementation of the CPA regarding TCDC reflected, on the one hand, the progress achieved by a number of member countries and, on the other, the downward trend in projects initiated by the Group of 77 in this field.

57. The Committee welcomed the initiative taken by a number of developing countries, including Tunisia and Peru, to organize TCDC project programming activities in association with member countries of the Group of 77. It invited member countries to actively participate in similar future activities envisaged, *inter alia*, in Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and India. The Committee further appreciated the assistance of the Special Unit for TCDC of the UNDP in these programming activities.

58. The Committee invited the United Nations system, particularly UNDP and the regional and subregional organizations such as regional development banks, to expand their assistance to TCDC projects among developing countries.

59. The Committee welcomed with satisfaction the actions undertaken by several developing countries to place their expertise at the disposal of South-South Cooperation for training and provision of services in the fields of agriculture, health, energy, trade, industry, education, vocational training, civil service, maritime fishing, etc. It recommended further exchanges of information among developing countries on TCDC capacities and needs in order to enhance visibility in the field of technical cooperation and promote more effectively the use of the technical capabilities of the Group of 77.

60. The Committee reiterated that National Focal Points for TCDC should be strengthened and invited all parties concerned to provide the assistance required by countries in order to create and/or reinforce focal point mechanisms.

61. The Committee noted that human resource development was increasingly recognized as being of critical importance to the successful implementation of the development programmes and projects and that it offered considerable potential for enhancing the level of, especially, TCDC activities. It further noted that this was another important area in which the support of organizations of the United Nations system could be more fully utilized.

62. The Committee reiterated the importance of the Action Committee on Inter-enterprise Cooperation and invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 to undertake consultations in order to identify participating countries and to ensure the launching of the Action Committee.

63. The Committee regretted that the Third Biennial Meeting of Directors of TCDC National Agencies was not held as scheduled in 1986, and recommended that the Chairman of the Group of 77 undertake the necessary consultations in order to facilitate the holding of this meeting prior to IFCC-VII and ensure its adequate preparation.

64. Recalling the importance of developing a legal framework for TCDC, the Committee expressed its regret that the draft model contract for the recruitment of experts could not be

concluded. It requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to conclude the necessary consultations and to submit a proposal in this regard to the Third Biennial Meeting of Directors of TCDC National Agencies.

65. Reiterating the recommendations made at its previous session regarding the MSIN, the Committee noted the delay in the implementation of this priority project which is essential for strengthening ECDC/TCDC. It also expressed its concern that the meeting of the technical panel of experts, reiterated by the High-level Meeting on ECDC held in Cairo in 1986, which was to conclude the feasibility study to undertake the establishment of the network, could not be held. The Committee requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to conduct intensive consultations with member countries with the view to reaching the required number of 15 countries for the first phase of the MSIN. In this regard, the Committee recommended that the Chairman of the Group of 77 convene, during the first half of 1988, a meeting of representatives of those countries that will have by then submitted their candidature for the MSIN pilot project, in order to agree on final practical modalities for the establishment of the MSIN, and to proceed with the installation of the necessary technical and administrative facilities.

66. The Committee reiterated the importance for coordinating the positions within the Group of 77 in regard to the Meeting of the High-level Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at the United Nations in New York.

General

67. In order to give South-South Cooperation a more dynamic, specific and operative content with the purpose of accelerating the process of implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action, the Committee suggested that:

- (a) delegations to meetings relevant to the CPA should include directors of enterprises, economic managers or persons in charge of activities under consideration;
- (b) countries which host meetings relevant to the CPA should envisage visits to enterprises or production units by the participants so as to establish direct contacts to encourage the sharing of acquired experiences of host countries in the fields in question.

III. Consideration of the Report of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC

68. In accordance with the Guidelines of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC adopted at the Cairo High-level Meeting in August 1986, the Committee considered the Report of the Committee of Experts of the Trust Fund.

69. The Committee expressed its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of Venezuela for having hosted the first meeting of the Committee of Experts. It expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Committee of Experts and welcomed its Report. The Committee also expressed its thanks to Mr. Eduardo Praselj, Chairman of the Committee of Experts, for introducing the Report and his presence during the IFCC.

70. The Committee took note of the fact that although this was the first meeting of the Committee of Experts, it has succeeded in identifying projects eligible for financing by the Fund. It considered appropriate that the criteria applied for the selection of projects should allow for

flexibility. Cost effectiveness and profitability are elements that could bring greater precision to the selection process. There was also the need for more detailed information on the financial aspects and the objectives to be achieved by projects selected.

71. The Committee considered that in the future it should have before it a list of all the projects submitted for consideration by the Committee of Experts. It emphasized that the projects that are selected should not duplicate existing projects in developing countries and should make optimum use of capacities which already exist in developing countries at the national, regional and interregional levels. It further stressed that in accordance with article (d) of the Guidelines of the Fund, the Fund should not be used as a substitute for resources available to the United Nations agencies for activities in favour of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

72. With regard to the specific projects included in the recommendations of the Report of the Committee of Experts, the Committee decided the following:

1. Facilitating the implementation of the Multisectoral Information Network

The Committee made the following observations:

- (1) In accordance with para. 65 of IFCC-VI, the project document related to the feasibility report offered to be prepared by TIPS/IPS will be submitted for the consideration of the panel of experts on the MSIN pilot project due to meet in the first half of 1988.
- (2) The disbursement of the USD15,000 recommended for the feasibility report will be released after the meeting of the panel of experts has expressed its views on the project document.

With these observations which are brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Committee approved the project and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to report on its implementation to IFCC-VII.

2. Interregional Trade Financing Facility

The Committee approved the project, taking into account the statement by the representative of UNCTAD that UNCTAD was not in a position to finance this project.

3. Group of 77 Information Bulletin

The Committee made the following observations:

- (1) The focus of the proposed bulletin should be on ECDC/TCDC activities.
- (2) The coordinator-editor to be appointed in New York should be hired only for the duration of the project.
- (3) The project should function under the authority of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York who should also be responsible for its editorial policy.

- (4) The possibility of making the bulletin monthly instead of twice monthly should be explored keeping in mind the need for quality over quantity. This would also entail a reduction in costs. This matter should be specifically examined at the review to be carried out by the Committee of Experts at the end of the first year trial period of the project.

With these observations which are brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Committee approved the project and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to report on its implementation to IFCC-VII.

4. Development of Developing Countries' Consultancy and Engineering Capacities

The Committee made the following observation:

The project should concentrate on strengthening consultancy and engineering capacities in developing countries, from a developmental approach. It should not, therefore, make references in the studies that it would undertake to negotiations being held in international fora. All references made in this regard in the project should be deleted.

With this observation and change which are brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the Committee approved the project and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to report on its implementation to IFCC-VII.

5. Action Committee of the Group of 77 for Cooperation in Consultancy, Construction and Engineering among Developing Countries

The Committee made the following observations:

- (1) That the Action Committee will receive the recommended amount of USD38,500 only after it has received a matching contribution of the same amount from its members. The Action Committee is requested to inform the Chairman of the Group of 77 once it has received this amount from its members.
- (2) Requests for the financing of similar projects by Action Committees, existing or prospective, from the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for ECDC/TCDC will be considered by the Committee of Experts on the same parameters that governed the approval for providing financial support to the Action Committee on Consultancy, Construction and Engineering as a form of support to its preparatory phase in order to facilitate its early and effective launching.
- (3) The Committee of Experts shall apply the same norms and modalities concerning the procedure of submission of requests for support and/or projects by other Action Committees.

With the above observations taken into account, the Committee approved the project and requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to follow up its implementation and report thereon to the meeting of IFCC-VII.

73. The Committee further approved the recommendation, contained in para 31 of the Report of the Committee of Experts, that when project proposals are received by IFCC or Ministerial Meetings of the Group of 77, such project proposals be referred to the Committee of Experts

before a final decision is taken. In this context, the Committee took note of the feasibility study proposal on a “South-South Promotion Programme” submitted by the Research Centre for Cooperation with Developing Countries of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, and referred it to the Committee of Experts for consideration.

IV. Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of the Heads of the National Focal Points for ECDC/TCDC

74. In accordance with para. 36 of the Report of the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Cairo in August 1986, the Meeting of Heads of the National Focal Points for ECC/TCDC was held on September 8 during IFCC-VI. The Report of this meeting as approved by the Committee is contained hereunder.

75. The participants in the Meeting recognized this initiative as very useful and endorsed the suggestions contained in the background paper presented by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, which made a realistic and critical analysis of the activities of the National Focal Points.

76. The participants in the Meeting recognized that political will is a vital element for galvanizing the National Focal Points network. ECDC/TCDC should become an integral part of national development policies and programmes. The National Focal Points need to be placed within the structure of government with appropriate authority for horizontal, system-wide coordination.

77. It was further recognized that effective coordination at the national level would go a long way in strengthening the operation of National Focal Points.

78. The need for appropriate training of the personnel that staff National Focal Points received wide endorsement. In this context, the lack of continuity of such personnel and the fact that work relating to ECDC/TCDC is in many cases only a subsidiary aspect of their overall work were cited as obstacles.

79. It was also recognized that National Focal Points need to be appropriately equipped to carry out their functions. This is particularly so bearing in mind the immense increase in the volume of information relating to ECDC/TCDC activity, and the recent advances made in computers and informatics.

80. The Meeting provided an opportunity for a valuable exchange of views on national experiences relating to National Focal Points. It was emphasized that such exchanges of information could help facilitate the policy changes that may be required at the national level as well.

81. The meeting took note of the cooperation possibilities that international agencies of the United Nations system – such as UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNIDO and the ILO – could offer to strengthen National Focal Points through, *inter alia*, the training of personnel and logistical support. The Committee also considered possibilities for obtaining financing for such projects that would contribute to the attainment of these objectives.

Recommendations

82. The participants in the meeting recommended that:

- annual meetings of the heads of the National Focal Points for ECDC/TCDC be held within the framework of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the Group of 77 as a means for exchanging information and experiences;
- the Focal Points elaborate a report on their activities and experience as well as needs and capacities on the basis of a standard format to be elaborated by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77. These reports would be circulated during IFCC meetings;
- the Chairman of the Group of 77 regularly update the list of National Focal Points for ECDC/TCDC and circulate it periodically;
- the possibilities for using UN and other financing agencies to support the implementation of projects strengthening National Focal Points be explored. These projects would be related to training personnel and providing logistical support and appropriate equipment. The Committee invited the Chairman of the Group of 77 to submit to the next meeting of the IFCC the results of the consultations undertaken in this regard.
- the use of sub-regional and regional structures be promoted to support ECDC /TCDC as a means for identifying cooperation possibilities;
- the National Focal Points identify and exchange views on their respective countries' specific bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation potential with a view to promoting them into specific, feasible projects;
- the National Focal Points' institutional capabilities for furthering ECDC/TCDC be strengthened by creating a network of sectoral focal points where required and promoting effective communication and coordination among them to ensure their optimal functioning.

V. Mechanisms for Coordination, Monitoring, Follow-up Action and Evaluation

83. The Committee examined the different mechanisms for coordination, monitoring, follow up action and evaluation. It welcomed the strengthening of the Core of Assistants in the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77, noting that the Core was now made up of seven members, of which four were full-time Assistants.

84. The Committee expressed its gratitude to those Governments that had designated members to the Core of Assistants. It appealed to Governments to nominate members to the Core in the future to ensure that its strength continues to be maintained.

85. The Committee reiterated its appeal to countries members of the Group of 77 to contribute to the ECDC Account so that the Group is able to play its role in implementing the decisions emanating from the Caracas Programme of Action and the reports of the IFCC meetings.

86. The Committee endorsed the need for continued harmonization and coordination of efforts in the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action and the Action Programme for

Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement. In this context, it recalled the relevant decision of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on South-South Cooperation held in Pyongyang in June 1987, that the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York would henceforth be invited to address the ministerial meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement. It stressed the need for a regular exchange of views between the Chairmen of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement in New York, particularly in regard to planning a coordinated schedule of meetings under their respective programmes. It further emphasized the benefits of coordinated activity at the level of National Focal Points in the implementation of both the Caracas Programme of Action and the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

87. The Committee reiterated its appeal to Governments, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities of developing countries to contribute regularly their assessments and studies to the Bulletin published by the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York. It further expressed the need to improve the quality and content of this Bulletin and guarantee its broadest dissemination.

88. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for the activities of the Documentation Centre of the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York.

89. The Committee endorsed the importance of Action Committees as effective instruments towards the implementation of the CPA. In this context, it requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 to prepare an analytical report on the supporting mechanisms for the CPA, including the Action Committees, in the eight sectors of the CPA, in existence or envisaged to be established, on the basis, *inter alia*, of pertinent recommendations of G-77 technical meetings, together with an assessment of their functioning, in accordance with the relevant principles and guidelines spelled out in the CPA and IFCC meetings on the establishment of Action Committees as supporting mechanisms.

VI. Harmonization and Coordination among the Chapters of the Group of 77

90. The Committee emphasized the need for close coordination and harmonization of work among the different Chapters of the Group of 77. It took cognizance of certain difficulties in this regard including the non-concurrent tenures of coordinators in each Chapter and the different modalities of their functioning. It, however reiterated the appeal that such coordination be further strengthened and harmonized, in particular in the field of ECDC/TCDC activities and the implementation of the Caracas Programme of Action. In this context, it made the following recommendations:

- (a) Periodic reports should be prepared by the different Chapters on the implementation and follow-up of the Caracas Programme of Action as well as on the activities of the UN agencies in the areas of ECDC/TCDC; such reports should be sent to IFCC meetings;
- (b) Efforts should continue to be made to reinforce and improve the exchange and flow of information between Chapters on their respective activities;
- (c) The Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters should continue to meet twice annually to provide for an integrated exchange of views ; one of these meetings should, if possible, be held on the occasion of the second regular session of ECOSOC;

- (d) The Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York should invite the Chairmen/Coordinators of the different Chapters to participate actively in the IFCC meetings and in their preparation.

VII. Venue and date of the next IFCC Meeting

91. The Committee agreed to defer this matter to the Eleventh Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in New York. The delegation of Peru requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to analyze through consultations the possibility of having IFCC meetings held every two years, taking into account the fact that the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in New York is expected on a biennial basis to specifically review activities in the areas of ECDC/TCDC.

VIII. Other Matters

92. The Committee welcomed the establishment of the South Commission under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and his appointment of members of the Commission as a positive development in the field of South-South Cooperation. They expressed confidence that the South Commission will make a valuable contribution to South-South Cooperation and urged all developing countries to give their unswerving support to the work of the Commission.

IX. Closure of the Meeting

93. At the closing session, the Sixth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee adopted its Report.

94. The Chairman of the Meeting, His Excellency Mr. Raul Roa Kouri, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, closed the Meeting.

95. A resolution of thanks to the host Government was proposed by the delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and seconded by Peru and Nigeria.

96. The Committee also expressed its particular appreciation to the Core of Assistants for their assistance which substantially contributed to the success of the Meeting.

97. The Meeting received during its deliberations messages from Mr. Idriss Jazairy, President of IFAD and Mr. Henry S. Gill, Deputy Permanent Secretary of SELA, who wished success to the IFCC-VI.