

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ARTICLE 127

Scope of Co-operation

Recognising the fundamental importance of science in socio-economic and cultural development and technological progress, the Member States agree to:

- (a) build up basic scientific and technological research capabilities in their universities and technology centres by appropriate training of scientists, engineers, technologists so as to assure a critical mass while maintaining regional and international contact;
- (b) build up at the same time expertise in conventional low and indigenous technologies emphasizing craftsmanship and fabrication techniques;
- (c) effect appropriate reforms in primary, secondary and tertiary education in respect of science and technology;

- (d) develop a comprehensive plan for the development of applied sciences related to agriculture, health, industry, energy, local materials and minerals, the environment, soil science, oceans, transport and communications;
- (e) enhance the training of personnel for research and development in the areas of conventional technology and science-based high technology as the quickest way to produce wealth;
- (f) allocate adequate resources on science and technology to the minimum of one per cent of GNP as recommended in the Lagos Plan of Action;
- (g) liaise with the IAEA, UNESCO and UNIDO in basic science and the CGIAR Network and other recognised regional institutions for applied science and technology including training facilities; and
- (h) ensure that research and development is closely inter-linked with production units to secure their integration with national development planning.

ARTICLE 128

Promotion of Science and Technology

In order to promote co-operation in science and technology development, the Member States agree to:

- (a) jointly establish and support scientific and technological research and development institutions in the various disciplines including the strengthening of existing institutions;
- (b) create a conducive environment for the promotion of science and technology, socio-economic development and growth through the removal of impediments to pro-competitive collaboration in generic research and the swift transfer of technology and technical information from the government to the private sector;
- (c) facilitate the access of the indigenous scientists, engineers and technologists to international literature and publications on science and technology and promote their contacts with the international fraternity in the various relevant disciplines;
- (d) promote the exchange of expertise and research results and technical information sharing within

the Common Market on science and technology and develop appropriate links and exchange programmes;

- (e) jointly develop and implement suitable patent laws and industrial licensing systems for the protection of industrial property rights and encourage the effective use of technological information contained in patents;
- (f) encourage the use of indigenous science and technologies where appropriate and provide incentives for the development of indigenous science and technologies;
- (g) individually and collectively mobilise technical and financial support from the local and international organisations or agencies for the development of science and technology in the Common Market;
- (h) collaborate in the training of personnel in the various scientific and technological disciplines at all levels using existing institutions where feasible;
- (i) establish national centres for the commercialisation of research results and take appropriate political action to develop scientific enterprise through self-

reliance and adequate allocation of resources;

- (j) encourage collaboration in the establishment of innovative firms in biotechnology and energy generation including nuclear plants and in the production of scientific equipment; and
- (k) to set up regional internship and technical assistance programmes to promote the free movement of scientists, engineers and technologists within the Common Market.