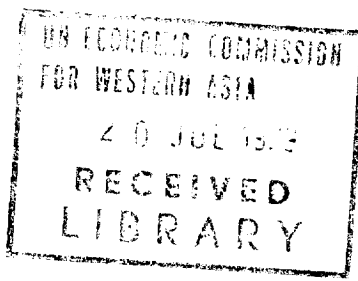




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Fifth Session  
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Item 9 of the Revised Provisional Agenda

The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer  
and Development of Technology

(Report of the Executive Secretary)

78-2164

1. For the discussion of Item No. 9 of the Revised Provisional Agenda entitled "The Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology", the following two documents in addition to the present one are being circulated in this session:

- (a) The First Revised Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, Doc. E/ECWA/67;
- (b) Report on the Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, Doc. E/ECWA/68.

2. The Economic Commission for Western Asia adopted at its fourth session resolution 51(IV) entitled "Study of the Possibility of Establishing a Western Asia Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" in which it:

(1) Decided that the Executive Secretary shall submit a study on the possibility of establishing a regional centre for the transfer and development of technology and consult and co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and with the Arab organizations and bodies concerned in investigating the possibility of widening the scope of this study in order to make the centre an Arab centre for the transfer and development of technology;

(2) Requested the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps for an immediate start to be made on the preparation of this study;

(3) Further requested the Executive Secretary to contact all regional, Arab and international organizations concerned with a view to examining the possibility of their participation in this study;

(4) Requested the Executive Secretary to associate the Governments in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia in the closest possible manner in the preparation of the required study;

(5) Requested the Executive Secretary to report on progress made in the implementation of these tasks to the Commission at its fifth session.

3. In the implementation of this resolution, the secretariat of ECWA adopted and executed a plan of action which led to the completion of the above mentioned tasks and to the accomplishment of certain achievements. The following paragraphs represent a summary of main steps taken in this respect.
4. ECWA held the First Preparatory Interagency Meeting in Beirut between 24-28 October 1977. Eleven regional Arab and international organizations accepted the invitation and attended the meeting. Participants in this meeting discussed a working paper prepared by the ECWA secretariat on the concept and functions of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. The discussions and views presented on the working paper are contained in the report on the Preparatory Interagency Meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. The working paper was subsequently revised integrating new ideas and relevant comments made during the meeting including the terms of reference and composition of field missions to survey the status of some aspects of technology in all Arab countries.
5. Two field missions were commissioned to visit all Arab countries. The objectives of these missions were twofold: (a) to present the concept of the proposed centre to the officials they meet and obtain their views regarding the establishment and priority functions of such a centre; and (b) to acquire useful information (both in noted and verbal form) on aspects and problems as dwelt upon in the working paper and as it emerged from the First Interagency Meeting. The two field missions began on 1 November 1977 and completed their task by 20 December 1977 after visiting all the Arab States with the exception of Somalia (due to last minute changes in flight). Directly after the completion of the field missions, mission members met with the consultant in Beirut to discuss and evaluate their findings.
6. Based on the findings and recommendations of the field missions and the discussions of the First Preparatory Interagency Meeting, a Draft Feasibility Study on the Establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology was prepared. That study set forth the logistics and basic guidelines for the establishment of the Centre. It also contained recommendations concerning priority functions and services to be provided by the Centre. Furthermore, it proposed a set of guidelines for the governance, management, staffing, budget and location.

7. A second interagency meeting was then called for by ECWA to discuss the draft feasibility study. The meeting was held in Beirut between 27 February and 1 March 1978 and was attended by a total of 22 organizations which consisted of 7 governmental organizations, 6 Arab regional organizations and 9 international organizations. The meeting recommended the revision of the draft feasibility study taking into consideration the relevant comments and views expressed by the participants and contained in the report on the second interagency meeting on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology.

8. The First Revised Draft Feasibility Study was subsequently prepared taking into consideration the comments and views of the second interagency meeting. This study was later to be submitted to an intergovernmental meeting for discussion.

9. Before the convening of the Intergovernmental Meeting, contacts were made with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States for briefing and for the purpose of avoiding any duplication of work. As a result, and in agreement with H.E. Secretary General of the Arab League, it was decided to enlarge the participation of the Intergovernmental Meeting to include all relevant Arab regional organizations.

10. Accordingly, ECWA held a Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations in Amman between 16 and 18 September 1978 in which a total of 13 Arab countries participated, 11 of them from the ECWA region and two from the ECA region. In addition, 9 Arab regional organizations concerned with the transfer and development of technology attended the meeting. The participants discussed the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study and adopted unanimously a resolution in which they recommended in principle the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology taking into consideration the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study presented to this Meeting and the observations made on it as well as other Arab substitutive efforts in this regard, in an effort to arrive at a unified proposal agreeable to the Arab countries. (The full text of this resolution is given in Annex I of this report). The views and comments of the participants are contained in the report on the Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, presently circulated as document E/ECWA/68.

11. Immediately after the above meeting, the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study and the report of the Joint Meeting were presented to a meeting organized by the Euro-Arab Dialogue Unit of the Arab League between 21-22 September 1978 on studying the possibilities for Euro-Arab co-operation in establishing the Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. The meeting noted with appreciation and satisfaction the complete agreement on the objectives and functions of the proposed centre between the proposal of the Arab Side of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and ECWA's proposal as stated in the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study. The meeting also stressed the Arab nature of the proposed regional centre and recommended to the General Arab Committee of the Euro-Arab Dialogue to reconsider its resolutions (Tunis, February 1977 and Brussels, October 1977) on this subject. It further recommended that the European Side be invited to express its opinion on co-operation in establishing the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology on the basis of ECWA's final feasibility study which will take into consideration the resolution and comments contained in the final report of the Joint Meeting of Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations as well as the studies and reports prepared in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and the observations made on the subject during this meeting. (The report on the meeting is given in Appendix II).

12. It is in the context of the efforts and achievements referred to above that the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology will be considered and discussed at the present session.

APPENDIX I

Resolution on  
The Establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the  
Transfer and Development of Technology

The Joint Meeting of the Representatives of Arab Governments and Arab  
Regional Organizations on the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and  
Development of Technology,

Recalling Resolution 87(IV) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on strengthening the technological capacity of developing countries, Resolution 2034 (LXI) of the Economic and Social Council bearing the same title, and Resolution 51(IV) of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, entitled "The Study of the Possibility of Establishing a Western Asia Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology",

Considering the urgent need of the Arab countries for the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology,

Taking note of the two interagency meetings held by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (Beirut, 24-28 October 1977 and 27 February - 1 March 1978), the two interagency field missions dispatched (1 November - 18 December 1977) to 20 Arab countries for the purpose of drawing up a feasibility study that reflects the thoughts, needs and suggestions of the Arab countries in the field of the transfer and development of technology,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Western Asia's Second Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development concerning the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology,

Taking note also of the report entitled "First Revised Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" (E/ECWA/NR/CTT.2/Rev.2), and the observations expressed by the member States and Arab regional organizations in this regard,

Notes with appreciation and satisfaction the participation of Arab governmental and international organizations and bodies and the field missions that visited the Arab countries during the preparation of the study, and

Recommends in principle the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology, taking into account the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study under consideration, the observations expressed in its regard, and other alternate Arab efforts in this arena, with the purpose of arriving at a unified project agreed upon by the Arab States.

APPENDIX II

REPORT

Arab Meeting to Discuss Possibilities for Euro-  
Arab Co-operation in Establishing a Center for  
the Transfer of Technology  
Cairo, 20-21 September, 1978

In accordance with the recommendation of the Arab Committee for the Euro-Arab Dialogue which met in Cairo from 24 to 26 June 1978, a meeting was held at the Secretariat Headquarters in Cairo on 20 and 21 September 1978, by the Arab side in the Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation and a representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) to discuss the possibilities for Euro-Arab co-operation in establishing the Arab Center for the Transfer of Technology under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Yussef Al Ali (State of Qatar) and in the presence of each of the following:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Khalifa   | State of Bahrain                        |
| 2. Mr. Mahmoud Madani Rashid       | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia                 |
| 3. Dr. Suhail Abdullah Al Sanawi   | Republic of Iraq                        |
| 4. Dr. Adnan Shafiq Mohammed Fahmi | Republic of Iraq                        |
| 5. Dr. Jamil Nahhas                | Republic of Lebanon                     |
| 6. Dr. Sayyid Ramadan Hidara       | Arab Republic of Egypt                  |
| 7. Dr. Khair Al-Din Haseeb         | Economic Commission for<br>Western Asia |
| 8. Dr. Husain Khalaf               | Secretariat                             |
| 9. Mr. Adil Sabet                  | Secretariat                             |
| 10. Mr. Abdul Rahman Sabri         | Secretariat                             |

The representative of the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, who had also been invited, was absent from the meeting.

After approving the provisional agenda and discussing the items included therein the Committee made the following recommendations:

- Noting the report of the Committee of Experts in the Transfer of Technology which met in Bonn (July 1977) within the context of the



Euro-Arab Dialogue and its references to aspects of agreement and disaccord between the Arab and the European sides, especially in relation to the management of the Center and some of its technical functions,

- Recalling the resolution adopted at the joint meeting of representatives of the Governments of Arab States and Arab Regional Organizations (Amman, 16-18 September 1978) on the Arab Regional Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology within the framework of the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study on the Center prepared by the Economic Commission for Western Asia, and which recommended "in principle the establishment of the Arab Regional Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology, taking into account the First Revised Draft Feasibility Study under consideration, the observations expressed in its regard, and other alternate Arab efforts in this arena, with the purpose of arriving at a unified project agreed upon by the Arab States",
  
- Noting with Appreciation the agreement reached between the Secretary General of the League of Arab States on the one hand and the representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia on the other regarding the feasibility study on the establishment of the Arab Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology in its final form and the agreement of the Economic Commission for Western Asia thereto,
  
- Affirming the importance of establishing the Arab Regional Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology,
  
- Noting with Appreciation and Satisfaction the complete agreement regarding the objectives and functions of the Center in the proposals made by the Arab side in the report of the above-mentioned Committee of Experts and also in the feasibility study,

The Committee Recommends:

1. Emphasizing the completely Arab nature of the Center which should be a regional Arab Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology, and inviting the General Dialogue Committee to review its two resolutions in this regard (Tunis, February 1977; and Brussels, October 1977);
  
2. Inviting the European side to express its opinion regarding co-operation in establishing the Arab Regional Center for the Transfer and Development of Technology on the basis of the study to be completed by the Economic Commission for Western Asia, taking into consideration the resolution adopted by the above-mentioned representatives of Arab Governments and Arab Regional Organizations, the studies and reports prepared in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and all the observations put forward at the Committee's present meeting on the Center, and inviting the European side to study co-operation in the following fields within the framework of the Euro-Arab Dialogue, for example:
  - (i) Providing the Center with some of the experts needed in connection with policies and programmes decided upon by the Center and in accordance with the job descriptions which it specifies.
  - (ii) Setting up the data bank due to be established at the Center.
  - (iii) Supplying the Center with data related to the Transfer and Development of European Technology and inviting the European side to participate effectively in the Transfer and Development of Technology through this Center.

In this connection the Committee notes with satisfaction recommendation adopted by the Second Conference of Ministers of Science and Technology of the European Countries and North America (MINESPOL II) held in Belgrade from 11 to 16 September 1978, regarding assistance to the developing countries in their endeavours to transfer technology.

3. Delegating the Committee's Chairman to contact his European counterpart during the month of October 1978 on this subject and to communicate the views of the European side in this regard to the Arab Dialogue Committee at its next meeting.

4. That the provisional Committee on the Transfer of Technology continue to discharge its functions under the direction of the General Committee in this regard.