Q. 15/1   Technology transfer and informatization

1   The predecessor Question on industrialization and technology transfer culminated in clear elements of need for developing countries:

• a listing of basic elements as guidelines for developing countries in engaging in technology transfer;

• lessons of reference to be drawn from actual selected developing countries doing successful technology transfer e.g., Brazil, China, India, etc. which can be useful to other developing countries.

The new theme proposed addresses the major telecom area where technology transfer is taking place - information technology (e.g. software development) - and includes the processes of informatization, now taking place in developing countries, arising from the telematics industry, social economic and technology issues.

It raises the further issue of property rights - procedures, licences, issues of licences, fees and ownership of content.

A major driver today is the trade negotiations under the WTO, schedules to be established in the year 2000.

The study groups activity can elicit information and develop issues which may be helpful to developing countries preparing for the year 2000 negotiations.

2   Question proposed
Technology transfer and informatization

Tasks

• Identify examples and experiences of technology, transfer relating to the IT industry.

• Select from country studies and data examples of how informatics is leading or not leading to technology transfer.

• Assess trends in the software industry, as they effect technology transfer in developing countries.

• Assess the management and utilization of it, as they are transferred to countries.

Expected outputs

1) Identify all technological challenges which developing countries need to incorporate in their telecom planning.

2) Refection on the informatization sectors and their implications for developing countries.

3) Provide information related to intellectual property right issues.

4) Developing guidelines for developing countries.

5) Recommending actions on proposals for technology transfer.

6) The output is expected in four phases one should be ready early in the year 2000.
Country studies and cases will be pursued over the full four-year period.

Sources of input

• UN specialized agencies : ILO, UNESCO, WIPO, UNCTAD, WTO, UNDP, etc.

• Research institution in firms and laboratories.

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries	LDC
Telecom policy-makers		X	X
Telecom regulators		X	X
Service operators	X	X	X
Manufacturers	X	X	X

Method of handling the Question
Study group activity.

Coordination requirements of the study

- rapporteur;

- associate rapporteurs;

- linkages with appropriate research institutions.

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