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## Science and Technology

Science and technology is one of the important issues to be discussed at the Non-Aligned summit. In July a conference of scientists and technologists from Non-Aligned countries was held in Colombo, with the express purpose of developing co-operation between these countries.

The importance of such co-operation in Science and Technology had been recognised by the Non-Aligned countries as reflected in the Declarations of Belgrade, Cairo, Lusaka, Georgetown and Algiers. The Declaration on the establishment of the New International Economic Order was adopted at the 6th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 together with a Programme of Action for its establishment. The need for collective self-reliance and the need "to promote and establish effective instruments of co-operation in the fields of Industries, Science and Technology....." embodied in these U.N. resolutions have been reiterated on several occasions in various important forums.

The excerpts below from the final resolution at the July 1976 Conference held in Colombo give the position today:

Scientific and technological co-operation between the Non-Aligned countries should be designed to promote independence and self-reliance in each nation and should be based on friendship, equality and mutual benefit.

The scientists and technologists of the Non-Aligned countries, taking into account the progress of science and technology, leading to man's mastery over nature, and the possibility of its utilisation for development, re-affirmed their national and human aspirations for an authentic, scientific and technological revival, inspired by their heritage, guided by their creative capabilities, and for the welfare, instead of exploitation as heretofore, of their nations and peoples.

They also declared that they are against the misuse of science and the exploitation of the difficulties of the Non-Aligned countries by the Imperialists for quick profits, for the domination of other nations and for purposes of war.

### Science Policy

For the effective utilisation of science and technology it would be necessary for the Non-Aligned countries to work out their policies and to think out their strategies in consonance with their principles and to suit their social, political and economic goals. In view of their limited resources and the immensity of the task facing them, they should strive to build up their own indigenous self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, making policies and strategies for an effective utilisation of resources, personnel and expertise of member countries and organising joint programmes of research and development. To this end, policies should be developed for the rational utilisation of natural resources and technology, to suit conditions in Non-Aligned countries. To make these policies effective and to implement the programmes which may emerge, it would be desirable to:—

- (i) establish central institutions of the Non-Aligned countries to develop common strategies and to co-ordinate activities;
- (ii) effectively utilise where appropriate, the existing Centres of research established in Non-Aligned countries to study the problems of science, technology and development, and to co-ordinate their activities for common objectives;
- (iii) establish an information centre in each member country using existing facilities if appropriate, to serve as a storehouse of information on all aspects of science and technology, in order to make information available to member countries and to any global information centres established by the Non-Aligned countries and thereby create a network and channels for the collection, processing and dissemination of information; the channels should include a journal for disseminating information on developments and activities in science and technology in the Non-Aligned and other developing countries;

(iv) establish training centres among Non-Aligned countries to meet specific needs and requirements in different areas of science and technology;

(v) plan joint programmes of research and development on problems of common interest and utilise U.N. Agencies where appropriate for this purpose and promote bilateral and multilateral agreements;

(vi) establish special agreements on standardisation and specifications of raw materials, components and manufactured goods and also patents, licensing fees, royalty payments, and utilisation of results of research;

(vii) develop machinery for effectively evaluating and controlling by collective action or otherwise, the operations of transnational corporations, with regard to processing and export of raw materials, import of know-how and exploitation of natural resources.

(viii) utilise where appropriate, the expertise and the trained scientific, technical and other personnel available in the Non-Aligned countries to effectively contribute to the development of member states;

(ix) establish special panels on science and technology and organise conferences to study in detail specific problems of vital interest to the Non-Aligned countries and to suggest possible plans of action for rational utilisation of land, water, marine and other environmental resources;

(x) make every endeavour to stop the exploitation of the scientific and technological manpower of the Non-Aligned countries by the developed world and to stem the brain drain.

The participants at the Conference felt that the beginning of co-operation and its further promotion among the Non-Aligned countries would further the struggle against imperialist domination and a fight for economic independence and self-reliance.