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1.3 INTRODUCTIONARY REMARKS ON CONTENT AND METHODS OF JOINT RESEARCH

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I would like to give some additional and personal views on the content and methods of joint research. Several points were already mentioned during the first days of this conference and are listed into topics for the discussion of the working groups. First, I would advance the postulate that the aims determine the contents and the contents determine the methods. It will be most difficult to agree on the aims of development, but if this initial step is managed, the following ones become successively easier. According to this postulate, the aims have to be defined before we start discussing the content of research.

I think we can agree - otherwise we would not be here - that development has to be initiated and accelerated, because there is not enough time to let development be initiated by itself. In addition, development has to be guided and observed; it cannot be a process which continues on its own, if we want to close as quickly as possible the existing gaps between developed and developing countries. This initiating, accelerating, observing and guiding should in general be the content of research for and into development. It is hard to define the roles of the different disciplines for this research. In general all disciplines are necessary, but is it also necessary that the disciplines cooperate.

The contents or tasks for research can be grouped roughly into the following categories:

1. Observation of the human beings, of the society; determination of the actual status, discription of the situation;
2. Proposals for change, evaluation of implementation; identification of reasons for failures and for success,

