115. International organizations should increase support for research and development on improving the technological and managerial requirements for sustainable development, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.

[Means of implementation

Financing and cost evaluation

Alternative A:

116. It is not possible to estimate the costs that might be incurred at the micro-economic level in global economies from implementing the various measures outlined in this programme. However, some changes may simply amount to changes in the orientation of existing activities and additional costs for Governments and international organizations may not be significant. These costs are also included in other areas. (CANZ)

Alternative B:

116. The activities included under this programme area are mostly changes in the orientation of existing activities and additional costs are not expected to be significant. The cost of activities by Governments and international organizations are already included in other programme areas.]

VIII. THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

(Section III, chapter 8, of Agenda 21)

117. The present chapter was prepared as further development of document A/CONF.151/PC/52. This chapter focuses on how to enable the scientific and technological community, which includes, among others, engineers, architects, industrial designers, urban planners and other professionals and policy makers, to make a more open and effective contribution to the decision-making processes concerning environment and development. It is important that the role of science and technology in human affairs be more widely known and better understood, both by decision makers who help determine public policy and by the general public. The cooperative relationship existing among the scientific and technological community and the general public should be extended and deepened into a full partnership. Improved communication and cooperation between the scientific and technological community and decision makers will facilitate greater use of scientific and technical information and knowledge in policies and programme implementation. Decision makers should create more favourable conditions for improving training and independent research in sustainable development. Existing multidisciplinary approaches will have to be strengthened and more interdisciplinary studies developed between the scientific and technological community and policy makers, and with the general public to provide leadership and practical know-how to the concept of sustainable development. The public should be assisted in communicating