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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

THE ROLE OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC
CO-OPERATION AMONG STATES

Letter dated 12 July 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Romania
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania,
I have the honour to request the inclusion of the following item in the agenda of
the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly:

"The role of modern science and technology in national development
and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific
co-operation among States".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,
an explanatory memorandum is attached to this request.

(Signed) Gheorghe DIACONESCU
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Socialist
Republic of Romania to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Science and technology, which are factors essential to the acceleration of economic and social progress, now constitute a basic element in the economic policy of States and an integral part of their national development programmes.

Mastery of modern science and technology and access by all nations to scientific discoveries and technological innovations are a necessary condition for the reduction and elimination of the great economic disparities between different peoples which exist in the world of today.

2. The explosive development of contemporary science and technology, as well as their massive penetration into every field of activity, call for extensive international co-operation.

In our era, the exchange of technical and scientific information, documentation and experience is an objective necessity for every country in the world, regardless of its level of development.

3. In its efforts to encourage and support the economic and social advancement of all peoples - a fundamental goal set forth in the United Nations Charter - the United Nations must endeavour to create conditions which will permit every country to enjoy the benefits of the conquests of contemporary science and technology with a view to accelerating its development process and the continuing improvement of its people's level of living. This concern has its origin both in the conviction that science and technology, because of their implications for development and the transformations they bring about in all fields of material life, have now become a basic resource for increasing production, and in the recognition of the need for more effective mobilization of all efforts in programmes and activities of general concern.

Acting along those lines, the competent organs of the United Nations system, and particularly the Economic and Social Council, the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the regional economic commissions, have made progress in studying and defining those aspects which relate to the application of science and technology to development.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the other specialized agencies have made a significant contribution, within their spheres of activity, to the realization of a number of international programmes of economic, technical and scientific co-operation.

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4. At the same time, the requirements of development and of the diversification of international collaboration have highlighted the fact that the forms, methods and instruments of co-operation in the field of science and technology utilized so far within the framework of the United Nations are far from meeting the real needs, promoting the wide dissemination of the knowledge and experience acquired and facilitating unrestricted access to the conquests of modern science and technology.

The fragmentary approach to the problem of the application of science and technology to the development process, the lack of a global study and a unified concept defining the objectives to be pursued and the means to be chosen and ensuring the concentration of available resources in areas of general concern, have impeded efforts to augment the capacity of the United Nations in this sphere and increase its contribution to the expansion of co-operation among States in a manner commensurate with the part played by science and technology as the keystone of economic growth and national prosperity.

5. In resolution 2318 (XXII) of 15 December 1967, the General Assembly emphasized the need to intensify international co-operation in the application of the resources of science and technology to economic and social development. Reference should also be made to the problem of institutional improvements with a view to embracing in an over-all perspective, over a broad front, the manifold aspects of training and the application of science and technology in the world of today. This relates to the role of the United Nations and its agencies, the need to strengthen and to co-ordinate affectively current and long-term activities and, above all, the desirability of establishing intergovernmental machinery for the application of science and technology to development.

6. The twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the theme of which is "PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS", provides an excellent opportunity to discuss fully, and with the participation of all Member States, the effects of modern science and technology on national development and international co-operation. The desirability of an examination of this problem is also underscored by the current preoccupation with the elaboration of the programme of United Nations development activities for the coming decade.

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Such a debate would be likely to establish the pre-eminence of the role of science and technology in the process of economic and social development and at the same time to contribute to the creation of conditions which would ensure the extension of international co-operation in the technical and scientific sphere.

7. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, convinced that questions relating to economic, technical and scientific collaboration, which are essential to the progress of peoples and to the cause of peace itself, must take an extremely important place among the concerns of the United Nations, requests the inclusion in the agenda of the item entitled:

"The role of modern science and technology in national development and the need to strengthen economic, technical and scientific co-operation among States."
